

Appendix V

Watauga River Basin Workshop Summary



WATAUGA RIVER BASIN WORKSHOPS

***Watauga River Workshop
Boone, North Carolina
November 16, 2000***

Discussion Question 1:

WHAT ARE THE MAIN THREATS TO WATER QUALITY IN THE WATAUGA RIVER BASIN?

Group 1

- Construction along Highway 105 (starting at headwaters of Watauga)
 - ⇒ causes sediment
 - ⇒ paving and runoff
 - ⇒ private driveways and roads
- Wastewater treatment plants
 - ⇒ Beech Mountain
 - ⇒ package plants
- Septic tank failure or straight piping
- Agriculture
 - ⇒ pesticide use
 - ⇒ cattle in streams
- Golf courses
 - ⇒ pesticides
 - ⇒ fertilizer
- Forestry activities
 - ⇒ tree cutting
- Streambank erosion
 - ⇒ downstream from development
- Channelizing streams

Group 2

- WWTPs / Failing septic
- Development / Urbanization
- Rock crusher
- Gray water quality
- Golf courses
- Agriculture
 - ⇒ Christmas trees
 - ⇒ cattle
 - ⇒ tobacco



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- The building of second homes
- Logging
- Sedimentation/Erosion
- Road salt

Group 3

- Lack of ENFORCEMENT
 - ⇒ not enough STAFF
 - ⇒ insufficient penalties
- Lack of targeted information
 - ⇒ Example: agency people – have they been told of the problem
- Sedimentation and Erosion
- Conflicting goals
 - ⇒ residents
 - ⇒ developers
- Diversity monitoring station locations
- Need for stormwater management requirements
- Old WWTPs

Discussion Question 2:

WHAT ARE THE PROBLEM AREAS OR WATERS AND WHAT RECOMMENDATIONS DO YOU HAVE FOR ADDRESSING THESE PROBLEMS/WATERS?

Group 1

Impacted Areas

- Along Highway 105
 - ⇒ package plants
 - ⇒ construction
- Development in Banner Elk area
 - * (new – hopefully good plans for control)
- Livestock
 - ⇒ Cove Creek area
 - ⇒ Beaverdam Creek



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- ⇒ Mainstem below Valle Crucis
- Septic systems
 - ⇒ all over (rural?)
- Restoration areas
 - * Look at John Vilas' plan

Recommendations

- Combine package plants
- Cost share for live stock fences (fence away from streams)
- Grants for fixing straight piping
- Improved enforcement
- Need more monitoring
 - * (need more data to stimulate getting grants and funding)
 - ⇒ schools monitor
- More public education needed
 - ⇒ private road building
 - ⇒ contractor workshops
 - ⇒ local registration of contractors, well drillers, septic tank installers, grading comp.
 - ⇒ attitude
 - ⇒ general education of public
- Research/Demo projects
 - ⇒ stormwater wetland
- Model development
 - * Demos and recognize good development
- Open space planning

Group 2

Impacted Areas

- Bethel
 - ⇒ Lack of vegetation
- Cove Creek
 - ⇒ New development
- Twin Rivers
 - ⇒ Sedimentation (especially near Foscoe)
- Laurel Fork



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- Beech Mountain
⇒ WWTP
- Headwaters of the Watauga River

Recommendations

- More enforcement people
- Bug Planning and Inspections
- Education programs
 - ⇒ NCCEs
 - ⇒ NCSU
 - ⇒ TVA
 - ⇒ Blue Ridge RC&D
- Contractor Association Program for Green Builders
- WWTP's monitoring / DWQ current enforcement
- Restoration projects
- Preservation

Group 3

Impacted Areas

- Sedimentation and erosion
- Valley Creek and an unnamed tributary to Valley Creek - Two-tenths mile up Seven Devils Road.
- Runoff into Valley Creek from roads, ski runs, golf courses.
- Laurel Fork
- Borrow Pit – Highway 105 opposite entrance to Adams Apple
- Cove Creek – Above restoration area

Recommendations

- Enforce county standards
- Develop local (Seven Devils) standards
- Local regulations for buffers – 20 to 100 feet depending on situation
- Require implementation of the existing plan



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Discussion Question 3:

WHAT LOCAL AGENCIES OR ORGANIZATIONS SHOULD BE INVOLVED IN ADDRESSING THE PROBLEMS?

Group 1

- ◆ Local school systems
- ◆ Blue Ridge RC&D
- ◆ Soil and water districts
- ◆ Local government staff and elected officials, planning boards, COG
- ◆ ASU, Lees McRae, Community Colleges
- ◆ Farm Bureau, farm organizations
- ◆ Extension
- ◆ DOT

Group 2

- ◆ 1-866-STOPMUD (statewide)
- ◆ Previous Pavement
- ◆ DWQ
- ◆ NRCS
- ◆ NCCES
- ◆ Watauga/Avery County Planning and Inspections
- ◆ TVA

Group 3

- ◆ Watauga River Conservation Partners
- ◆ Watauga County Planning and Inspections
- ◆ Avery County Planning and Inspections
- ◆ NRCS
- ◆ Extension
- ◆ Stream Watch
- ◆ Local school board