

**Stakeholder Meeting Notes**  
**Eden Area Watershed Restoration Plan**

November 15, 2011 – 10:00 a.m.

City Hall, Eden, NC

<b>Participants:</b>	Shari Bryant – NC Wildlife Resources Commission	Kacy Cook – NC Wildlife Resources Commission
	Malinda Ford – Piedmont Triad Regional Council	Tiffany Haworth – Dan River Basin Association
	Elizabeth Jernigan – Piedmont Triad Regional Council	Frankie Legeaux – Rockingham County Planning Department
	Kevin Moore – Rockingham County Soil & Water Conservation District	Dena Reid – City of Eden
	Cy Stober – Piedmont Triad Regional Council	Kelly Stultz – City of Eden
	Melinda Ward – City of Eden	Michael Ward – Henry County, VA

**Purpose of Meeting**

- To share watershed characterization data with stakeholders
- To discuss the field work timeline and itinerary to serve this project

**Welcome and Self-Introductions**

- Attendees are all very tired due to either being ill and/or attending a 5+ hour public meeting the night before
- No representatives of the VA DCR, and no idea of who the best contact is now that Chip Rice has resigned. VA DEQ staff have never been involved with this project.
- Kevin Moore met with his Soil and Water Conservation partners at the Blue Ridge Soil & Water Conservation District (Roanoke, Franklin, Patrick, Henry Counties). They have received \$500,000 to implement agricultural BMPs in their district, and are focusing on buffer restoration and exclusion fencing. They have TMDL specialists on staff, which is valuable. The meeting’s purpose was to begin sharing water quality and BMP data, and coordinating outreach efforts amongst farming communities in both states.

**Watershed Characterization**

- Using land use and water quality data to determine where the most extreme turbidity and fecal coliform problems might be. PTRC just began going through the water quality data provided by the City of Eden, and need to add a lot more from DRBA, VA DEQ, and NC DWQ.
  - o Kevin Moore – Dan River has long history of being muddy. Looking through the historical aerial photos, there are many areas that have been clear-cut for farming with no livestock exclusion fencing anywhere – the rivers and streams were the only water sources.

- There seems to have been increased channelization and bed scouring in more recent years – why? Things need to get better, but they have improved over the last 100 years.
  - Highly unstable catchments in Rockingham County are Jacob’s Creek, Rock House Creek, Hogan’s Creek, and Matrimony Creek – only Matrimony is in this watershed.
  - Kacy Cook has a friend in VA who can help collect and standardize environmental data
- Data on the Duke Energy coal ash ponds?
  - Dena – PTRC already has that data – we gave it to you
- Stakeholders selected four subwatersheds from the aerial map of the study area for field work this winter – the Matrimony Creek subwatershed, Little Matrimony Creek subwatershed, Spray subwatershed, and the Draper/Leeksville subwatershed. One more will be selected for fieldwork with either additional stakeholder input, additional water quality analysis, and/or watershed characterization. It will likely be downstream of the Eden WWTP and on the south bank of the Dan River, as those two attributes are not involved in the selected subwatersheds.
  - Kelly Stultz – What about the Smith River? Most – if not all – of the problems on that river originate in VA. This is a potential drinking water source for Eden, and we need to know how to clean it up and ensure it is available for future generations.
    - Cy Stober – spoken with DRBA and DWQ about this need. VA DCR seems to have stepped away from investing in on-the-ground planning in the Dan River, and the Western Piedmont PDC has shown no interest in doing this work. PTRC will speak with DENR staffs about how to work through the states to invest federal and state dollars in a planning, assessment, monitoring, and restoration effort on the Smith River up to the Philpott Dam.
      - Michael Ward – There are partnerships amongst the planners for the industrial/commercial megapark between Eden and Danville
      - Tiffany Haworth – the Danville Regional Foundation may be interested in providing partial funding
        - DRBA is already working with the Danville Parks and Rec staff, and has a planner (Chad Hall) on staff for their needs in Caswell County, NC → Could have Chad Hall work with the planners of Pittsylvania and Henry Counties, VA, and Danville, VA
      - Michael Ward – The Western Piedmont PDC has a new Executive Director who is a planner and interested in environmental and natural resources management → could also be a player. Could set up a meeting between PTRC & WPPDC

## **Watershed Fieldwork**

- PTRC has worked in smaller watersheds before, so this fieldwork will be more time and labor-intensive → total of about 3 weeks of work, spread over 6 – 8 weeks at 2 – 3 days per week beginning in late January
  - Staff will seek out Moni Bates, Ken Bridle with PLC, and Joe Mickey, all well-respected ecologists who have worked with PTRC staff on similar projects
  - We will not be duplicating the PLC Conservation Corridor study, and will only collect stress data from that area – we will be collecting conservation data from elsewhere in the watershed.
  - We will be wearing hunter orange vests and hats, as well as bells to alert folks we are nearby, and we will have our cards and ID badges on us
    - We always travel in at least pairs
  - We will coordinate mailings with the City and County to alert residents that we intend to trespass on their properties, and give them the opportunity to object → we do not cross properties who object
    - We will make sure the Sheriff and Police Chief know of our work and when we are conducting it
      - Eden has CodeRed to alert citizens of things just like this
  - Anyone is welcome to join us in the field if they would like
  - We will have a draft of the mailings to watershed property owners and a field work timeline finalized by Christmas

### **Environmental Protection Through Ordinance Solutions**

- Kacy Cook – WRC has been working with the Duke University Nicholas Institute to develop model ordinances that will protect a community’s environmental areas and assets. They are currently in draft form, and she has brought memos on them with her.
  - Navassa, NC, is drafting their own ordinances based upon these models, and is the first NC community going through the process of adopting ordinances specific to habitat protection
  - Michael Ward – Danville has worked with the Rural Water Association to develop a Source Water Protection plan that gave them the opportunity to work with individual farmers on getting funding to improve water quality through restoration projects and BMPs. It has improved the City’s drinking water.
    - Kelly Stultz – What defines an “agricultural use” anymore? Recent C legislation has hamstrung the abilities of municipalities to have any authority on the land uses of “registered farms” within their ETJs
      - Frankie Legeaux – This is a persistent problem in the County
      - Many registered farms are frequently used for other purposes that have significant water quality impacts, including dramatic regradings, riparian zone clearcutting, massive paved surfaces, etc.
      - Where is the oversight of conservation planning programs promoted by the USDA?

- PTRC will discuss these needs with the League of Municipalities and the Association of County Commissioners, and get back to the stakeholders

**For next meeting, mid-January:**

- Report back with finalized priority subwatersheds for field work and provide stakeholders with a tentative timeline
  - PTRC will prepare outreach materials for distribution by the City and County
- PTRC will subcontract with ecological consultants for field work
- PTRC will meet with WPPDC and DRBA to discuss parallel efforts on the Smith River
- PTCOG will continue to analyze water quality records, policies, and land use in the watershed, and report back findings
- Kevin Moore will continue to coordinate watershed restoration and BMP implementation efforts with the Blue Ridge S&WCD
- PTRC will contact the NC 319 program to discuss using 319 funds on the Smith River watershed in VA
- Kacy Cook will get all WRC habitat protection model ordinances to the City of Eden