

Stakeholder Meeting Notes
Eden Area Watershed Restoration Plan
 Match 15, 2011 – 10:00 a.m.
 City Hall, Eden, NC

Participants:	Tammy Amos – City of Eden	Jesse Day – Piedmont Triad Council of Governments
	Jenny Edwards – Dan River Basin Association	Joy Fields – Piedmont Triad Council of Governments
	Malinda Ford – Piedmont Triad Council of Governments	Elizabeth Jernigan – Piedmont Triad Council of Governments
	Drew Miller, VA DEQ Biological Monitoring & TMDL, Roanoke Office (<i>on phone</i>)	Dena Reid – City of Eden
	Chip Rice, VA DCR	Eileen Rowan, VA DCR
	Terry Shelton – City of Eden	Cy Stober – Piedmont Triad Council of Governments
	Kelly Stultz – City of Eden	Melinda Ward – City of Eden
	Michael Ward – Henry County/Roanoke River Basin Association	

Purpose of Meeting

- To gather stakeholder priorities for the watershed restoration effort
- To discuss funding for the watershed portions in VA
- To discuss the public outreach and education strategy

Welcome and Self-Introductions

- No NC DENR employees due to travel restrictions. They will be updated and participate as best they can. Drew Miller called into the meeting. We need to make sure future meetings have a conference call option so VA regulators can call in instead of traveling (Chip came from Richmond; Eileen came from near Blacksburg).

Stakeholder Priorities for the Eden Area Watershed

- At the last meeting, PTCOG requested that stakeholders return with 3 – 5 priorities and/or goals for the watershed restoration planning effort to address. Time was taken to list and discuss them.
 - Shari Bryant was unable to attend, but she sent the Wildlife Resources Commission’s priorities for the project via e-mail
 - Floodplain Protection
 - Endangered Species Protection
 - Strategy to address stormwater runoff
 - Strategy to address sediment pollution
 - Dena Reid
 - Conduct bromide study to identify the trihalomethane (THM) source on the Dan River

- Mandated by their latest NPDES permit
- Perhaps Madison and Mayodan need to be involved, as they are upstream of this watershed, but have a vested interest in some of these pollutants, particularly toxins like THM
- Otherwise, just get a handle on the stormwater and other urban sources of pollution
 - Cy Stober – Please note that the City acknowledges its sewer system needs, that they are contributing to the fecal coliform bacteria problems in the river, and has developed a plan to address them → it features \$180 million in projects
- Michael Ward would like to see both states more directly involved with this project
 - No way to fully address watershed needs without addressing headwaters impacts in VA (Henry and Pittsylvania Counties).
 - Evidence of straight piping neighboring Patrick County
 - The Planning District Commission has shown little interest in being a planning partner or grant recipient
 - VA DCR has funded a study on why riparian buffers are not being maintained, especially on forested lands
 - Jenny Edwards – There are inconsistent messages on the needs for buffers
- Eileen Rowan
 - A toxicity study on water quality and sediment-bound pollutants of concern should be completed Spring 2011
 - Special attention given to polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), a known carcinogen
 - Publish in Summer 2011
 - Focus on Martinsville and Henry Counties
 - VA TMDL shows that erosion is non-point source of stress to the Dan and Smith Rivers
- Chip Rice
 - Need to address the inconsistent dam management and downstream releases and their impacts upon water quality
 - 50 – 200 cfs, dependent upon unclear ACE decisionmaking
 - Benefits in the immediate area for trout waters, but also creating erosion and inconsistent hydrology, exacerbating the needs for TMDL
- Jenny Edwards
 - There is a need to protect healthy watersheds, and prevent the need for expensive restoration efforts such as this one
 - Need to concentrate limited resources on effective projects that will serve local TMDL needs
 - Need to protect the Smith River, though only a small segment of it is covered by this project's extent
 - Decrease barriers between bi-state watershed and river management

- Use this project as a precedent
- Drew Miller
 - Henry County is developing a Sourcewater Protection Plan to assess water quality pollution that jeopardize the security of their drinking water sources
- Cy Stober
 - PTCOG needs to use existing assessments effectively
 - Use these funds to recommend investing in the most effective projects
 - Guide good planning

Watershed Planning: Next Steps – Malinda Ford, PTCOG

(see PowerPoint presentation for details)

- PTCOG approaches watershed planning using GIS to prioritize areas and projects within the watershed for prioritization
 - See Lower Abbotts Creek and Rich Fork Creek watershed project pages for examples
 - Digitize land use and land cover layers, combine with data collected from field work, and develop project priorities for the watershed's restoration
 - GIS also allows us to analyze growth and development patterns in the watershed, and predict where future growth may occur, and how that may affect water quality conditions
 - PTCOG applied a similar approach to the Yadkin-Pee Dee River Basin for watershed prioritization, so we had a handle on where the highest protection and restoration needs are
 - Recently received funding to apply a similar approach to the entire Dan River basin in both VA and NC
 - Can use these funds to collect and analyze data in VA that can benefit the smaller Eden Area watershed
 - We need a lot VA data that we cannot find
 - Chip Rice – VA DCR has some funds for TMDL Assessment Guidance and project support
 - Could be used to support both this planning effort and any implementation
 - Precedent for paying NC entities with VA funds – Julie Elmore, PCC
 - Need to investigate funding opportunities with Water Quality Improvement Fund
 - Need to follow up and meet with PTCOG to discuss data needs, and that VA would like to incorporate water supply watershed designations into GIS analysis at both basinwide and local scales

Healthy Communities Grant – Jesse Day, PTCOG

- Stimulus funding from NC DENR & NC DOT to address public health needs in 16 communities across NC, including Eden
- Funds to identify and address inconsistencies and obstacles in state and federal public health policies and programs that are supposed to support public health needs

- Will be meeting with construction community, health department, city staff, and city planners to discuss these issues
 - Already have identified inconsistencies at NC DWQ
 - Site will be permitted and then required to retrofit after construction
- Will be working with this project to ensure public awareness and access to the Healthy Communities process and integrate it into water resource development as a recreational resources (paddling, walking trails, etc.)
- Kelly Stultz – Part of this discussion will be consolidation of the ordinances → the UDO has been amended over ninety times since 1993

Public Outreach & Involvement Campaign – Liz Jernigan, PTCOG

(see handout for details)

- Need for locations and dates that will best suit watershed residents
- Need to work with DRBA to involve the community in this project and seek stewardship
 - Perhaps use Alamance County land stewards program as a model in working with agricultural community
 - DRBA is the only member-driven group participating in this effort so far
 - Need to seek more involvement from Piedmont Land Conservancy, which has a history of work in the basin

For next meeting, Tuesday, April 19, 2011:

- Report back with an outreach strategy and meeting dates
- PTCOG will meet with City of Eden and DRBA to discuss water quality monitoring and the data available
- PTCOG will meet with VA partners to discuss data needs and funding strategies to conduct restoration planning in the VA portions of the watershed
 - March 24, South Boston
- PTCOG will continue to analyze policies and land use in the watershed, and report back findings as relevant