

Stakeholder Meeting Notes
Eden Area Watershed Restoration Plan
 January 23, 2013 – 10:00 a.m.
 City Hall, Eden, NC

Participants:	Chelsea Barbour – Piedmont Land Conservancy	Shari Bryant – NC Wildlife Resources Commission
	Luke Carter – Rockingham County Planning	Jenny Edwards – Dan River Basin Association
	Joy Fields – Piedmont Triad Regional Council	Malinda Ford – Piedmont Triad Regional Council
	Tiffany Haworth – Dan River Basin Association	Sarah McRae – US Fish & Wildlife Service
	Kevin Moore – Rockingham County Soil & Water Conservation District	Judy Ratcliffe – NC Natural Heritage Program
	JohnAnn Shearer – US Fish & Wildlife Service	Terry Shelton – City of Eden Environmental Services
	Cy Stober – Piedmont Triad Regional Council	Kelly Stultz – City of Eden Planning & Zoning
	Heather Vereb Longo – VA Department of Conservation & Recreation	

Purpose of Meeting

- To distribute the *Eden Area Watershed Assessment* with stakeholders
- To present the PTRC’s GIS-based approach to project prioritization to the stakeholders
- To discuss the 02/26/2013 outreach meeting with attorneys and assessors

Welcome and Self-Introductions

- NC NHP has traveled from Raleigh, VA DCR has traveled from Christiansburg, VA, and NC WRC staff have traveled from Montgomery Co., NC, to attend the meeting, which is much appreciated by all stakeholders

Watershed Assessment

- The *Eden Area Watershed Assessment* final draft has incorporated all comments and concerns from stakeholders at the Nov. and Dec. meetings and considered final by the PTRC
 - If stakeholders are unsatisfied with something, they need to let the PTRC know ASAP
 - An Executive Summary will be drafted and distributed to the stakeholders for review and comment by Feb. 1.

PTRC Project Prioritization Methods

- See attachment for full PowerPoint presentation
- Should be familiar to Shari Bryant, who has worked with the PTRC on past watershed projects
- Should be somewhat familiar to others who have worked with the PTRC on watershed prioritization at the basinwide scale
- The PTRC needs feedback from stakeholders on the data being used
 - Especially relevant to any assessments of needs in VA
- The PTRC is refining its methods to be more effective
 - Incorporating a multi-scaled approach to prioritizing areas and specific projects
 - Incorporating NHDPlus catchments into assessments?
 - What types of approaches will be most valuable to stakeholders, the public, the ecology, and the rivers?
- Judy Ratcliffe: What about all of the field data? How will that be incorporated? It is too valuable not to include
 - Malinda Ford: It is factored into our methods, although it can have the unintended consequence of severely biasing selections towards those watersheds directly surveyed. Is this bias acceptable?
 - Cy Stober: We have a couple of other ways to account for the field data, including a “Priority Project” column to the field data sheets the consultants used for this project and by grouping all projects within a quarter-mile of each other and giving them credit for this close proximity
- Kevin Moore: Would like to see the farm pond needs reflected in the Project Atlas so they can be used for implementation
 - Cy Stober: This addresses existing state concerns as well – Julie Elmore with the USDA has expressed an interest in working with these landowners to address these concerns with EQIP funding
 - Kevin Moore: The new Agricultural Water Resources Assistance program was created to address water conservation and water quality needs on farms
- Cy Stober: So how can we ensure that the GIS serves stakeholder programmatic needs? Can we select different neighborhoods for effective outreach and/or campaigning?
 - Tiffany Haworth: DRBA has Stream Teams that are doing fantastic work in Danville in adopting streams and created a multiple landowner conservation easement for a large stream restoration project there
 - Kelly Stultz: Eden has just developed Youth Councils to improve the community – could fill the implementation needs of this project

Attorney/Assessor Outreach Event

- Joy Fields is organizing this event with PLC’s Kalen Kingsbury and Palmer MacIntyre
- Tentatively set for 02/26/2013 at the Leeksville Methodist Church, but awaiting confirmation of the space and accreditation by the NC Bar
- Will be targeted to attorneys and assessors in the watershed and throughout Eden and Rockingham County
 - Anticipating a great turnout (20-30 people) if it can be accredited

- Will be free of charge and include lunch
- Strategically timed for attorneys to receive their Continuing Legal Credits
- Will be addressing both greenway/trail easements and conservation easements, their differences and similarities
- Currently, the outreach will be targeted to attorneys known to specialize in conservation issues
- Terry Shelton: Will this be targeted to real estate agents
- Kelly Stultz/Luke Carter: Will you be seeking AICP accreditation for planners?
 - Kelly Stultz: If you forward the announcement to me, I will ensure that the City attorney circulates it to all attorneys in the city
 - Joy Fields: Not sure if we have time or funding to do so

New Business

- Heather Vereb-Longo: The VA DCR will be hosting two meetings for the *E. coli* TMDL Implementation Plan next week in Patrick and Henry Counties from 6-9 p.m.

For next meeting, mid-summer:

- Draft of the *Eden Area Watershed Assessment*, featuring sections on the local and regional histories, land use, natural environment, water quality, and policies presiding over the lands of the watershed
- Meet with Eden to discuss other funding opportunities for their wastewater system
- Begin launching an outreach program in partnership with Rockingham County and Dick Everhart