

SWEARING CREEK WATERSHED MEETING #6 MINUTES

June 13, 2017

Participants

Olivia Munter, NC Wildlife Resources Commission	Trey Cleaton, City of Lexington
Guy Cornman, Davidson County Planning	Chris Phelps, Davidson County TRIP
Scott Leonard, Davidson County Planning	Jesse Day, PTRC
Andy Miller, Davidson County Soil & Water Conservation District	Cameron Colvin, PTRC
Wes Kimbrell, City of Lexington	Elizabeth Jernigan, PTRC
Paul Clark, DEQ DWR	Malinda Ford, PTRC
Bill Phillips	

Introductions, Open Meeting and Agenda Review

- Jesse opened the meeting at 9:05 am reviewing the agenda and highlighting that the grant ends July 31st of this year and that the active website as a clearinghouse for all of the plan information (www.ptrc.org/swearingcreek).
- Round table introductions were made.
- Jesse – the Characterization draft from February 2016 has been updated slightly and is on the website for review.
- Jesse – PTRC needs all stakeholders to submit match documentation through June 2017 by the end of the month. We will ask for July match at the end of the project.
 - The City can include time spent on water quality monitoring (plus cost of equipment). Wes will try to find this information.
 - Trey – spent time reviewing the ordinances in Chapter 5 of the characterization report and can include in an update report.
 - Andy – needs to add time spent at the Stormwater SMART cleanup.
 - Elizabeth – will check with Lindsey Lengyel about her time spent on outreach events and the rain garden workshop in the watershed.
 - PTRC to check with CWMTF and see if events or schools outside the watershed, with an invite to folks in the watershed, can count as match.

Revised Assessment Document Feedback & Gaps

- Consensus that there are no major gaps.
- Malinda – PTRC is still working to finish Section 3 on water quality data.
 - Cameron – we have a whole year's worth of data through 2015. Does the City have data since then we can include? Adding additional YRPDA data as available to this chapter.

GIS Modeling

- Malinda gave a presentation on the GIS modeling done so far and what has yet to be completed.
- Buffer analysis has been done to assess the riparian buffers within 100 feet of all ArcHydro streams. Results will be input into the project prioritization.
- The GWLF modeling has begun to look at estimated sediment and pollutant loads for the entire watershed and at the subwatershed level.
 - Compared current land cover (Cropland Data Layer, 2016) to an all forested condition.
 - Found streambank erosion to contribute 71% of sediment and landscape erosion to contribute 29%
 - Existing land use conditions show a substantial increase in sediment transport
 - Urban subwatershed 6 shows much more erosion due to streambank erosion, indicating need for stormwater BMPs in urban areas
 - Agricultural subwatershed 9 shows more erosion due to landscape erosion, indicating need for agricultural BMPs
 - Andy – erosion in this area is mostly due to channel erosion, farms are generally using no-till practices and have cover year round, so these results seem off
 - Malinda – we will sit down with Andy and identify agricultural BMPs on a map to include in the GWLF model
 - Andy/Paul – NC DA would have lat/longs of cost share projects (contact Joey Hester or David Williams - covers roughly 20% of all BMPs for agriculture in the County)
 - Wes - City has 1 regulated BMP (near Pet Smart off of Lowes Blvd) and 2 bio retention cells going in near Regents Center (off of old 29, south of bridge (exit 91?))
 - Malinda – we can include these as well
 - Trey – we should include conservation sites
 - Malinda – we will check with land conservancies and include their data
 - Paul – the state is interested in ag BMPs to know what has attributed to better water quality
- Malinda – we have also used GIS analysis to identify potential BMPs (cattle exclusion sites, riparian planting sites, stormwater BMPs, wetland restoration sites) and will be factored into project prioritization methods
- Malinda – we have run the GIS conservation analysis based on methods in our Regional Watershed Assessment, but results were not good for this watershed
 - Reran with methods based more on those done in Lower Abbotts Creek with a few modifications from the Regional model. Those layers and output were shared.
 - Still working on the restoration analysis.

Policy Recommendations & Implementation Timeline

- Cameron gave a presentation on policy recommendations highlighting the need to address non-point source pollution at a broad scale while meeting Phase II requirements.
 1. Public education, outreach – signage, hotline to report illegal dumping

2. Illicit discharge detection and elimination – through continued monitoring, educate public of improper waste disposal
 3. Construction site runoff – erosion and sediment control program
 4. Post construction runoff control (stormwater BMPs) – update ordinances, encourage ag BMPs, stormwater retrofits, riparian buffers, improved site design
 5. Pollution prevention – municipal staff training, incentives to adopt latest technology
- Guy - The county does not have a stormwater ordinance
 - Wes – the City’s Phase 2 ordinance is not set yet, have until November, will eventually roll into the UDO, will follow minimum design standards
 - Trey – the city does have impact buffer districts in the UDO
 - Cameron went over the general implementation timeline that will break projects into short, mid and long term goals and will have measurable milestones as required for a nine element watershed plan.

Outreach

- Elizabeth brought some sample materials
 - Need for more signs
- Chris – there is a new group trying to start a County wide cleanup initiative, they meet tomorrow at 10am (Elizabeth or Cameron will try to attend)
- Trey – City Council is trying to put in larger fines for trash dumping
- Chris – need for basic education (littering)
- Trey – City is talking to Winston –Salem about trail cameras, and recommend not putting “do not litter signs” because they actually cause more litter
- Elizabeth listed other ideas from past meetings and asked for input
 - Social Media – our current outlets will emphasize the watershed project
 - Photo Contest – consensus was not to pursue this
 - Brochures - developed
 - Utility bill inserts - consensus was not to pursue this
 - Web page - developed
 - Schools – could curriculum be update for Swearing Creek?
 - Big Sweep – haven’t done one yet
 - Materials – back yard buffers, citizen science monitoring
- Trey mentioned that Joy Fields gave a presentation to the appearance commission and had a sign prototype; they have a budget that could help print signs
 - Elizabeth will try to find this sign design and email Trey
- Guy asked if PTRC had any information to help commissioners understand landscape design (in parking lots) because they want to revise the landscape ordinance; it is already minimal
- Paul asked if there are any private entities to partner with for match funding on BMPs at project completion
- Wes mentioned that NCSU might be looking for grad student projects (they recently helped with a rain garden at Finch Park)

- Malinda asked if there were any sites that would make good projects?
 - Wes – Childress Vineyards for a stream restoration project
 - Guy – a mixed residential golf community was approved but has not moved forward (off of Linwood-Southmont Road, Watershed Downs?)
 - Green Needles potential park?
 - Trey – potential development off exit 91 behind shopping center (Plaza Parkway), about 50 acres planned to be a mixed use development
- Jesse asked about the status of the West Lexington Bypass
 - Trey – it is low on the TIP list and on hold for now
 - Guy – will probably eventually fall off the list unless there is a catalyst driving the project
 - Consensus to keep it in the project documentation for now
- Paul – will check with Division of Mitigation Services (formerly EEP), might be looking for potential areas to do work
- Andy asked how has the PTRC Stormwater SMART program and the City worked with the City schools because they have had little success
 - Wes – has been to West Davidson to give a sediment control lecture; they are reaching out outside of the City
 - Elizabeth – we have a list of schools SMART has worked with and will check
- Olivia – WRC is willing to help, can host a Green Growth Toolbox workshop
- Wes – what about 4H programs?
 - Andy – they do a few environmental programs but not really geared towards this
 - Chris – the state 4H president is from Davidson County (Alea Hunsucker)

Next Steps

- Jesse listed our next steps:
 - Send in match hours by end of June
 - We will continue with the modeling and prioritization
 - We will have a draft restoration plan out the beginning of July for review
 - The last stakeholder meeting will be held mid-July to go over the restoration plan and final outreach materials

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:30am.