

SWEARING CREEK WATERSHED MEETING #7 MINUTES

July 20, 2017

Participants

Olivia Munter, NC Wildlife Resources	Trey Cleaton, City of Lexington
Brooke Massa, NC Wildlife Resources	Roger Jones, City of Lexington
Guy Cornman, Davidson County Planning	Wes Kimbrell, City of Lexington
Scott Leonard, Davidson County Planning	Bud Hargrave, Landowner
Lloyd Phillips, Davidson County Soil & Water	Bett Hargrave, Landowner
Edgar Miller, CTNC/TRIP	Jesse Day, PTRC
Paul Clark, NC DEQ DWR	Cameron Colvin, PTRC
Kirsten Ullman, NC DEQ Div. of Mitigation	Malinda Ford, PTRC

Introductions, Open Meeting and Agenda Review

- Jesse Day opened the meeting with round table introductions.
- Jesse announced that the grant contract has been extended to January 31, 2018. We plan to wrap up the draft report by September. The additional time will be used for sign design and printing. We have also requested a change on the match requirement – we asked for a reduction because we are only half way to our match.
- We need stakeholders to submit additional match hours/funds.
- This will also provide an opportunity to incorporate Lexington’s Phase II ordinance changes.

Restoration Plan Overview

- Cameron Colvin presented on the Restoration plan, asking for feedback.
- Cameron went over water quality impairments:
 1. The fair fish communities likely due to turbidity (periodic peaks due to high storm events), high chlorophyll A, fecal coliform (AOPs, wild animals, septic leakage)
- Cameron went over the 10 policy recommendations:
 1. Update ordinances to address stormwater
 2. Strengthen site design requirements
 3. Retrofit stormwater sites
 4. Restore riparian buffers
 5. Promote infill development
 6. Protect rural land
 7. Encourage agricultural BMPs
 8. Improve enforcement of existing erosion control and IDDE rules
 9. Increase watershed education and outreach opportunities
 10. Continue and expand water quality monitoring

- Cameron discussed stormwater program funding and incentives: service fees, general funds, special assessment district, connection fees, grants and some private incentives
- Cameron presented the methodology and top projects in the project atlas:
 1. 31 projects
 2. C-01: coincides with greenway plan, should encourage Agricultural BMPs here
 - Guy Cornman recommended we take a look at ALCOA’s Shoreline Management Plan
 3. C-02: coincides with greenway plan, encourage VADs
 4. C-08: forested; great conservation land
 5. S-01: Green Needles; good for BMPs; sign installation
 6. S-02: Jaycee Park; all floodplain; some riparian buffer; high traffic site good for sign and BMPs; stormwater pipes go underneath site may be causing some erosion, can look at unearthing
 7. S-04: Holt-Moffitt Field and Radcliff Park; old aquatic site; talk to redevelop as a skate park; national guard facility; lots of exposed soil needing vegetation improvement
 - The skate park installation at Holt-Moffitt Park could be looked at in collaboration with the National Guard Armory. We mentioned that the design will not “force” additional Stormwater BMPs, but Guy Cornman mentioned that the National Guard Armory may be interested in building something on site if needed
- Cameron presented the implementation plan
 - 30 years broken into four phases
 - Watershed outreach and education and water quality monitoring recommended throughout all phases

Phase 1 (year 5)		Phase 2 (year 10)		Phase 3 (year 20)		Phase 4 (year 30)	
2017	2022	2027	2032	2037	2042	2047	2047
Watershed Outreach & Education							
Water Quality Monitoring							
Update Greenway Plan		Phase I of Davidson County Greenway Master Plan		Phase II of Davidson County Greenway Master Plan			
Draft and Adopt Stormwater Ordinance to Address Non-Point Source Pollutants	Strengthen Site Design Requirements to Manage Stormwater On-Site	Continue to Enforce and Improve Stormwater Ordinance		Continue to Enforce and Improve Stormwater Ordinance			
Expand Applicability of Davidson County Watershed Protection Ordinance	Ammend Davidson County LDP, Subdivision Regulations, and Zoning Ordinance to Discourage Sprawl	Establish Programs to Protect Rural Agricultural Land		Continue to Invest in Open Space, Farmland, & Natural Resources			
Order and Install Informational Watershed Signage	Create Stormwater Retrofit Program to Help Restore Top Priority Stressed Projects	Continue Stormwater Retrofit Program to Help Fund Restoration Projects		Continue Stormwater Retrofit Program to Help Fund Restoration Projects			
Partner with PTRC to Reestablish Brownfield Cleanup Program	Develop Economic Development Plan to Stimulate Redevelopment and Protect Natural Resources	Modify Infrastructure Improvement Plan to Meet Economic Development and Watershed Restoration Goals		Continue to Stimulate Development Using Low Impact Techniques and Minimizing Stormwater Impacts			
Contact NC DEQ About Scheduling a Bioassessment of Swearing Creek	Establish Program to Monitor Sediment Control and IDDE	Continue to Monitor Sediment Control & IDDE		Continue to Monitor Sediment Control & IDDE			
Contact YPDRBA to Request Monitoring of Chlorophyll-a	Seek Partnerships through NC DEQ and Citizen Science to Increase Monitoring Sites	Assess Water Quality Data to Determine Success of Management Programs and Adapt Accordingly		Assess Water Quality Data to Determine Success of Management Programs and Adapt Accordingly			
Begin Contacting Property Owners to Gauge Interest in Land Conservation	Implement Conservation Projects 1, 2, 3, & 4	Implement Conservation Projects 5, 6, 7, & 8	Implement Conservation Projects 9, 10, 11, & 12	Implement Conservation Projects 13, 14, 15, & 16	Begin Identifying Future Conservation Projects		
Seek Funding Sources for Top Priority Stressed Projects	Implement Stressed Projects 1, 2, 3, & 4	Implement Stressed Projects 5, 6, 7, & 8	Implement Stressed Projects 9, 10, 11, & 12	Implement Stressed Projects 13, 14, & 15	Begin Identifying Future Restoration Projects		

- Cameron asked for feedback on the restoration plan
- Brooke Massa offered some funding ideas:
 - Stanly County implemented a plan when land comes out of the PUV program, the back taxes paid go towards land conservation
 - 20 contiguous acres of priority habitat qualifies for a tax deferment program (like PUV)
- Paul Clark noted that to qualify as a 9 Element Plan, we will need to add rough idea of cost for BMP retrofits for our stress projects in the project atlas
 - May need to investigate whether a standalone chapter on designs and costs satisfy or is an estimate for each project required.
 - We will need to do this to apply for further 319 funding
- Paul also gave an update on the High Rock Lake Scientific Advisory Team – they will do literature reviews and research to set parameter levels based on science; their recommendations will go to a citizen team to determine what is most feasible and cost effective
 - There is a trend to shift away from TMDLs and do proactive watershed planning instead
- Jesse asked for everyone to get comments on the restoration plan to us within a month (by mid to late August) so we can have a complete document by September.
- Roger Jones asked for the original contract document be sent to him so that he can clarify Lexington’s match
- Edgar Miller noted that we need to say “Central Land Trust” instead of “Land Trust of NC”
 - Note: we may want to meet with their director Travis Morehead about the plan
- Guy might like us to come to a commissioner’s meeting to present the final product
- Wes Kimbrell noted that Lexington relies on the Winston Salem Regional Office for sediment and erosion control; it is more efficient for the City to have a regional/state inspector
- Wes discussed existing BMPs in the City and would like them noted in the plan: one at PetSmart and two bioretention cells at Regents Center
- General Report Edits:
 - Need to add images/pics to the introduction section & remaining restoration projects
 - Put “Keep With Next” onto headings that may want to be moved to the next page
 - Take out inflammatory or accusatory language
 - Acknowledge Lexington implementation of Phase II requirements since 2016 for BMPs and reason for erosion and IDDE controls
 - Change Recommendations to Goals (if this would not violate 9 element plan outline)
 - Always refer to specific years rather than “later this year” – keeps the document accurate the following year
 - Land Development Plan does not “regulate”, the ordinance does
 - Include cost estimates and pollutant reductions for restoration projects
 - Add recommendation for use of native species in restoration projects

Sign Implementation

- Potential sign locations include parks, Childress Vineyards, hospitals, apartments and roadsides
- We have a \$5,000 budget for educational materials

- An example was shown that we created for the City of Burlington, the cost was \$1,500 for the pedestal and panel (not including installation cost)
 - Agreed that the team would like to see less text and more graphics,
 - Could use local sign companies at a cheaper cost(Sign Works)
- Can also do simple green and white road signs for about \$25 a panel
- Wes mentioned should always install a sign over a BMP
 - He added 10-12 locations to our online map; good location include, Childress subdivision, Regents Center, focus on high traffic areas, high density areas, and “up and coming” areas
- Kirsten added it is a good idea to get a champion to draw attention to signs (churches, schools)
 - Jesse noted the new litter cleanup group in the County might be good for this
- Paul mentioned a state level adopt a stream program that provides the sign; requires some commitment (like 2 cleanups a year); the position is vacant right now, but the contact was Holly Denim
- No litter signs may also be helpful
- We can work with the Bunn sign shop to produce the 18 x 24” roadside signage at \$25/ea

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:00 am.