

Granville County Staff Review of Upper Neuse Watershed Management Plan July 7, 2003 Meeting Summary

Prepared July 9, 2003

UNRBA mission: To preserve and protect the water quality in the Upper Neuse River Basin through innovative, cost effective and environmentally sound strategies and to create a coalition of local governments and stakeholders in a water resources partnership.

On July 7, 2003, Chris Dreps of the Upper Neuse River Basin Association (UNRBA) met with staff from Granville County in Oxford. The objectives of the meeting were to:

- Review the Upper Neuse Watershed Management Plan (the Plan);
- Discuss the management strategies proposed for Orange County; and
- Receive staff guidance for proceeding with the introduction of the Plan.

Meeting attendees are listed below.

| Name | Department/Program |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Dudley Watts | County Manager |
| Wallace Vaughan | Granville-Vance H.P. super |
| Warren Daniel | Soil and Water Conservation |
| Scott Phillips | Planning/Inspections |
| Barry Baker | Planning |
| Chris Dreps | UNRBA |
| Ben Bearden | UNRBA |

Presentation

Chris Dreps summarized the Plan's analysis and the general recommendations. He then presented the recommendations specific to Granville County:

- Density Limits or nitrogen & phosphorous performance standards (Lake Rogers and Lake Holt)
- Ordinance revisions for 75-foot buffers (Lake Rogers and Lake Holt only)
- Enhanced peak flow management
- Upper Neuse long-term monitoring program (regional recommendation)
- Septic system recommendations
- Enhanced construction site inspections and enforcement
- Enhanced animal operations inspections
- Stormwater quality BMP inspections and enforcement
- Education for "Low-Impact Development" and buffer maintenance
- Targeted lands acquisition
- Forestry/Agriculture BMPs
- General watershed education and adopt-a-stream program
- NPDES Program Requirements
- Stream, riparian, and wetland restoration projects
- Stormwater retrofits

A general estimate of the marginal costs of implementing the Plan in Granville County is \$4,113 per year in year 1. The cost of a septic system inspection and maintenance program would be

\$313,625 per year in year 1 (this cost could be borne by the system owners). Costs for all programs will increase with inflation and growth.

Discussion

Dudley Watts wanted to know why, if the area just northeast of Lake Rogers is zoned for 6% impervious, how the watershed can reach the projected 10% impervious cover. Chris responded that the unit of analysis is the entire watershed, which is zoned at 1 unit per acre and a 12% impervious cover limit (this is the protected area, not the critical area). We hope that future versions of the Plan will look at a smaller units for analysis and management.

Dudley Watts suggested that Chris should make Board Members aware of how much public space is already being protected. Chris would also need to distinguish Butner -owned land from publicly-owned open space.

Mr. Watts suggested presenting to the state to let them know about Butner's area around Lake Holt and should get State to make a conservation area around Lake Holt now.

Barry Baker suggested keeping in mind much of the area between Creedmoor and Butner is somewhat protected due to Lake Rogers.

Barry Baker mentioned that zoning is important, particularly the type of zoning (commercial vs. residential) as well as the density. Chris should show current zoning and land use and how the area is developing. The Land Use Plan shows this and should be considered when presenting to the commissioners.

Scott Phillips motioned that Granville has a critical area around Lake Holt and Lake Rogers that is larger than what the State requires. This fact (from the Land Use Management plan) needs to be incorporated into the presentation.

Scott mentioned that there could be a growth corridor between Stem and Butner due to the existence of water/sewer lines that extend along this corridor.

Warren Daniel mentioned that inspections are being done, but some land has been grandfathered out of inspections.

Scott Phillips did not feel that the stream buffer recommendations would be much of a problem.

Barry Baker wondered how accurate the USGS stream delineations were – determining the exact location of a stream is the key consideration for the stream buffer recommendations. Chris mentioned that these have been updated as part of the National Hydrography Dataset.

Scott Phillips mentioned that no current requirement exists that looks at the amount of stormwater generated by development, particularly subdivisions.

Mr. Phillips mentioned that an effort should be made to educate homeowners about taking care of septic systems.

Mr. Watts mentioned that the Board of Health might be the appropriate organization to address the septic system recommendations. He suggested that the time to talk to the Board would be in January. They could call a special session in order to handle the septic recommendations separately. There might also be a joint Board of Health/Planning Board meeting to look at the recommendations.

Mr. Watts suggested that the group should think about the recommendations and reconvene to come up with the best strategy to present the recommendations to the board.

Warren Daniel mentioned that state enforcement of runoff control often only comes from reaction to complaints, and then, only when they have a staff member available to investigate the complaint. In the 1980's, Wake County Soil and Water Conservation hired someone to review development plans for erosion control, ensure compliance, and, while not an enforcement agent, he could report noncompliance to the appropriate authority. Chris Dreps reported that David Vogel (Director of NC Soil & Water Conservation Division) met recently with the UNRBA and stressed that he would like to see agents doing this kind of work.

Next steps

Chris Dreps has provided the meeting attendees with a handout outlining the recommendations, the "readiness to proceed", short-term UNRBA goals, and suggested next steps. Chris will discuss with the group those next steps recommended to get a feel for which recommendations:

- could be dealt with immediately;
- are long-term (potentially requiring more research); and
- are regional recommendations the county might be interested in pursuing through regional cost sharing efforts (ie, UNRBA or one of the COGs).

Chris will look to Mr. Watts and the Planning and Inspections Department for further guidance on the recommendations for Lake Holt and Lake Rogers.