

**N. C. Division of Soil and Water Conservation Review of
Upper Neuse Watershed Management Plan
June 5, 2003 Meeting Summary**

Prepared June 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 June 5, Chris Dreps of the Upper Neuse River Basin Association (UNRBA) met with representatives from the NC Division of Soil and Water Conservation and the Soil and Water Conservation Districts. The objectives of the meeting were to:

- Review the Upper Neuse Watershed Management Plan (the Plan);
- Discuss the management strategies proposed for Counties in the Upper Neuse; and
- Request the Division's support (endorsement) of the Plan.

Meeting attendees are listed below.

Name	Department/Program
Tom Davidson	Durham Soil and Water Conservation District (UNRBA Board of Directors)
David Vogel	NC Division of Soil and Water Conservation
David Williams	NC Division of Soil and Water Conservation
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 Counties in the Upper Neuse.

The recommendations applying to Counties are:

- Option: Density limits or performance standards
- Enhanced peak flow management
- Enhanced construction, site inspection, and enforcement action
- Upper Neuse long-term monitoring program
- Education for "Low-Impact Development" and buffer maintenance
- Targeted lands acquisition
- General watershed education and adopt-a-stream program
- Stream and wetland restoration projects
- Stormwater retrofits
- Septic systems recommendations
- Agriculture/Forestry best management practices
- Enhanced animal operations

Discussion

David Vogel would like to have supervisors from Soil and Water Boards participate in meetings where the Plan is presented. Having people from his division attend presentations would be a more effective way for the Division of Soil and Water Conservation to show its support for the Plan.

Mr. Vogel suggested looking into a grant available through the Source Water Protection Program that could be applicable for helping fund implementation of the Plan. The Source Water Protection Program involves having the interested group identify non-point pollution sources and develop a contingency plan and strategies to manage source water protection. Having a plan already completed helps tremendously toward securing the grant.

Mr. Vogel suggested that cost-sharing programs should be investigated to help with local community implementation. Typically, the cost share program has been used for agriculture, but could also be used for any program addressing non-point sources of water pollution, especially where there exists an opportunity for water conservation.

David Vogel said there needs to be a group responsible for providing assistance to developers to help them properly implement stormwater controls as opposed to regulators or inspectors that developers may not trust. He feels that there is potential for involving local Soil and Water Conservation staff in this area. Phase II of NPDES may provide an opportunity. Chris Dreps suggested contacting Greg Jennings (WRRRI and Cooperative Extension) about opportunities for teaming on stormwater management.

Mr. Vogel is interested in new ways to partner with private landowners through easements, cost-sharing, TDRs, PDRs, Land Trusts, etc. to protect open space and water quality without purchasing land outright.

David Williams suggested putting together an "inventory of links" to help groups identify potential partnering opportunities.

Next steps

Division of Soil and Water Conservation to help Chris Dreps make contact with the appropriate staff when presenting the Plan to County staff.

Chris should speak with Mikki Sager (NC rep. for Conservation Trust) and Steve Bennett.