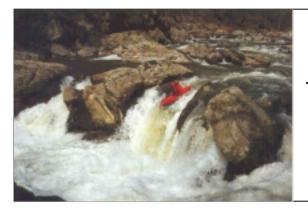
Appendix V

Watauga River Basin Workshop Summary



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Discussion Question 1:

WHAT ARE THE MAIN THREATS TO WATER QUALITY IN THE WATAUGA RIVER BASIN?

<u>Group 1</u>

- Construction along Highway 105 (starting at headwaters of Watauga)
 - \Rightarrow causes sediment
 - \Rightarrow paving and runoff
 - \Rightarrow private driveways and roads
- Wastewater treatment plants
 - \Rightarrow Beech Mountain
 - \Rightarrow package plants
- Septic tank failure or straight piping
- Agriculture
 - \Rightarrow pesticide use
 - \Rightarrow cattle in streams
- Golf courses
 - \Rightarrow pesticides
 - \Rightarrow fertilizer
 - Forestry activities
 - \Rightarrow tree cutting
- Streambank erosion
 - \Rightarrow downstream from development
- Channelizing streams

Group 2

- WWTPs / Failing septic
- Development / Urbanization
- Rock crusher
- Gray water quality
- Golf courses
- Agriculture
 - \Rightarrow Christmas trees
 - \Rightarrow cattle
 - \Rightarrow tobacco



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- The building of second homes
- Logging
- Sedimentation/Erosion
- Road salt

Group 3

- Lack of ENFORCEMENT
 - \Rightarrow not enough STAFF
 - \Rightarrow insufficient penalties
- Lack of targeted information
 - \Rightarrow Example: agency people have they been told of the problem
- Sedimentation and Erosion
- Conflicting goals
 - \Rightarrow residents
 - \Rightarrow developers
- Diversity monitoring station locations
- Need for stormwater management requirements
- Old WWTPs

Discussion Question 2:

WHAT ARE THE PROBLEM AREAS OR WATERS AND WHAT RECOMMENDATIONS DO YOU HAVE FOR ADDRESSING THESE PROBLEMS/WATERS?

<u>Group 1</u>

Impacted Areas

- Along Highway 105
 - \Rightarrow package plants
 - \Rightarrow construction
- Development in Banner Elk area
 - * (new hopefully good plans for control)
- Livestock
 - \Rightarrow Cove Creek area
 - \Rightarrow Beaverdam Creek



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- \Rightarrow Mainstem below Valle Crucis
- Septic systems
 - \Rightarrow all over (rural?)
- Restoration areas
 - * Look at John Vilas' plan

Recommendations

- Combine package plants
- Cost share for live stock fences (fence away from streams)
- Grants for fixing straight piping
- Improved enforcement
- Need more monitoring
 - * (need more data to stimulate getting grants and funding)
 - \Rightarrow schools monitor
- More public education needed
 - \Rightarrow private road building
 - \Rightarrow contractor workshops
 - \Rightarrow local registration of contractors, well drillers, septic tank installers, grading comp.
 - \Rightarrow attitude
 - \Rightarrow general education of public
- Research/Demo projects
 - \Rightarrow stormwater wetland
- Model development
 - * Demos and recognize good development
- Open space planning

<u>Group 2</u>

Impacted Areas

- Bethel
 - \Rightarrow Lack of vegetation
- Cove Creek
 - \Rightarrow New development
- Twin Rivers
 - \Rightarrow Sedimentation (especially near Foscoe)
- Laurel Fork



■ Beech Mountain ⇒ WWTP

■ Headwaters of the Watauga River

Recommendations

- More enforcement people
- Bug Planning and Inspections
- Education programs
 - \Rightarrow NCCEs
 - \Rightarrow NCSU
 - \Rightarrow TVA
 - \Rightarrow Blue Ridge RC&D
- Contractor Association Program for Green Builders
- WWTP's monitoring / DWQ current enforcement
- Restoration projects
- Preservation

Group 3

Impacted Areas

- Sedimentation and erosion
- Valley Creek and an unnamed tributary to Valley Creek Two-tenths mile up Seven Devils Road.
- Runoff into Valley Creek from roads, ski runs, golf courses.
- Laurel Fork
- Borrow Pit Highway 105 opposite entrance to Adams Apple
- Cove Creek Above restoration area

Recommendations

- Enforce county standards
- Develop local (Seven Devils) standards
- Local regulations for buffers 20 to 100 feet depending on situation
- Require implementation of the existing plan

WATAUGA RIVER BASIN WORKSHOPS

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Discussion Question 3:

WHAT LOCAL AGENCIES OR ORGANIZATIONS SHOULD BE INVOLVED IN ADDRESSING THE PROBLEMS?

<u>Group 1</u>

- Local school systems
- ♦ Blue Ridge RC&D
- Soil and water districts
- Local government staff and elected officials, planning boards, COG
- ASU, Lees McRae, Community Colleges
- Farm Bureau, farm organizations
- ♦ Extension
- ♦ DOT

Group 2

- ◆ 1-866-STOPMUD (statewide)
- Previous Pavement
- ♦ DWQ
- NRCS
- NCCES
- Watauga/Avery County Planning and Inspections
- ♦ TVA

<u>Group 3</u>

- Watauga River Conservation Partners
- Watauga County Planning and Inspections
- Avery County Planning and Inspections
- NRCS
- ♦ Extension
- Stream Watch
- ♦ Local school board