

Chartering Session 2: Jordan Lake Targeted Watershed Study
May 31, 2006
Mebane Arts and Community Center
Meeting Summary

Meeting Introduction

The meeting was opened by Don Freeman, Executive Director of the Cape Fear River Assembly (CFRA), who gave opening remarks and an overview of the Cape Fear River Basin project. Inga Kennedy, meeting facilitator, provided an overview of the agenda, discussed meeting objectives and ground rules, and facilitated the introduction of attendees. Each person received a set of handouts that included the meeting agenda, power point presentations, the revised vision and goals, and a project schedule containing key milestones and remaining meeting dates.

Finalize Vision, Goals, Successful Project Outcomes

Ruth Swanek, with CH2M HILL, summarized Session 1 and provided an overview of how the feedback from attendees was used for the revision of the vision statement, and goals and objectives. The feedback was documented through a series of slides that highlighted the input. A discussion followed that included the following comments:

Comment: In the Project Vision Statement, add the word “restoration” after water quality.

Comment: Define “point” and “non-point” sources so that all participants are using the same interpretation. (Note: subsequent to the meeting, it was decided that a glossary of terms would be developed for the project, and “point” and “nonpoint” will be included in it)

Comment: Under Successful Project Outcomes, add “and inclusion of” after the word development in the first bullet.

Draft Project Charter Components

Ruth Swanek provided an overview of the project charter components that included an organizational chart of the roles and responsibilities, a diagram of the project structure, and a summary of the communications plan.

A discussion followed that included the following comments:

Question: What is the role of BMPs in the project?

Answer: Individual pilot watersheds will be evaluated for specific BMP needs. Up to six BMPs will be conceptually designed (up to 30 percent design) to address watershed specific issues.

Question: Under the Project Structure, what is the purpose of monitoring?

Answer: Monitoring will assist in determining the effectiveness of the trading program.

Question: Will the process be driven by EPA requirements?

Answer: There are some EPA requirements that will need to be met, however, the agency understands that local requirements are also important and must be met. Therefore, there is flexibility in how the trading program can be developed.

Project Overview

Lauren Elmore, with CH2M HILL, described the Pilot Study and identified key elements of the program. She then gave an overview of how the pilot program would be designed and the implementation framework developed. Ms. Elmore also described the program's monitoring elements and the overall advantages to the pilot participants. A discussion followed that included the comments below:

Comment: The selected pilot location(s) should be close to a water intake location in order to track water quality.

Comment: The monitoring process for the pilot study should be developed so that it measures the results of the trading program over time.

Comment: The proximity of the trading partners to the lake should be considered. It is also important to specify a time element for each trade.

Comment: Credits cannot be generated until after existing regulatory requirements are met.

Comment: Emphasize the importance of verification and compliance.

Comment: Incorporate BMP maintenance. Who will be responsible for failed BMPs? What is the liability? *Answer:* The study will identify ways to minimize risk. There are several examples where BMPs are working.

Comment: For purposes of implementation, the 401 Group should be included.

Pilot Study

Lauren Elmore, with CH2M HILL, gave a brief overview of the requirements and commitment for Pilot Study participants and identified a list of possible participants. A discussion followed that included the comments below:

Comments: A complete list of the data needed from pilot participants is needed so that organizations can determine how much time it will take to compile the information.

Comments: Consider various scenarios for non-point to non-point sources.

Question: Where did the idea of a pilot study originate?

Answer: There is limited funding, therefore, the pilot will be used to develop an example trading program in a smaller portion of the Jordan Lake watershed. The program will also identify specific BMPs that can help facilitate trading within the specific pilot watershed.

The following organizations may be interested in participating in a pilot project:

- Town of Chapel Hill
- Town of Carrboro
- City of Durham
- Durham County

- City of Graham
- Town of Mebane
- City of Burlington
- North Carolina Department of Transportation
- Alamance County Soil and Water Conservation District

Meeting Schedule

Sydney Miller with TJCOG and Carol Patrick with PTCOG provided detail on the workgroup schedule and identified the remaining stakeholder meeting dates for this process. A discussion followed that included the comments below:

Question: How does this process interface with the rules (DWQ) process?

Answer: Trading has to comply with all regulations. We will work with DWQ to ensure the rules will not unnecessarily restrict the trading program and ensure the trading program meets the rule requirements.

Meeting Conclusion

The meeting was concluded with a general discussion about the process and a wrap up of the next steps, including coordination with possible pilot agencies.