

TOWN OF WAYNESVILLE
WATERSHED ADVISORY COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 6, 2007 – 7:00 P.M.
TOWN HALL

The Watershed Committee of the Town of Waynesville held its first official meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 6, 2007 in the Waynesville Town Hall. Members present included Jack Swanner, Bill Skelton, Gordon Small, Pat Maier, Dave Dudek and Karen Kaufman. Also present were Dr. Peter Bates and Rob Lamm, representatives of Western Carolina University which is under contract with the Town to perform the Forestry Management Plan, and Lee Galloway, Town Manager.

The Town Manager opened the meeting and thanked those who were in attendance. He reviewed some of the background and history of the watershed and the formation and duties of the Watershed Advisory Committee. He advised that although the Committee was appointed in 2006, there had not been a need for regular meetings until recently. Now that Dr. Bates and Mr. Lamm and others with Western Carolina University are making progress on developing the Forestry Management Plan, the Committee is needed to review the data, hear the reports and provide feedback to Dr. Bates and his associates.

Dr. Bates noted that his associates and he have been spending time gathering information from the watershed. They have pretty well covered the 7,300 acres in the watershed that is covered under the Forestry Management Plan and are now at the point of making decisions on how the Plan should be drawn. They need input from the local stakeholders, which will be the Watershed Advisory Committee and the citizens.

Gordon Small referred to the Final Report on the Sustainability Indicators from the two workshops held in 2006. He suggested that under Environmental Values, the quality of the water should hold a higher priority than the quantity of the water. Mr. Small also noted the concern that one citizen had expressed to him regarding sedimentation from the roads in the watershed.

Dave Dudek asked some questions about the role of the Committee in responding to comments and concerns of citizens. He wants to be responsive and to show interest and concern for input from the public.

The Town Manager indicated that he felt that was the intent of the Town Board of Aldermen when they established the Watershed Advisory Committee. The Committee would work with the professionals from Western Carolina University in reviewing the Forestry Management Plan and then hold hearings so that citizens would have a chance to speak on the plan. Once the Committee had the Plan in the Final Draft form, Galloway

anticipated that the Committee along with the Western Carolina personnel would present the Plan to the Town Board.

Dr. Bates discussed the schedule of meetings over the next several months, and he suggested that a meeting was needed so that Dr. Jerry Miller could present his findings on water quality in the watershed and Dr. Tom Martin could present his findings on aquatic life in the watershed. Finally, Rob Lamm and he and others would present their findings on the plant life and the biophysical assessment of the watershed. There would be discussions about the endangered species of both plant and animal life and some Heritage Sites that should not be disturbed.

It was tentatively agreed that for the next two months, the first Thursday in October and November would be good meeting dates. The time would be at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. Jerry Miller and Tom Martin would be invited to the October 4th meeting.

Dave Dudek asked about the possibility of using Best Management Practices for improving and/or protecting and assuring water quality.

Gordon Small indicated that there might be some grants available for that purpose.

Peter Bates explained to the Committee that the Town Board did not want the watershed to be used as an experimental watershed like at the Coweta Research Forest near Franklin. They did not want to try things to see what damages were caused.

There was a brief discussion about timbering. Dr. Bates advised that he felt the Town Board should be provided with the estimated potential revenue from timbering. Although they have made it clear that it is not an economic factor, the Board needs to know those figures in determining the course of action on the watershed.

There was further discussion on the watershed, on the values contained within the Monomet Report and on the impact of past silt and sediment on the capacity of the water impoundment. Dr. Bates advised that his work was not directed at the capacity of the town's reservoir but that such information might be ascertained in other ways.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

A. Lee Galloway
Town Manager