

TOWN OF WAYNESVILLE
WATERSHED ADVISORY COMMITTEE
APRIL 1, 2008 – 7:00 P.M.
TOWN HALL

The Watershed Committee of the Town of Waynesville held a meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 1, 2008, in the Waynesville Town Hall. Members present included Pat Maier, Bill Skelton, Gordon Small, Bill Yarborough and Dave Dudek. Also present were Dr. Peter Bates, representative of Western Carolina University which is under contract with the Town to perform the Forestry Management Plan, Rob Lamm, who is working with Dr. Bates, Lee Galloway, Town Manager, Alison Melnikova, Assistant to the Town Manager, Vicky Wade of Western Carolina University and Gulru Azamova, a Hubert Humphrey Fellow at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, who is working with Western Carolina and the Town in developing public information on the development of the Forestry Management Plan.

Dr. Peter Bates opened the meeting and welcomed those in attendance. He noted that all members had received the draft of the Forestry Management Plan being proposed to the Town for the Waynesville Watershed. The Plan is on disk and he would like to have any comments back from members of the Advisory Board as soon as possible. The Plan will be presented to the Town Board at their meeting on Tuesday, April 8. From discussions with Town Manager Lee Galloway, it appears that the Town Board will want to allow four to eight weeks for community review as well as public forums, presentations to civic clubs, public review on the Town's web site and perhaps a disk available at the public library. Dr. Bates indicated that this would work well with the time frame of several individuals who were involved in the accumulation of data for the Plan, as they need time to review the document for accuracy and input on additional data.

There was discussion about the water quality and turbidity charts in the Plan. The data shown went through the end of February, 2008, but there was a major rain event of 3.7 inches in a 24 hour period during the first week of March, 2008.

Gordon Small suggested that the Town Board and the Watershed Advisory Board should work hard to keep the public fully informed about any management techniques which are used in the Watershed. He felt it was critical that this be a very open, transparent process so that the public did not think the Town was attempting to hide anything. He also felt that the Town would be better off to do a more extensive treatment at one time rather than doing one each year. Doing treatments too frequently may keep the public in a constant stir rather than doing a large treatment and then skipping two or three years.

There was discussion of the issue and impact of roads, and it was noted that the greatest amount of siltation comes from poorly constructed or poorly maintained roads and ditches and culverts. The development of vegetation along the roadsides will go a long way in reducing the silt and sediment reaching streams. It was mentioned that it might be wise to do a road inventory and assessment to determine what roads need attention or could need attention based upon what areas were to be treated.

The Plan mentioned the use of herbicides, and there was extensive discussion on that matter. It was decided that the possibility should be left in the Plan for now, since that would require State review and approval prior to any use.

In terms of the Public Forums, it was agreed that they should be low key, with a lot of one on one discussion. Citizens should be given the opportunity to ask their questions without fear of reprisals. The group did not anticipate an overwhelming attendance, so that one on one discussion was likely. There have been concerns for the trees being lost in the region to various diseases and discussion on treating these trees now and in the future for gypsy moths, wooly adelgid, sudden oak death, just to mention a few. With it being a public water supply, treatment with chemicals is an item of concern.

There were also discussions about how the Wildlife Commission would view the Plan in terms of prohibiting hunting, something the Commission likes to allow.

Dr. Bates again urged the Advisory Board members to provide him with any feedback they might have by Monday, April 7.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

A. Lee Galloway, Town Manager