

TOWN OF WAYNESVILLE  
WATERSHED ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
JUNE 22, 2009 – 7:00 P.M.  
TOWN HALL

The Watershed Committee of the Town of Waynesville held a meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, June 22, 2009, in the Waynesville Town Hall. Members present included Pat Maier, Bill Skelton, Bill Yarborough and Karen Kaufman. Also present were Dr. Peter Bates and Rob Lamb representatives of Forest Stewards, an entity under Western Carolina University, which has performed the Forestry Stewardship Plan for the Town, Lee Galloway, Town Manager and Alison Melnikova, Assistant Town Manager.

The Town Manager opened the meeting and welcomed all present. He noted that the Town Board had approved the Forestry Stewardship Plan presented by Dr. Bates in the fall of 2008. During the 2008-2009 fiscal year, the Town and Forest Stewards had a contract in which Forest Stewards performed a variety of services related to the Plan. For the 2009-2010 fiscal year, the Town Board allocated funds to continue that relationship. Galloway felt it would be good to have Dr. Bates and Mr. Lamb meet with the Watershed Committee to review the work accomplished during the past year and to discuss the work planned for 2009-2010.

Dr. Bates then reviewed the work that had been performed by representatives of Western and Forest Stewards. He noted that there had been some problems with the water samplers and that some of the data on collections is not as good as they would have liked; however, he felt that there were enough samplers to give a good representation of the water quality data. Western staff members are recommending that we add some ISCO water samplers to improve the data.

Dr. Bates and Mr. Lamb noted that under the plan, there was a goal of dividing the watershed into 201 plots of about 40 acres each. The intention is that each of these plots should be checked every ten years to address treatments which might be desirable to improve water quality and the health of the forest. Mr. Lamb explained that so far, 189 plots have been done, much of it through the Global Positioning System (GPS).

Part of their work involved making an assessment of all intersections of roads and streams, for this is where the greatest amount of siltation is discharged into water sources. All 100 miles of roads have been checked and notations made of the type crossings (by culvert or by fording), what ditches exist and what improvements are needed. They are working with the Town to identify the crossings that need improvements or corrections now, but the typical problems are undersized culverts or blocked culverts. They will work with the Town to identify a list of priorities on crossings in need of attention.

In the area of Water Quality and Forest Health, Dr. Bates, Mr. Lamb and others continue to assess the impacts that different storm events have upon water quality. The goal of the Plan is to apply treatments that will encourage a diversity of the species in the forest. In the Treatment Area, they will develop a specific plan to thin the white pines to allow new species to grow and to allow the trees left more room to grow.

The contract with Forest Stewards also called for their involvement in the two hikes in the watershed, one in the fall and one in the spring of 2008-2009. Dr. Bates and Mr. Lamb have fully involved students in the Watershed Plan, and during the spring, Galloway and Assistant Manager Alison Melnikova visited the class at Western Carolina when the student groups presented their recommendations for development of the Rocky Branch Tract. This is a Town owned tract of land comprising more than 500 acres and lies just outside the watershed area. The spring semester, the students were assigned this as a Capstone Project.

For the upcoming 2009-2010 year, the Town would like to again enter an agreement with Forest Stewards and some of the activities included:

- Water quality monitoring in areas near where white pines are to be treated,
- Continue assessments of stream crossings,
- Continue data collection on water quality,
- Complete the GPS mapping of the 201 plots,
- Develop plan for the treatment of the white pines,
- Begin detailed assessment of stand conditions within the Rocky Branch subwatershed,
- Participate in public meetings and forums as requested/needed.

If funding is received from the National Forest Foundation, there have been discussions about some other activities. These include:

- Develop habitat restoration for the Endangered Northern Flying Squirrel,
- Develop an invasive species control plan,
- Conduct two educational field days for Waynesville residents to describe the rationale for active stewardship in watershed and to solicit input,
- Conduct field visit to the Waynesville Watershed for forestry professionals to demonstrate and discuss forest stewardship practices.

Committee Member Bill Yarborough explained a little of the history of the white pines planted in the watershed, noting that they were planted after the construction of the reservoir and when nothing else would grow on the bare banks.

The Town Manager thanked Dr. Bates and Mr. Lamb and asked if they would be willing to appear before the Town Board to give them a similar presentation as to what was presented to the Watershed Committee. He noted that there was one new Town Alderman who would need to be provided with information about the Watershed Stewardship Plan and that the Board as a whole needs to know what was accomplished in 2008-2009 and what is planned for 2009-2010. Dr. Bates indicated that either August 25 or September 8 would work well for his presentation.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

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A. Lee Galloway, Town Manager