

Cane Run Watershed Council Meeting – Monday, May 16, 2011

Susan Byars
Jennifer Myatt
Ernest Collins
Darcy Everett
Steve Higgins
Charlie Denham
Ken Cooke
Frank Whitehouse
Sarah Wightman
Tom Blues
Amanda Gumbert
Cindy King

Watershed Based Plan (Steve and Amanda)

- DOW did not accept the plan that was submitted on March 1.
 - Last fall, conditional acceptance was given.
 - Since conditional acceptance was given, the plan was reorganized and comments were addressed.
 - Now, 32 new comments need to be addressed.
 - DOW requests all data collected in the watershed be included and interpreted.
 - DOW requests all deliverables before '08 funding can be given.
 - Pathogen TMDL approved
 - Nutrient TMDL submitted
 - Sediment TMDL (DOW) (not happening, so not required for funding)
 - DOW does not accept the monitoring section of the plan, which states that pollution exists throughout the watershed.
 - DOW instead wants prioritization of catchments based on water quality data.
- Sarah is in process of gathering and interpreting data and revising the document.
 - We have what we need, but it is not worded/organized per DOW.
- We are also working to respond to DOW comments, which was requested by DOW.
- Funding will not be available for projects this summer. At best we can hope to have funding released to start projects this fall.
- We have taken advantage of partnerships to implement BMPs; however, DOW requires water quality data to justify BMP implementation.
- KDOW requires a working document that gives a detailed picture of the watershed, so that any future individuals/organizations could pick up the document and begin to implement projects to improve water quality.
- Question: Did you identify the sources of fecal coliform in the report?

- As best that we could (they are identified in the pathogen TMDL, which is included to the plan as an appendix).
- Question: Who was at the meeting from DOW?
 - Jim Roe, Beth Finzer, and John Webb
- Question: When they conditionally accepted the plan, did it surprise you when they hit you with this?
 - Yes, that is an understatement.
- The bottom line, says DOW, is that they are accountable to the EPA, and the EPA needs the watershed-based plan in a format they like.
- It seems that a DOW-accepted watershed-based plan has been a moving target, which makes it difficult to meet the requirements.
 - We are not technically held to the new watershed-based plan development guidelines developed by DOW, but all other watershed-based planning projects today are.
- Question: What is the timeline?
 - Carmen had some questions about catchments, and it took DOW a week to get back to her.
 - The process and exchange of information is slow.
- We would rather spend time and money putting BMPs on the ground, educating people, and cleaning up a watershed than creating a document that will sit on a shelf that someone may or may not read. (Steve)

Spring 2011 Education and Outreach Activities (Amanda)

- On April 9, 31 UK students volunteered at Lexmark and cleared honeysuckle near the Legacy Trail bridge.
- UK students also installed willow stakes near the Paddock Apartments.
- On Wednesday, Amanda will meet with an environmental science class at Bryan Station High School to conduct water sampling.
- On Saturday, Sarah is taking a Cane Run display to McConnell Springs Founder's Day.

Summer 2011 Education and Outreach Activities (Amanda)

- 2 programs with Robinson Scholars
 - Water pioneers (incoming high school freshman)
 - Topics will include: What are watersheds? Basics of water testing, etc.
 - High school juniors
 - Develop instructional You Tube videos about the watershed/BMPs
 - Install a rain barrel
 - What is pervious pavement?

Misc. Education and Outreach Topics (Amanda/group)

- Cane Run Watershed has a You Tube channel
(<http://www.youtube.com/user/UKCaneRun>)
- Cane Run Watershed also has a Facebook page (Cane Run Rescue Crew)
- Can Bluegrass Pride get statistics about watershed education in Fayette County? (Ken)
 - Yes (Darcy)

Watershed Festival 2011 (Amanda/group)

- Misc.
 - LFUCG Parks has a popcorn popper
 - Question: What is the intent of the festival?
 - Education and outreach for residents
- Location
 - Castlewood Park
 - Amanda met with the Castlewood Neighborhood Association in February.
 - Association is interested in the festival and in other watershed activities.
 - Amanda also met with the Lexington Art League at the Loudon House.
 - Offered to have the house open during the festival to display art
 - Also have information about historical natural springs in the area
- Date
 - August preferred, maybe September
 - Friday night
 - Not August 19 (Woodland Art Fair)
 - August 5 or 12,
- LFUCG Support
 - Mostly financial support available
 - T-shirts
 - Tent
 - Not food
 - Some planning support
 - Darrell Bennett would like to do another Green Acres Watershed Festival
- Ken proposes to endorse the Watershed Festival in Castlewood Park
 - Steve seconds
- Activities
 - Educational seminars (Cindy will organize)
 - Educators
 - Conservation districts
 - Educational displays

- Origami swan-making (Lexington Art League offered as part of a larger regional project)
- Create rain barrels (Bluegrass Pride)
 - Paint them
 - Sell them
 - Give them away
 - Involve students
- Create rain gardens
- Activities targeted to low-income households that make up the majority of the neighborhood surrounding Castlewood Park
 - Automotive care – changing oil
 - What is a watershed?
 - Rain barrels
 - Lawn care
 - FOG
 - Vegetable/plant garden interface with rain barrel
 - Litter (bagging your trash), recycling
 - Esther Moberly
 - Signs on waste containers
 - Pocket ash trays
- Ask Castlewood Neighborhood Association for suggestions
- Emerald ash borer display board
- Community gardens
 - North Limestone Community Association
- Darcy will organize displays/exhibits
- How to connect headwaters with Royal Spring
 - Maps, pictures, watershed model (to show beginning and end of watershed)
- Future festival planning
 - Next year (2012) in the Royal Springs Park
 - 2 log cabins
 - Spring exit
 - Shelter
 - Musical group venue
 - Funding/planning assistance
 - Scott County Fiscal Court, tourism, Scott County Conservation District, LFUCG, etc.

Potential Fish and Wildlife In-Lieu Project (Steve)

- Steve and Carmen met with LFUCG and with KY Fish and Wildlife at:
 - Lexmark

- Coldstream
- UK North Farm
- KY Horse Park
- The purpose of the meeting was to propose a stream restoration project using in-lieu fees starting in Lexmark and continuing through KY Horse Park.
- LFUCG plans to do a \$1 million SEP in Coldstream Park; Lexmark is talking about a stream restoration; UK is willing to approach the trustees to provide an easement through the farm; and the KHP is more and more willing to work with the project to improve water quality and install riparian buffer zones.
- The project hinges on LFUCG cleaning up sanitary sewer issues.
 - LFUCG will publish a stormwater remedial measures plan in September/October (correction: most likely March 2012) that could be used to answer the water quality questions that previously prevented a similar project from going through at Lexmark (Ken/Jennifer)
- Question: Who owns the easements?
 - Fish and Wildlife holds the easements.
- Question: Would that be possible to carry throughout the watershed, not just in Fayette County?
 - Problem: private land owners that back out at the last minute.
- Fish and Wildlife has changed the system so that money available for Fayette/Scott County comes mostly from road projects, not coal mining.
 - It will take Fish and Wildlife a while to save the funds necessary to complete a project as large as this, but it can be an end goal post.
- Question: KY River Coal buy-in?
 - Possible
 - KY River Coal Company has connections with KHP Commission and Foundation

Misc.

- Does the Cane Run project stop at the county line? Because water quality problems (indicated by Dr. Rick Copp and by KY River Watch sampling) continue in Scott County.
 - The bottom line is money. Currently the project focuses on the catchments within the Cane Run watershed that provide flow to the Royal Spring. Eventually the hope is to acquire more money and expand the project to the entire watershed.
- There are two new (Kentucky River Watch) sampling sites on Cane Run as it crosses the county line. Cindy will invite the volunteer sampler to the next meeting if the sampling sites are viable (i.e. not dry).
- Rain garden roundtable?