

Upper Guyandotte Watershed Association
Wastewater Treatment Activities
For WAWN
March 15, 2006

Project

Devils Fork Watershed Project

- UGWA has recently completed and submitted a Watershed Based Plan dealing with nonpoint source fecal coliform bacteria and metals pollution in the Upper Guyandotte watershed.
- The Devils Fork subwatershed has been identified as the top priority subwatershed. This project will provide wastewater treatment to 68 homes—all the homes in the subwatershed.
- Treatment systems proposed: cluster system for 15 homes in Amigo, individual onsite for the remaining 53 homes.
- Devils Fork was selected as a high priority largely due to the opportunity to achieve water quality standards throughout the subwatershed by providing wastewater treatment to all the homes in the subwatershed in a relatively short period of time and for a relatively low cost.
- The estimated cost of this project is \$600,000. We are currently working on putting together a funding package. When funding has been secured, we will solicit proposals for engineering work.

Location

The Upper Guyandotte River watershed, as defined by the service area of the Upper Guyandotte Watershed Association, includes the headwaters of the Guyandotte River downstream to the mouth of Pinnacle Creek and covers eastern Wyoming County and southern Raleigh County.

The Devils Fork subwatershed is located in the upper portion of the watershed, in Raleigh County, and is 23 square miles in size.

Needs assessment overview

- Of all the homes in the Upper Guyandotte watershed: 9% have a permitted septic system, 23% receive municipal sewer service from the City of Mullens, and 2% receive wastewater treatment service from a package plant in their community.
- 66% of homes have an inadequate or unidentified method of wastewater treatment. The estimated cost of providing treatment to all these homes is \$16.28 million.
- Some homes in the Devils Fork watershed may have functioning septic systems. This will be determined once we start implementing the project.

Funding sources

- Canaan Valley Institute
- Mt. RC&D
- WV DEP 319 (pending)
- WV State Legislature (pending)
- WV DEP Supplemental Environmental Projects program (pending)

How you achieved local buy in

- UGWA leads the outreach efforts, we are visible in the community
- As much as possible, talk to local people one on one
- Stress the human health implications of fecal pollution
- We encourage all interested parties to get involved and try to foster consensus. All meetings are open to the public and each individual or group's opinion is respected.

Realistic time line for the project

We hope to complete the project within 2-3 years of receiving funding. Major steps to be completed:

- Determine roles and responsibilities of partners, draft MOUs, and select an engineering firm.
- Work with homeowners to get individual onsite systems installed, conduct outreach program, conduct water monitoring program
- Construct cluster system