

WV Watershed Network

Meeting Minutes

March 15, 2006

Days Inn Flatwoods

10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

GOALS

1. Share funding opportunities for 2006
2. Begin 2006 WMF watershed prioritization
3. Develop resource materials
4. Outline potential steps for tackling wastewater treatment issues

ATTENDEES

See attached Excel Spreadsheet

BUDGETS

319 Non Point Source Program– Teresa Koon

WV usually receives \$1 million

Congress has not yet passed the budget

This grant has two components: Base and Incremental

Incremental requirements include projects, the stream being 303 (d) listed, a TMDL, and an EPA accepted WBP

The deadline is June 1, 2006

Corps of Engineers Continuing Authority Program, Sherry Adams

Budgeting Process:

- Initial Problem Identification
- Congressional Study Resolution/ Authorization
- Initial Study Funding

Continuing Authority Program (CAP):

- Projects with smaller scope, cost and complexity
- Delegated authority to design and construct without specific Congressional authorization

Funding Policies:

- Complete existing construction projects
- No new project cooperation agreements
- Congressional authorization for start or continuation of study (Naming or earmark)

OSM – Roger Calhoun

\$1 ½ million available this year in Watershed Cooperative Agreement money for coal issues and acid mine drainage treatment.

This is a first come first served program. Please contact OSM for more information.

Roger Calhoun's presentation is available at: <http://www.wvca.us/wvwn/>

CVI – Rob Stull

CVI is going through some changes and grant program has gotten a lot more competitive.

Wastewater and stream restoration projects (mostly NSCD) are the focus.

\$5,000 watershed grants complete project within 2 years/ outreach is limited to \$2,000

Matching funds are not required.

The board looks at building partnerships – funded first.

Preference is given to water quality projects and measurable outcomes.

Staff salary is limited \$3,000.
Educational initiatives are hit and miss – watershed fairs not too great.
CVI has an equipment loan program.
Equipment can be checked out for the duration of the project or as long as the WSA is functioning.
CVI will not fund tools and equipment.

Deadlines:

Jan 13

March 17

June 16

Handout available and online www.canaanvi.org

In Lieu of Fee – Lyle Bennett DEP

This funding is tied to the 404 permitting process with the COE for in stream activity where streams or wetlands are filled

Mitigation is required to replace these wetland or streams.

New rule includes monetary compensation 30K per acre to be built 2 – 1 or 3 -1 for wetland replacement.

January 2005 signed agreement to establish a system to accept the money at DEP and put into an account.

The program is set up so the applicant can meet their legal responsibility to meet mitigation requirements.

Mitigation review team decides on projects.

Guidelines will be developed the impacts should be mitigated within the watershed or as close by as possible.

Meeting will be held at the end of March to establish the process.

Agency players are DNR, DEP, UDFWS, COE Pitts and Huntington and EPA.

A fee assessment will have to be developed starting point is \$100 per linear foot.

This could generate a lot of money but is not the first option. We want applicants to mitigate wetlands, or streams.

Monitoring requirements will be 3-5 years this is a habitat reestablishment or stream habitat replacement not actually water quality improvement.

Stream Partners Program – Jennifer Pauer, DEP

Grants to WSA up to \$5,000

2006 budget is \$77,396

2007 budget is \$77,396

Application Deadline is April 15th every year

www.wvca.us/stream

Farm Bill Programs – Mike Gasper, NRCS

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EQUIP (Environmental Quality Incentives Program) 50 -90 % cost share for agriculture projects of which agricultural wastewater is included

NRCS has just finishing a concentrated signup but does have a continuous sign up

Concentrated and continues sign ups are taken at the local NRCS field offices

WHIP (Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program) - Upland and habitat around streams is eligible for restoration

75% costs share assistance can be had by individuals, hunting or fishing groups or units of government, however units of gov. are low priority

WRP (Wetland Reserve Program)

Wetland restoration impacted by agriculture

10 year easements cost share assistance for restoration only, 30 year easement pays for the restoration,

Permanent easements pays for restoration cost and pays the landowner for an easement on the land.

Farm Service Agency CREP (Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program) - protect riparian areas along streams and helps put back to a forest buffer, fencing a minimum of 35 feet, and pay on relinquishing of the right of way and easements paid compensation for loss of land, but is still the owner and responsible for maintenance.
Landowner still maintains ownership in all these programs.

RC&D (Resource Conservation and Development Councils)

There are 6 RC&D councils in the state
Non profit sponsored by USDA/NRCS, Conservation Districts and County Commissions to help with rural development.
RC&Ds Will work with grants to administer the funds to get projects on the ground.
WV RC&Ds have small grants available.

Conservation Districts

There are 14 CDs in the State.
CDs vary in their make up and some districts have money to complete and partner with others on projects.
They have the ability to lobby state government.
They can also assist with technical assistance.

www.wvca.us will have a Conservation District Link

Source Water Assessment Program – Scott Rodehaever

About \$50,000 available
Well head grant program has up to \$15k available to a watershed group with a community public water supply sponsor that utilizes groundwater. A package will be available soon and the deadline will be late summer or early fall.
Scott can be reached at 558-6713.

DHHR 319 Program - Rick Hertges, On Site Sewage Coordinator Public Health Sanitation Division

This program is funded through the 319 Program.
They will be hiring someone to work with WSA groups to identify straight pipes and set up systems to create on site discharge.
Rick can be contacted at 558-8457.

US Forest Service - Karen Sykes

FLEP (Forest Land Enhancement Program) funded through the Farm Bill to enhance woodlands to write forest plans and wildlife habitat, riparian buffers, bmp installation, in stream improvements to fisheries
\$400 k is available this year.
Program is for private landowners.

WV WATERSHED MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK CYCLE

Goal is the prioritization of watersheds to implement water quality improvement projects
Current prioritization process includes:

- TMDL
- Watershed Association or local interest
- Opportunities for project development
- Partner and stakeholder interest

October 2006 TDLs will be complete for Potomac Direct Drains and Gauley
Partners were asked to bring information on activities and programs in those watersheds to the October meeting

Presentation available at <http://www.wvca.us/wvwn/>

RESOURCE GUIDE AND WEBSITE
Jami Thompson, WVCA

Please review the resource guide and the Yellow pages and if your information is not correct please return the green card to Jami. The contact information is on the card.

All resource materials will be posted at the website: <http://www.wvca.us/wvwn/>

WASTEWATER TREATMENT ACTIVITIES ROUNDTABLE

Rivers Coalition, Liz Garland and Evan Hansen

The broad view of the Coalition is following policy and water quality rules.

Wastewater Manual created with a 319 grant in cooperation with WSAs and other nonprofits.

The manual has been distributed across the state.

The manual fills a niche for the WSAs who are now becoming involved in partnership and community support to find grants and loans to solve community wastewater issues.

Manual explains funding sources, systems, rules regulations and agencies and technical assistance providers.

Distributed April 2005

RC is working with the Buckhannon River Watershed Association to begin the process of identifying an area to implement decentralized systems, and the Friends of Deckers Creek Watershed Association to expand the watershed based plan to include wastewater issues.

Corps of Engineers

Southern WV 340 Environmental Infrastructure Program - Sherry Adams

\$750K appropriated in FY 06 (Corps)

Eligibility is usually from a letter to the District Office or from a Congressional representative

Scope:

- Water and wastewater
- Surface water resource protection and development
- Environmental restoration

Projects:

- Kilsythe/ Mt Hope – collection system upgrade
- Cool Ridge Flat Top – new plant
- Boone County PSD – collection system
- Krouts Creek –stormwater diversion
- Piney Creek – sewer line
- Oakvale Road PSD – water system upgrade

Presentation available at <http://www.wvca.us/wvwn/>

Central WV Infrastructure Section 571 – Dan Bailey

\$563K appropriated in FY 06 (Corps)

This program is currently restricted so projects can only be finished no new projects are eligible

Scope:

- Water
- Wastewater

- Surface water resource protection and development

Projects:

- North Putnam Sewer
- Pendleton County – treatment plant
- Silverton Sewer
- Flatwoods Canoe Run Sewer
- Norton Harding Sewer
- Cottageville Sewer
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Presentation available at <http://www.wvca.us/wvwn/>

DEP Programs involved in Wastewater Issues, Alvan Gale

The handout outlining the programs and the contact information for the following programs is available at <http://www.wvca.us/wvwn/>

- Permitting
- Groundwater Program
- State Revolving Fund
- Non Point Source Program

Canaan Valley Project – Rob Stull, CVI

Thrasher Engineering and Hammer PSD proposed a \$17m public sewer to replace the small package plants. CVI was asked to look at decentralized approach.

Feasibility study was completed and decentralized systems are feasible.

The study concluded and 17 extended aeration package plant 11 out of compliance.

2.8 million STAG grant was awarded through Mollohan

\$240 million was appropriated from EPA

The group began outreach to involve all PSDs in the planning – website, newsletter and monthly meetings.

Facility plans were developed for each plant. Replacement of the plants is probably not an option but to replace at \$19 million.

The hurdle is there is no public entity to take over these systems and manage them.

Wastewater Treatment Coalition of McDowell County, Dave Clark, Canaan Valley Institute

The Wastewater Treatment Coalition of McDowell County began as a loose-knit group of organizations and local officials who had grown increasingly concerned about the lack of adequate wastewater treatment in many parts of the county. The Coalition started meeting in January 2003 with community leaders, representatives from Congressman Rahall’s office and state agencies. Repeatedly, it was suggested that Coalition members help to develop a comprehensive approach to addressing McDowell’s wastewater needs.

Since these initial meetings, the Coalition has completed a septic system database, developed a comprehensive assessment of wastewater treatment in the county, completed workshops on wastewater options, toured successful alternative system sites, completed demonstration models in the county, secured support from the County Commission and Public Service Districts, and completed a Wastewater Treatment Plan for the county.

McDowell County Members

FACES

Health Department

Citizen’s Conservation Corps

Elkhorn Creek Watershed Association
Parks and Recreation
SAFE
WVU Extension
County Commission
Council of the Southern Mountains
Rural Health Advisory Council
Richmorr and Associates
First Presbyterian Church
Mustard Seeds & Mountains
Cities of War, Anawalt, Jaeger, Gary, Bradshaw, Northfork and Welch
Economic Development Authority
Redevelopment Authority

Partners

Canaan Valley Institute
WV Ministry of Advocacy and Work Camps, Inc.
White Oak Environmental
Stafford Consultants, Inc.
Rural Community Assistance Program
WV DEP
Mountain RC&D
WV DNR
WV Development Office
Region I Planning and Development Council

Needs assessment overview

WTCMC, with assistance from CVI and partner organizations, compiled data from multiple sources to adequately capture the current status of wastewater treatment in the county. These data sources included:

- County septic permits. All permits in the county health department office were digitized, and assigned a parcel number.
- Municipal treatment systems. Plant operators were interviewed, and mapped out extent of current service lines.
- NPDES permits were collected to identify existing package plants.
- Parcel data.

The final assessment showed:

1. Approximately 24% of county residents are served by municipal treatment systems,
2. 8% have septic tanks,
3. >1% are served by package plants,
4. 67% of McDowell residents have no approved wastewater treatment; that equates to 7,480 homes, or over 18,000 people.

In addition, the Coalition has worked with WVDEP to sample county streams for fecal coliform, and found that almost all streams have fecal counts well above the “impaired” threshold, with some counts exceeding 400,000 & 500,000 colonies/100ml.

Project status

With the assessment completed, the Coalition and its partners identified 97 project areas and assigned a preliminary cost-effective treatment technology to each area. Project areas were then prioritized according to:

- economic development in the immediate vicinity,
- proximity to the floodplain,
- community willingness,

- funding potential, and
- number of homes served.

One demonstration project, an Advantex textile filtration system was installed at the Big Sandy Headstart facility. Plans are now being completed for a system in the community of Ashland. Additional projects are being ‘packaged’ for submission to the WV Infrastructure and Jobs Development Council and other funders.

Funding sources

Much of the assessment and planning effort has been volunteer, with significant support from partner organizations.

Funding for the Big Sandy demonstration project was provided by the WV Ministry of Advocacy and Workcamps. Funding for pending projects is anticipated from: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Program, WV DEP’s 319 Program, CVI, a private developer, and possibly low-interest loans through the housing organization SAFE.

For the proposed larger sewage system extensions, the Coalition will be working closely with Region 1 Planning and Development and county government to submit applications to traditional infrastructure funders, including USDA, ARC, Small Cities Block Grant program and others.

Local buy in

The WTCMC is a locally-led consortium of organizations and county residents. Education and outreach has been part of the Coalition’s work since its inception, and this will be increasingly emphasized as projects move closer to implementation. One of the weighted criteria used to prioritize projects has been “community willingness,” and this has been determined through surveys made available to all residents.

Upper Guyandotte Watershed Association, Kelly Jo Drey

Devils Fork - Wastewater treatment for 68 homes in the subwatershed

Project location – Devils Fork, headwaters of Upper Guyandotte, downstream to mouth of Pinnacle Creek
Needs assessment – TMDL and a Watershed Based Plan

Funding

- CVI
- Mt. RC & D
- DEP 319 (pending)
- WV Legislature (pending)
- DEP (supplemental environmental projects)

Local buy in – outreach efforts within the community focusing on health impacts, encouraged participation
Time line – 2 –3 years once funding is received

Handout available at: <http://www.wvca.us/wvwn/>

Lincoln County EPA Alternative Wastewater Demonstration Project, Ric McDowell and Tammy Vanderort

Project Location - Left Fork watershed of Mud River

Needs assessment- Overview high coliform and e. coli levels throughout the watershed, very low income community

Funding sources -\$1,284,933 (EPA \$963,700. Local match \$321,233)

Local buy in - Lots of local meetings, commitment to share all info and decision making with community

Time line- 3-4 years

Conclusion of needs and gaps

Service components needed by a WSA wishing to deal with wastewater issues:

- Monitor

- Education – those involved and those affected
- Technical
- Management
- Funding
- Planning and prioritization tools
- Evaluation

Gaps in the resources:

- Management of decentralized systems – how do you collect the payments
 - Legislation to cover management
 - All counties covered by Public Service District
- Public buy in – know what is available and what they should be thinking about wastewater management
- County Commissioner education
- Better standardize the monitoring
 - Species specific monitoring accessibility in some cases
 - Fecal vs. ecoli
- Balancing ownership at the grassroots level
- Publicize the successes better
- Template for the steps from the TMDL to the WBP
- Funding for the education component
 - School systems –cosi

Evaluation of the Meeting:

Meeting format was good

Possibility of breakout sessions

- Permitting aspects from all of the agencies
- Natural stream channel design
- AMD
- In Lieu of Fees
- Urban BMPs technical support
- Tools and techniques

Next Meeting:

October 12, 2006

Charleston DEP Office

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Agenda Items Ideas:

Prioritize sub-watersheds Group C

Natural stream channel design success stories

Permitting needs and programs

Break out sessions on several topics

The committee will work on a plan for the agenda anyone wishing to serve on the committee should contact: Dave Clark, Jami Thompson, Jennifer Pauer, Jennifer Skaggs or Tim Craddock.