

Growth and Water Quality, Too

Changing Public Policy in the Southeast

Southeast Watershed Roundtable Conference

Asheville, NC

August 3, 2006



Program helps communities

- Learn how land use decisions effect water quality
- Comply with regulatory requirements
- Make informed decisions about managing growth

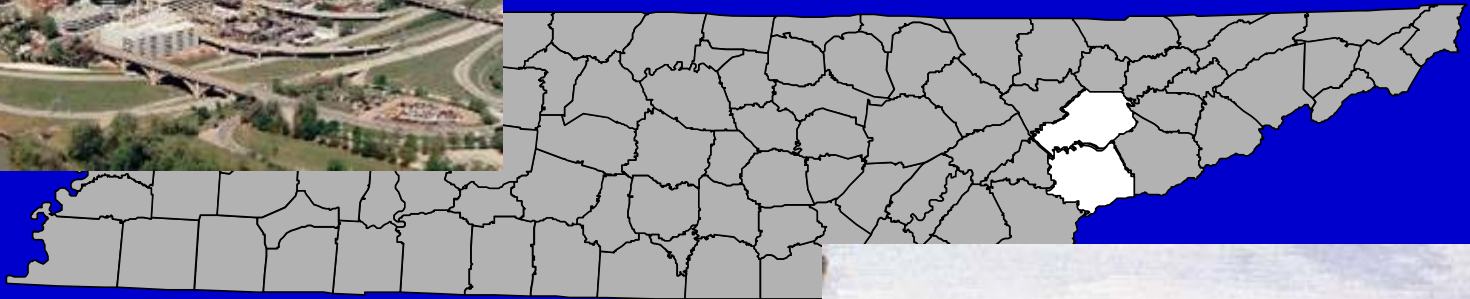


Built on existing best practices

- University of Connecticut's NEMO
- Center for Watershed Protection



Developed with pilot communities



Build awareness and support

Why should we care?

What can we do?

Why is water quality important?

Water quality issues matter



- Economy
- Quality of life
- Federal and state laws

What is water pollution?

Pollution isn't what it used to be



- Point source**
- Single, identifiable source
 - industrial
 - sewage treatment
 - Most has been cleaned up in the last 25 years

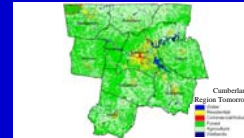
What are new legal requirements?

New Clean Water Act requirements

- NPDES Storm Water Phase II
 - new storm water management program required
 - includes new permitting and development requirements
- 303(d) and TMDLs
 - identifies streams not in compliance with standards
 - sets total maximum daily load requirements
 - may limit development that contributes to load

How can growth effect water quality?

Our present land use



Can we have growth & water quality?

Choices for growth & water quality

- Consider land use effects on water quality when:
- planning for community
 - evaluating site designs
 - adopting new best practices

The pollution you can't pinpoint



- Nonpoint source**
- Contamination carried into water by runoff
 - Comes from an entire watershed
 - Geographic, not political boundaries
 - Most from land that is
 - built on or paved
 - farmed
 - bare soil
 - Primary source today

Streams not in compliance



Our water quality & imperviousness



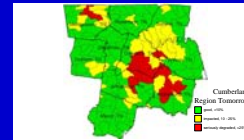
Land use and water quality: the choices are ours



Consequences of non-compliance

- Total maximum daily load established
- Permits restricted
- Fines of \$15,000 per day for violations

Our future water quality?

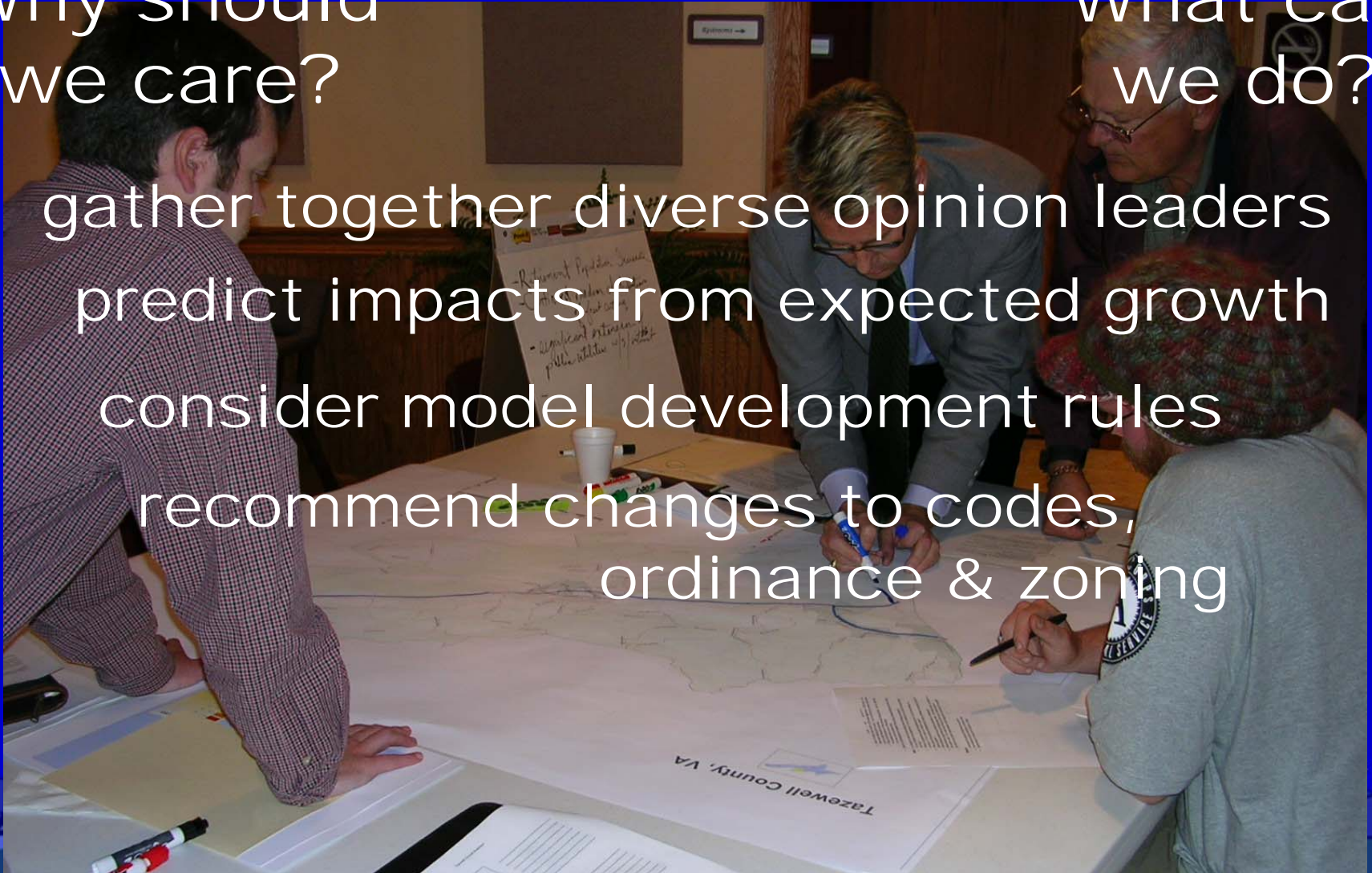


Build consensus for change

Why should we care?

What can we do?

gather together diverse opinion leaders
predict impacts from expected growth
consider model development rules
recommend changes to codes,
ordinance & zoning



Programs and Initiatives

Wise County
Growth
Readiness

Tennessee
Growth Readiness

Georgia
Growth Readiness

NC
Pilot

