

2006 Southeast Watershed Roundtable and North Carolina Statewide Roundtable

Watershed Management makes Good
Financial Cents: Development Tools for
Sustainable Growth

August 2-4, 2006

Asheville, North Carolina

Mississippi, Alabama & Florida

1. How can states and local communities achieve more measurable results in addressing 303d-listed streams?

- Consistent and adequate monitoring to create a standard protocol such that there is uniformity across states.
- Focus existing resources on reducing pollutant loading rather than reducing the standards - in order to de-list water bodies.
- Citizen lawsuits are an important tool to compel compliance with existing laws and as a catalyst for progress.

2. How can EPA and other federal and state agencies build local capacity or third party providers to assist communities in achieving measurable water quality results?

- Invest resources and staffing to advise and assist the local communities (i.e. the Southwest Florida Regional EPA office which was closed).
- Provide financial assistance to grassroots organizations to build local capacity and to provide education and training to local communities.
- EPA takes the *lead* to provide standards and mandates to state and local entities to compel the state and local governments as well as other local stakeholders to build their capacity to achieve measurable results, while allowing local communities to assume ownership of their water resources.

3. What specific action will you agree to do to improve water quality in your community?

- Southwest Florida Basin: rewriting local stormwater rules for new development and lobby for their timely implementation.
- Chattahoochee River: look at point source discharges to find instances of non-compliance and lobby that they be addressed.
- National: Bring new stakeholders to the table to change the dynamics (realtors, weathercasters, chamber of commerce, etc.)

What specific action will you agree to do to improve water quality in your community? (Cont.)

- Pearl River Basin, MS: Work with local stakeholders
- Florida: Away from % removal to prevention and make models and BMPs go in that direction.
- National: Work on a personal citizen level, not just professionally, to affect positive change
- No fertilizer, pesticide, shower every other day, personal changes to lower personal impact.
- Black River: Send official letter about smart growth and water resources, etc.
- Plant a tree

Georgia

1. How can states and local communities achieve more measurable results in addressing 303d-listed streams?

- Form partnerships to strengthen capacity of watershed groups to address water quality impairments at community level.
- Build community support for water quality improvement actions by asking, “what will be gained if we do, and what will we lose if we don’t”; sharing success stories of water quality initiatives which achieved measurable results; and gaining knowledge from lessons learned by others.
- Build knowledge and understanding of issues and solutions with local residents, decision-makers, and legislators.

2. How can EPA and other federal and state agencies build local capacity or third party providers to assist communities in achieving measurable water quality results?

- Provide incentive-based programs.
- Create peer-to-peer network support for local governments
- Provide stronger support in identification of funding sources and in grant writing.

3. What specific action will you agree to do to improve water quality in your community?

- Establish an awards program for watershed groups that are doing an outstanding job of achieving measurable water quality improvements.
- As a consultant, offer more pro bono technical assistance to water quality focused non-profits and watershed groups.
- Research, develop, disseminate information on non-federal sources of funding for watershed-based projects.
- Direct more financial and technical assistance to support projects in watersheds of concern.

North Carolina – Swannanoa Room

1. How can states and local communities achieve more measurable results in addressing 303d-listed streams?

I. Goals: Need to target small watersheds with nine element plans.

II. Education:

- Target specific audiences (gutter guys)
- Educate about science to public
- Education to high-level administration (OMB)

III. Measurable Results

- Scientific
- Educational
- Practices
- (Other results besides 303d off the list)

2. How can EPA and other federal and state agencies build local capacity or third party providers to assist communities in achieving measurable water quality results?

- Provide funding for local entities, third party facilitators, coordinators for larger watersheds
- Help with targeted education
- Promote local partnerships – e.g. public recognition through awards.

3. What specific action will you agree to do to improve water quality in your community?

- Educate family, friends and neighbors

NC – Mt. Pisgah Room

1. How can states and local communities achieve more measurable results in addressing 303d-listed streams?

- Empower local communities and decision makers through education and diverse team building
- Establish one place for information / assistance regarding funding and technical resources
- Create state and federal infrastructures that support watershed restoration

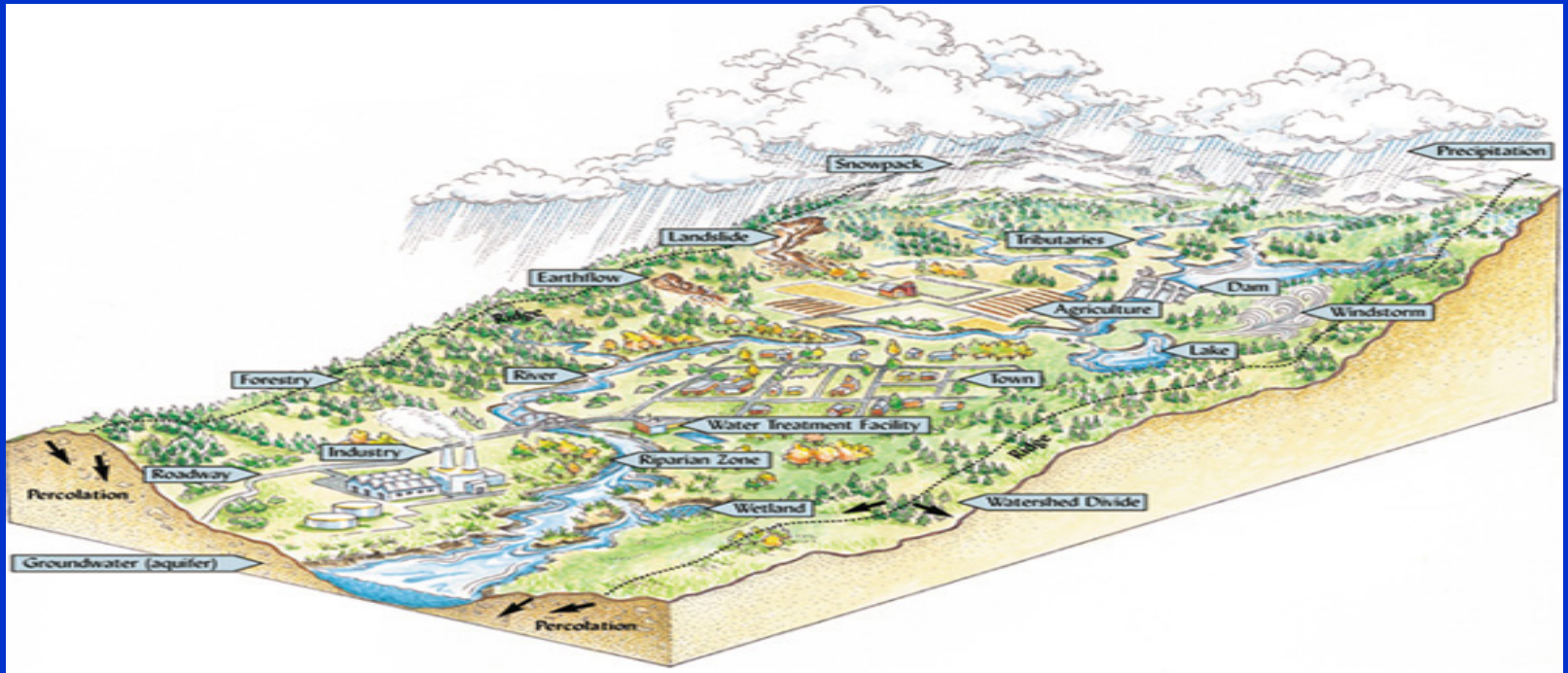
2. How can EPA and other federal and state agencies build local capacity or third party providers to assist communities in achieving measurable water quality results?

- Educate Congress and State Legislatures on watershed issues and impairments in their Districts
- Build or strengthen existing Sub-Basin Water Quality Coalitions through better coordination & communication
- Provide expertise on technology, funding mechanisms and policy development
- Tie State and Federal actions to a larger plan/strategy (i.e. Coastal Protection Management Plan)

3. What specific action will you agree to do to improve water quality in your community?

- Citizen Empowerment & Support Local Groups
- Up-date Plans (i.e. include BMPs in Comp Plan)
- Do job with Integrity
- Continue Education and Research
- Create Win-Win situations with diverse parties
- Pay more taxes / fees if linked to water protection
- Spread the Word

NC – Mt. Roane Room



1. How can states and local communities achieve more measurable results in addressing 303d-listed streams?

- Direct resources to preventing listings in the first place
- We need near and long term metrics for our measures of success; not just de-listings
- Create a social epidemic to cause awareness and promote participation (*The Tipping Point* by Malcolm Gladwell)
- Require implementation strategies developed with stakeholder input and participation



2. How can EPA and other federal and state agencies build local capacity or third party providers to assist communities in achieving measurable water quality results?

- Fund a coordinator position for every watershed
- Encourage and incentivise public / private partnerships
- Focus efforts at a small watershed level – such as the 12 digit HUC scale



3. What specific action will you agree to do to improve water quality in your community?

- I will try to convince my university board to consider greenspace preservation as a means of attracting higher quality faculty because of the improved quality of life...
- I will call these people who now have faces to go along with their names...
- I'll call people who have already done what we were thinking of doing to learn from their experience



Western NC – Magnolia Room

1. How can states and local communities achieve more measurable results in addressing 303d-listed streams?

- Water resources need to be taken into consideration in all planning and policy development.
- Need to create cheerleaders – watershed coordinators – long-term, sustained positions with people who have a personal relationship with the local community
- Need a more watershed-based study approach – don't focus on isolated streams, look at larger picture, focus on preservation of healthy streams before they become 303d

2. How can EPA and other federal and state agencies build local capacity or third party providers to assist communities in achieving measurable water quality ?

- Provide technical assistance to assist local communities & watershed coordinators in planning, i.e. training in GIS for planning & empowerment Bring EPA~ web cast training to watershed and local community level.
- Need more field staff for enforcement. When planning isn't enforced the public becomes disengaged
- Federal agencies need to educate local agencies @ water quality mandates and flexibility within those mandates

Continuing on flexibility theme

- Federal & state agencies need to allow more flexibility to customize community programs
- Federal funding needs to be more flexible to allow smaller communities that really need help to access funding

3. What specific action will you agree to do to improve water quality in your community?

- Incorporate water quality techniques in low to moderate income subdivision being developed
- Get more involved with local planning efforts
- Educate people on economic value of healthy streams
- Develop stronger partnerships for watershed protection
- As an engineer - help with technology transfer – think outside the box and use my professional position to educate on water quality management
- Use volunteer resources to work with members of communities for monitoring, planning & project implementation

South Carolina

1. How can states and local communities achieve more measurable results in addressing 303d-listed streams?

- Make sure that all impairments (including sediment) are listed for a specific stream in the 303(d) listing process
- Alert, motivate and direct communities to act (post signs in impaired waters>community meetings>local ordinances)
- Get proactive and involved in infrastructure decisions and development, including stormwater issues, comprehensive planning efforts and zoning debates/enforcement

2. How can EPA and other federal and state agencies build local capacity or third party providers to assist communities in achieving measurable water quality results?

- Make EPA grant process easier to understand and navigate, and more streamlined for local citizens with a proven track record
- Support the formation of a SC “call up service” (i.e. SC Water Quality Academy), offering technical resources, training, etc. (possibly through public universities, Extension, etc.)
- Encourage partnerships and provide funding to assist in the expansion of existing SC watershed groups and the formation of a statewide “umbrella” entity

3. What specific action will you agree to do to improve water quality in your community?

- Look into local gov't parking ordinances as they relate to impervious surfaces
- Create a personal raingarden (2)
- Create a raingarden demonstration site
- Work with developers to go “above and beyond” required BMPs
- Retackle local impact fee ordinance
- Take South Carolina breakout session comments to South Carolina Cooperative Extension System

Tennessee

1. How can states and local communities achieve more measurable results in addressing 303d-listed streams?

- Use existing materials and market research to educate rural community leaders about importance of water quality and tools for improving it
- Make transportation plans that minimize impact on environment and community
- Local government implement and enforce development rules that minimize impact on water quality
- Enforce state water quality laws effectively through additional staff, improved data, increased funding and coordinated efforts with other state and federal agencies

2. How can EPA and other federal and state agencies build local capacity or third party providers to assist communities in achieving measurable water quality results?

- Businesses involved in development, resource extraction and waste management activities pay fully for the costs of environmental degradation
- Encourage and support non-profits and local non-government organizations
- On a watershed basis, promote full compliance with and provide support for local Phase 2 and all other NPDES programs
- Provide just a small truckload of technical guidance to inform local planning decisions, i.e. urban stream corridor restoration and site development planning

3. What specific action will you agree to do to improve water quality in your community?

- I will educate community leaders, family, neighbors and myself about how to improve water quality
- I will bring bankers into the development conversation to encourage them to provide incentives for water quality friendly development
- I will play a more active roll in local watershed association
- I will more aggressively promote low impact development practices with my clients.
- I will encourage my neighbors to clean up after my dog.

Virginia

1. How can states and local communities achieve more measurable results in addressing 303d-listed streams?

- Need more funding for staff that can implement improvement projects
- Need federal, state, and local agencies to communicate and pool resources
- Need more tax incentives for residential BMPs

2. How can EPA and other federal and state agencies build local capacity or third party providers to assist communities in achieving measurable water quality results?

- Provide consistent funding for existing watershed efforts, including staff
- Develop a competitive awards program for watershed initiatives. (cash awards)
- Provide more funding for urban retrofits

3. What specific action will you agree to do to improve water quality in your community?

- Promote green infrastructure
- Promote stream restoration/natural stream design
- Incorporate 303d streams in county comprehensive plan
- Promote citizen water quality monitoring
- Promote urban BMP credits
- Install urban retrofits
- Promote Low Impact Development