

S O U T H E A S T W A T E R S H E D

FORUM

The Southeast Watershed Forum is a cooperative effort among agencies, industries and organizations to: enhance local watershed initiatives; communicate watershed news, programs and resources; provide training and regional dialogue; facilitate cooperation between the public and private sectors, and champion local watershed issues through the chain of government agencies.

Conservation & Common Sense Development

The **Cumberland River Compact** is leading their watershed and region in building better communities.

Fourteen major watersheds, encompassing one of the most ecologically diverse areas of the world, make up the Cumberland River Basin. There are over 200 species of native fish and 3,400 miles of rivers and streams in the Cumberland River watershed. But growth and development, loss of native hardwood forests, acid mine drainage and high nutrient runoff, combine with ever-increasing demands for water to make watershed management a major challenge.

The Compact, as a non-confrontational educational organization, has been bringing local, state and federal agencies together with local businesses and developers to improve rivers and streams for five years. They have been busy building active local leadership in the first three of 14 total watersheds, to provide a network of people passionate about protecting water resources in their own backyard. They offer a strong outreach and education program, including the popular Splash Bash Teacher Training workshops, which get teachers, students and parents involved in local stream monitoring and cleanups. But their efforts in changing the rules of local development may be one of their biggest legacies.

We really believe that the bottom line of green is black, said Compact Executive Director, Margo Farnsworth. We now have the tools and techniques to build better communities that protect the environment while enhancing economic growth. Last year we had 170 people attend our workshop, Conservation and Common Sense Development. This year, we expect that many more from throughout the Southeast will



Cumberland River Sunset

Photo: Tennessee Department of Tourism

attend. The program continues to grow because the need is so great. **Common Sense Development II: A Workshop for Building Better Communities** will be held **March 28-29 at the Sheraton Nashville Hotel Downtown**. The workshop features two days of tools and techniques for watershed-friendly community development, successful green developments designed and built by local and regional developers, best management practices, funding sources and field trips.

In 2001, the Cumberland River Compact received the **Local Watershed Leadership Award** from the Southeast Natural Resource Leaders Group, the regional federal agency directors.

Contact: www.cumberlandrivercompact.org, 615-837-1151 or screendoor@bigfoot.com

National Watershed News

The Southeast Watershed Forum

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\$100 million Program Proposed for Interior

The Bush Administration is proposing a Cooperative Conservation Initiative in its 2003 Budget that earmarks \$100 million for the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to partner with citizens, land-user groups, environmental organizations, communities, local and State governments, and industries for conservation projects that advance the health of the land and the well being of the American people. The new initiative will remove the barriers to citizen participation, but partnering organizations will be expected to match Federal funds on at least a 50/50 basis. The Budget in Brief is available at www.doi.gov.

Contact: Frank Quimby, 202-208-6416

Bush Administration Supports Watershed Initiative

In late January, EPA Administrator Whitman announced that President Bush's 2003 budget will include \$20 million to support community-based initiatives in up to 20 local watersheds, and technical assistance for other communities who wish to follow the lead. The Governors are being invited to help design the details of the program, and EPA plans for the States to take a leadership role in nominating candidate watersheds. The strongest candidate communities will involve a broad spectrum of affected interests in achieving clean and healthy watersheds.

The initiative will focus on watershed resources that provide highly valuable services to support human health, economic stability, ecosystem integrity, recreational opportunity, natural or cultural significance, or other important services. This initiative will support the innovative use of programs, like pollutant trading, watershed permits under the Clean Water Act, enforcement, local education and other approaches to advance protection of the resource. A combination of federal, state, local and private programs and resources will be used.

The watershed initiative is focused on achieving real environmental progress. Candidate communities will set clearly articulated goals and objectives that are aimed at cleaner water. EPA will seek the views of Congress, States, local governments, agricultural groups, environmental groups, industry, and watershed practitioners in developing the nuts and bolts of how this initiative will be designed and implemented.

Contact: www.epa.gov/owow/watershed

EPA Releases Report on Combined Sewer Overflows

EPA released to Congress on January 29, 2002 a report on the Implementation and Enforcement of its 1994 Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Control Policy. This report, required in the 2000 Wet Weather Quality Act, documents progress made by EPA, States and municipalities in implementing and enforcing the CSO policy. The report says that while EPA States and municipalities have made significant progress under the policy in controlling CSOs, there are still challenges that must be overcome. These challenges include finding the resources to implement the CSO control programs necessary to achieve appropriate environmental objectives, integrating the review of water quality standards with the communities development of their CSO control plans, and the development and implementation of better information management systems for assessing the public health and environmental improvements resulting from these long-term CSO control plans.

Contact: <http://www.epa.gov/npdes> and follow the link for Combined Sewer Overflows



National Watershed News

EPA Estimates Costs of TMDLs

Implementing the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) program could cost between \$900 million and \$4.3 billion dollars annually, based on a draft cost study released by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency last fall. The study complements a report issued by the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) recommending changes to the TMDL program. One key finding of the NAS report is that many States lack sufficient data to develop TMDLs for all their impaired waters. The EPA study estimates the costs to States of additional data gathering to support the TMDL program at \$17 million per year. Once States have the data, they will need to spend up to \$69 million annually over the next 15 years to clean up some 20,000 impaired waters currently on state lists. Developing a clean up plan for each designated water body is projected to average \$52,000 per plan. The implementation costs for installing measures to reduce pollution in all impaired waters could cost between \$900 million to \$4.3 billion.

Contact: www.epa.gov/owow/tmdl

Climate Change Report

A new report on climate change has been released, **Potential Impacts on Inland Freshwater and Coastal Wetland Ecosystems in the United States** by Pew Charitable Trusts. This new environmental impact series report released January 29, 2002 draws on a variety of sources to summarize researchers' current understanding of the potential impacts of climate change on U.S. aquatic ecosystems.

Contact: www.pewclimate.org/projects/aquatic.cfm

National Marina Guidelines

The US EPA has released its long awaited final version of the document, **National Management Measures to Control Nonpoint Source Pollution from Marinas and Recreational Boating**. This book is a technical guidance and reference for use by State, local, and tribal managers in the implementation of nonpoint source pollution programs for reducing surface water runoff from marinas and recreational boating activities. It is advised that marina develop-

ers, owners and managers use these guidelines when planning new, expanding or modernizing facilities. Legally the EPA guidance is meant for government agencies to use when creating state and local regulations and codes. All government coastal management programs must comply, but they are voluntary guidelines for inland State waters.

Download PDF version from
www.epa.gov/owow/nps/new.html

USGS Site Offers Real Time Data

USGS is offering maps and graphs of real-time streamflow from gaging stations across the country on its **Water Watch site** <http://water.usgs.gov/waterwatch/>. Color-codes depicting high to low water levels, clearly show drought conditions in parts of the Southeast and mid-Atlantic regions.

Nation Faces Urban Tree Deficit

The nation needs 634 million trees to make up those lost to urban growth and suburban development, according to American Forests' new study **Gray to Green: Reversing the National Urban Tree Deficit**. American Forests is a nonprofit organization that is challenging cities to use trees to slow and reverse the negative effects of sprawl. As trees are lost, the environmental and economic benefits they provide relative to reducing stormwater runoff and air pollution is also lost. The National Urban Tree Deficit is the number of average urban trees we need metropolitan areas to bring the tree canopy level up to conservation recommendations. The recommended level was determined after studying satellite imagery of tree cover in selected communities across the country over 20 years and working with local urban foresters. Core recommendations are that a 15% increase in trees is needed in commercial areas; a 25% increase is needed in urban areas, and a 60% increase in suburban areas.

Contact: www.americanforests.org



Regional News

An Interview with Lindsay Thomas

The Spring/Summer 2000 issue of the Southeast Watershed Forum newsletter, featured an interview with Lindsay Thomas, Federal Commissioner of the ACT/ACF River Basin Compacts. Since negotiations have taken longer than originally planned, we thought it was time for an update. Often referred to as the Southeast Water Wars, the negotiations involve the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint (ACF) and Alabama-Coosa-Tallapoosa (ACT) River Basins.

Q. Can you give us an update on the progress that has been made in the ACT/ACF water wars?

A. We have had a lot of progress on ACT. Georgia and Alabama have heard Federal concerns and the States have indicated that they are close to an agreement. We had a very productive public meeting in Montgomery, Alabama last December 13th (2001) and the States have basically agreed to state line flow numbers and are working on a single draft document. The ACT Compact has been extended to January 15, 2003.



Lindsay Thomas

There have been fewer meetings on ACF. Florida, Georgia and Alabama have indicated during the January 15, 2002 ACF Commission Meeting that they have agreed on some state line flows, but they are working from two different draft documents. The next step for the States is to work the language into one document and define how to get to the numbers. The ACF Compact has been extended to March 18 and we are pleased that Georgia is hosting a public meeting on March 6 to discuss some of the Federal issues.

There are many aspects to the Federal dialogue with the States. For instance, there have been many technical meetings throughout the four-year process where the Federal agencies have offered information and technical expertise. But there is a limit to what you can accomplish in sharing technical expertise. As the States get into management, they inevitably get into areas of program administration. Because of that, it becomes useful for the States to have the benefit of the experience of federal agencies administering Federal programs in these basins. We hope that the meeting on March 6 will allow us to explore with the States, both

the technical and the program interests. We would like to better understand their proposals and discuss some of the Federal issues involving them.

Once the agreements are reached, the clock starts ticking. There is a 60-day period of public comment and a 255-day timeline following standard procedures for NEPA and Environmental Impact Statements. We're trying to get a lot of people to understand a lot of issues before that clock starts ticking. This is the most complex thing I have ever dealt with.

Q. What elements of the agreements have been the greatest barriers to a settlement and how have they been resolved?

A. It's not simply the numbers that are the sticking point. It is not knowing what will happen in real life. How do we factor in floods, growth, drought planning, reservoir construction and all the unknowns that lie ahead. You can set a limit on paper, but what does that mean under any number of circumstances that lay ahead?

The best way to address the unknowns is to build language for adaptive management into the agreements. We need to be able to continually monitor effects and have a mechanism for making adjustments when weather, and other unforeseen forces suggest the need, without going back to square one. The importance of adaptive management and monitoring are part of what we hope to communicate at the March 6 ACF meeting.

Q. What is your future prognosis?

A. I still think progress is being made. It is premature for me to say this will work and this will not. My concern is that the Federal interests have an opportunity to join in discussion with the States and lay out where we all are on the ACF agreement before the agreements are finalized.

There has been a long-standing assumption that water quantity has been the prerogative of States in the East, while water quality is covered by a variety of Federal (as well as State) laws. I believe that if we are to protect water quality as we seek to reach interstate agreements on sharing water quantity, then this is an area that will require an attitude of cooperation. Charting a course through interstate waters has always been a gray area and a tricky balancing act. We are testing this balancing act to the greatest degree it has ever been tested before in the East. That is why I think this process, these negotiations and the ultimate settlements are so important. They will set an historic precedent that could shape national and interstate water policy for years to come.

Regional News

SE Watershed Leadership Academy will Train-the-Trainers

The Southeast Watershed Forum is accepting applicants to participate in an intensive three-day course **designed to build the capacity of local organizations to protect community water resources** by providing them the tools and training to influence local land use planning. Each participant must agree to provide four (shorter) training sessions/presentations in their state over the next year. The Forum is partnering with the nationally-known Center For Watershed Protection on this unique program. The Forum and the Center will provide technical and facilitative assistance to each of the trained trainers over the next year, to assist and guide them in their efforts. This is an opportunity to develop a cadre of local leaders that can build public support and assist their communities in shaping wiser land use planning. The three-day program is being planned for Summer, 2002.

Contact: Christine Olsenius, 410-849-2975
cholsenius@aol.com

2001 Southeast Watershed Roundtable Links Land & Water

On August 15, 2001 over 450 people from nine states gathered in Atlanta for the 4th Annual **Southeast Watershed Forum Roundtable**, held in conjunction with the **Georgia Water Resources Leadership Summit**. Nearly 100 of the attendees were county commissioners and local officials. **The Roundtable theme was Taking Action: The Link Between Land Use & Water**. The welcome by **Georgia Governor Roy Barnes**, set the tone of the meeting as he highlighted the need to balance growth with the protection of water resources. The Roundtable training workshops, presentations and discussions were all designed to reflect that theme. **Governor Barnes extolled the watershed approach** as a vehicle to encourage multiple jurisdictions to work together and stated that regional planning must work, if we are to adequately address the complex environmental issues faced by Southeast communities.

Speakers from NASA and American Forests provided a compelling, visual reminder of the impact of growth and development on the region. Additional presentations, 21 in all, looked at the growth in green developments, managing stormwater for multiple benefits and the growing trend in land protection initiatives. To help attendees better understand TMDLs (total daily maximum loads), several presentations discussed success-

ful case studies in community implementation of TMDLs. The Roundtable provided ten hours of specialty training. **The ABCs of TMDLs for Stakeholders** is a new workshop from EPA that covers the who, what, why and how of TMDLs through case study examples of community implementation. Cooperative Extension staff presented training in **Protecting Water Resources Through Land Use Education**. During the **Funders Dialogue**, representatives from foundations met with local organizations to discuss funding priorities.

State breakout groups continue to build new partnerships and develop state-based watershed action plans for implementation back home. TVA and Tennessee Parks and Greenways discussed ways to facilitate a network of expertise to assist landowners in setting up conservation easements, and the Kentucky delegates decided to include economic data in watershed presentations to the KY League of Cities and Association of Counties in 2002.



William Leary

Roundtable Photos: Bruce Morton

Bill Leary from the Council on Environmental Quality (White House) complemented the Forum for its work to enhance regional cooperation and said that the Administration was supportive of such efforts. He complimented the Southeast Natural Resource Leaders Group (SENRLG) for their support of the Forum and locally-led initiatives. He presented their Watershed Leadership Awards to an impressive group of four winners representing corporate, community, local and youth-based programs. (See photo on page 6)

In addition, the regional Roundtable has spurred greater cooperation at the state level. Last fall, stakeholders in Mississippi held their first state-based watershed roundtable. Its success has led to river basin-based roundtables which will engage more local citizens in watershed initiatives.

Regional News

Roundtable evaluations showed that 50 percent of the attendees felt that the information, programs and networking will change the way they do business in their community, organization or company. Another 44 percent thought that they might change. Nearly 78 percent want to see the Roundtable continued annually. So.....

Mark your calendars for the 2002 Southeast Watershed Roundtable on July 11-12 in St. Petersburg, Florida.

Email Requests for Roundtable Report - cholsenius@aol.com

TVA Studies Reservoir Operations

Over the past two years, the Tennessee Valley Authority's (TVA) citizen advisory group, the Regional Resource Stewardship Council, has met 12 times in public meetings to discuss the competing demands for public benefits from TVA's integrated energy and river management authority. In October 2001, the Council recommended that TVA conduct a study of its integrated reservoir system operations. The two-year Reservoir Operations Study will identify possible changes in how TVA operates the reservoir system, and it will evaluate these changes to see if a different operating policy would produce overall value for the people of the Valley.

A series of public meetings will be held to gather public comments on the objectives of the study and the alternatives to consider. More public meetings to review interim results, including draft recommendations based on public input and technical analysis, will occur as the study progresses. Below is a list of the first round of public meetings.

Call 888-882-7675 or log onto www.tva.com.

Thursday, March 2	Walker County, GA/Tupelo, MS
Saturday, March 23	Murphy, NC, Guntersville, AL
Tuesday, April 2	Decatur, AL, Starkville, MS
Thursday, April 4	Paris, TN, Nashville, TN, Memphis, TN
Saturday, April 6	Morristown, TN, Muscle Shoals, AL
Tuesday, April 9	Knox County/Loudon County, TN Chattanooga, TN
Thursday, April 11	Blountville, TN, Gilbertsville, Ky
Saturday, April 13	Norris, TN, Savannah, TN
Tuesday, April 16	Blairsville, GA, Bowling Green, KY
Thursday, April 18	Bryson City, NC, Tullahoma, TN



Watershed Award Winners (L to R): Jeff Rinker, Coors Brewing Co. (Corporate Award), LaToya Thompson, Friends of First Creek (Youth Award), Margo Farnsworth, Cumberland River Compact (Local Watershed Award), Jeff Rinker, City of Griffin, GA (Community Award), and Wanda Meeks, USGS (SENLRLG).

Regional Conference Calendar:

March 12	MS Coastal Basin Watershed Roundtable Orange Grove Community Ctr, Gulfport, MS 228-388-4710
March 18 — 20	SE Lakes Management Conf., Adams Mark Hotel, Winston-Salem, NC 608-233-2836
March 27	Tennessee Watershed Roundtable, Downtown Nashville Sheraton. 423-843-3001
March 28-29	Common Sense Development II, Downtown Nashville Sheraton — 615-382-4443
April 12-14	Kentucky Waterways Alliance Annual Mtg., Univ. of Louisville Judy @kwalliance.org
May 17 — 19	Mayo River Festival, Madison, NC 336-992- 8734
May 17 — 21	National River Rally, Holiday Inn SunSpree Resort Asheville, NC, www.rivernetwork.org
June 9 — 12	Fundraising For Land Trusts, Holiday Inn Downtown Atlanta, GA, Land Trust Alliance 202-638-4725, hbradley@lta.org
July 11 — 12	SE WATERSHED FORUM ROUNDTABLE Renaissance Vinoy Resort & Golf Club, St. Petersburg, FL 410-849-2975 cholsenius@aol.com

State Agency News

*State-based Watershed Roundtables have begun to spin off of the Southeast regional Roundtable. **Mississippi** holds the distinction of being the first one to hold a state-based Watershed Roundtable (in 2001) and has already taken the process to Basin-level Roundtables in 2002. **Tennessee** is the second state to hold a state-level Roundtable.*

The **Tennessee Watershed Roundtable** is scheduled for **March 27, 2002** at the downtown Sheraton Hotel in Nashville, TN. Call or email Geri Spring for information. **423-843-3001 - gerispring@aol.com**

Mississippi Leads in Developing State Watershed Roundtables

Several Mississippi attendees to the 2000 Southeast Watershed Forum Roundtable decided that they should have a state-based Roundtable to do at a state level, what the regional Roundtable was doing in the Southeast. The Southeast Forum was asked to facilitate the process and five planning meetings were held between the fall of 2000 and September 2001 to finalize goals, audience, meeting content and timing for a Mississippi Roundtable. The planning process helped to build stronger working relationships among environmental organizations, the agricultural community, business, academia and local, state and federal agencies.

The planning committee was led by Larry Oldham, from Mississippi State University-Department of Plant and Soil Services, and included representatives from USDA-NRCS, the University of Mississippi Extension, the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, the Mississippi Soil and Water Conservation Commission, EPA's Gulf of Mexico Program, and the Gulf Restoration Network.

The goals of the Mississippi Watershed Forum Roundtable were three-fold: 1) to provide an opportunity for dialogue and networking among a diverse group of Mississippi stakeholders; 2) to inform stakeholders about water quality and supply issues and their impact on Mississippi's quality of life, and 3) to enlarge the number and diversity of stakeholders participating in water management.

The Mississippi Roundtable was held in Raymond on September 12-13, 2001. Over 80 participants representing various agencies and organizations attended. Education was

provided on watershed issues and various watershed protection success stories from around the state were presented. A panel of representatives from industry, local government, environmental organizations, agriculture, and state regulatory agencies discussed water quality and quantity issues on a State of the State panel. Five river-basin-based breakout sessions provided facilitated discussions on protection efforts that are working, or not working at the local level, needed improvements to current efforts, and future directions for the state. The participants stressed the need for more interagency coordination and cooperation, increased funding for local watershed initiatives, increased local government and industrial awareness of water issues, and increased public education on watershed issues.

One of the most important outcomes to stem from the Mississippi Roundtable was the plan to have regional organizations host basin-level roundtables in 2002 to further engage more stakeholders at the local level. The first such event, the Mississippi Coastal Basin Watershed Roundtable is scheduled for March 12 in Gulfport. Plans are also moving forward on two other roundtables in northern and central Mississippi. The next statewide Roundtable is planned for February, 2003.



Left to right: State of the State panel -Trey Fleming, MS Chemical Corp.; Becky Gillette, Siera Club; David Waide, MS Farm Bureau; Charles Chisolm, Exec. Dir - MS Dept. of Environmental Quality; Gale Martin, MS Soil & Water Conservation Commission and Joel Yelverton, MS Assoc. of Supervisors.

Contact: Larry Oldham, MS State U. Plant & Soil Services - loldham@pss.msstate.edu



State Agency News

QUESTION: The FY2003 EPA Guidelines for 319 funds say that States are to use approximately 80% of their incremental funds to implement TMDLs for which watershed-based plans have been completed.

Some states have not completed development of their TMDLs yet, and the directive to apply so much funding to TMDL implementation only, may take valuable resources away from other restoration activity. Other challenges are emerging from these new 319 guidelines. How will the new FY2003 319 guidelines help or hinder watershed work in your state? What modifications would you suggest, if any?

Alabama

The time frame to develop TMDL implementation plans is unrealistic. Developing quality TMDL implementation plans takes considerable staff time and other resources dedicated to planning, collaboration, and cooperation among a multitude of partners with many and varied interests. The guidelines provide insufficient time for the State to adequately interact with local watershed groups and citizens (gain their trust and receive input) - especially if multiple NPS pollutant sources and causes impact the watershed. The State expends considerable time and resources in establishing watershed protection partnerships. These efforts will ultimately lead to development and implementation of holistic watershed protection plans - but not according to the much too restrictive timelines suggested by grant guidelines.

The guidelines will impede efforts to build and sustain long-term stakeholder trust. It limits the State's ability to use incremental funding according to its own successful and in-place NPS rotational river basin approach (i.e., TMDLs are being developed to meet EPA consent decree timelines - not according to the State's successful NPS rotational river basin approach schedule). The State may have a few NPS TMDLs developed before the FY2003 RFP deadline. However, many of the TMDLs that will be developed and approved will likely be for waterbodies where little or no citizen interest has been shown or established (i.e., low hanging fruit TMDLs are targeted for development first, and usually target point sources). Long-term watershed protection successes will not be realized by force feeding hurriedly developed TMDL implementation plans down local stakeholders' throats, i.e., the plans will be developed top-down to hastily meet grant guidelines, but will not have

local ownership. This will be the case (sadly) if the state is required to have in-place TMDL implementation plans in order to receive FY2003 grant funds. Although the guidance provides that FY2002 will be a transition year, this provides no relief to State already struggling with providing resources to develop TMDLs to meet EPA's consent decree timelines. It provides an even less reprieve for a resource disadvantaged State to cooperatively develop holistic TMDL implementation plans while addressing other priorities.

The State has received no proposals for FY2003 Section 319 base funds to date (few NPS TMDLs have been developed and approved and no TMDL implementation plans exist). The State has extended the FY02 incremental grant RFP due date because very few fundable proposals were received. It is possible that the State may not propose projects for the total allotment of the state's FY2003 incremental funding because:

- a.) The State will not have adequate numbers of NPS TMDLs developed by the RFP due date
- b.) The TMDLs that will be developed by the FY2003 RFP due date are not for priority NPS impacted watersheds where citizen (voluntary - not mandatory) input has been provided and implementation interest is assured
- c.) TMDL implementation plans that address specific sources and causes will not be developed and in-place prior to the FY2003 RFP or workplan submittal due dates.
- d.) River Basin plans and local watershed protection plans are too generic in nature, or are in varying stages of development, and thus cannot serve at this time as implementable TMDL implementation plans. Additional time and efforts will be needed for collaboration and input from stakeholders to revise/update any watershed protection plans we now have in order for them to serve as TMDL implementation plans.

Suggested Modifications:

- Defer the FY2003 guideline requirement for in-place TMDL plans for a minimum of 3-5 years. TMDL development, submittal, EPA approval, and citizen challenges to the TMDLs will likely consume all of this period.
- Allow the States greater self-determination and freedom in targeting waters in a fashion best suited to river basin/watershed protection approaches or other successful mechanisms already in-place.



State Agency News

- Delete the FY2003 guideline requirement that mandates that TMDL implementation plans be in-place as a condition for requesting/using incremental grant funds. Additional time is needed to provide opportunities for local entities to provide input into the process of developing meaningful TMDL plans and in assuming ownership, the key to successful implementation.
- Allow the State to rationally and on its own accord, choose to phase in TMDL implementation plans according to its own TMDL development timelines and watershed project funding priorities. Rigid grant guidelines are short-sighted and forces the state to address a complicated, long-term problem (NPS TMDL implementation) in a brief period of time, resulting in the State doing nothing well and water quality suffering in the mean time.

Contact: Norm Blakey, AL Dept. of Environmental Management, nb@adem.state.al.us

Florida

The FY2002/2003 guidelines, if imposed as currently written, will severely hinder the State of Florida's ability to fund projects using 319(h) grant dollars. We have the following concerns:

1. The guidance was prepared without consensus from the States or without inclusion of state TMDL staff.
2. This grant guidance totally changes the direction of state NPS programs even though, as required by EPA, they prepared Five Year Implementation Plans.
3. Requires that the incremental funds (~\$100 million/yr, ~\$4.5 million/yr in Florida) be used only on impaired waters that have a TMDL and a TMDL implementation plan. In Florida, we have 6 approved TMDLs (Lake Okeechobee) and 0 implementation plans. TMDLs completed during FY2002 will not have implementation plans soon enough to meet the guidance.
4. In order to meet the guidance, States without any, or very few TMDLs are required to develop TMDLs and implementation plans in less than one year - an impossibility.
5. The guidance is inconsistent with the watershed management approach that Florida and about 25 other states are implementing at the recommendation of EPA.
6. The guidance is inconsistent with EPA TMDL consent

decree schedules.

A recent letter from Tom Morrissey, the President of ASIWP-CA (Assoc. of State, Interstate Water Pollution Control Administrators), states that EPA is now willing to be flexible with the implementation of the guidance in particular, instances where a State may not have sufficient TMDLs to be scheduled or completed (consistent with a reasonable pace of TMDL development) to make timely use of its Section 319 incremental funds

Contact: Greg Knecht, FL Dept. of Environmental Protection greg.knecht@dep.state.fl.us or (850) 921-2993.

Kentucky

This was a huge issue at the November National Nonpoint Source conference. The 80% TMDL directive would be O.K. with Kentucky. We already have projects/plans, etc. However, we fought it vehemently because other States were not in the same position as Kentucky and because the guidance could be a problem in a few year, .e.g. if we don't have a sufficient pool of TMDL watersheds to choose from.

Contact: Corrine Wells, KY NPS Control Program - Corrine.Wells@mail.state.ky.us

Mississippi

The requirement you are referring to will not hinder Mississippi's efforts to implement watershed-based plans. On the contrary, the guidance is consistent with the cycle of targeted activities identified in the Basin Management Approach to Water Quality. We are currently in year four of the first basin cycle which involves the development of a Basin Management Plan. This plan will include what is being referred to in the guidance as a watershed-based plan. It is our goal to allocate as many 319 dollars as feasible to the implementation of these watershed plans. The targeted TMDLs within these watersheds will provide us with the measurable water quality goals that we will try to achieve.

Zoffee Dahmash, P.E., Chief-NPS Section MS Dept. of Environ. Quality, Zoffee_Dahmash@deq.state.ms.us

North Carolina



State Agency News

While North Carolina is working cooperatively with EPA to meet the new 319 incremental fund guidelines, the guidelines have drawn criticism from some of the State's nonpoint source agencies. Since incremental funding was first provided in 1999, its focus has been on restoring nonpoint source-impaired waters. Now, however, the new TMDL-oriented guidelines will make it more difficult to find suitable projects. At the heart of the criticism is the narrow focus on having to implement or develop TMDLs while excluding proposals aimed at restoring 303(d)-listed waters that do not involve TMDLs.

A good example is a proposed restoration initiative by the NC Division of Soil and Water Conservation. About two years ago, under previous 319 guidance, the Division undertook its Ag Sediment Initiative. Under this initiative, it reviewed the State's 303(d) list and identified all waters that were impaired by sediment from agriculture. The agency then asked its regional and district offices to survey the watersheds of each impaired water, focusing on land use and possible restoration measures.

While in many cases, farms had been replaced by shopping centers and other development, there were still a number of streams on which specific farms were thought to be the probable cause of impairment. The Division was prepared to submit FY03 proposals and work with farmers to address these problems; however, instead of being able to use funds to implement BMPs, they're faced with having to spend time and funds on first developing formal TMDLs. The concerns here are loss of time and project momentum and having to satisfy the 40% match for an action which appears unnecessary in some cases.

We are pleased that EPA has recently offered some additional flexibility on FY03 project funds. For future reference, it is helpful from a State planning standpoint to provide an extra year of lead time when there are going to be significant changes in the spending guidance. It often takes a year or two to get people on board with new programs. It is recommended that the TMDL requirements be waived or relaxed for projects that are actually intended to restore a water body where the causes and sources are well documented.

Contact: Alan Clark, NC Division of Water Quality
alan.clark@ncmail.net 919-733-5083x.570

South Carolina

We believe it is important to implement TMDLs; however, our 319 program was focused on correcting water quality problems outside the TMDL process. Funds were only awarded to correct problems identified on our 303(d) list. We believe that this was a more direct way to improve water quality. It is difficult in

some areas of the State, such as tidal shellfish harvesting areas, to develop a TMDL. It is regrettable that now we cannot fund direct restoration projects in these areas, but must wait until the appropriate tools exist to develop the TMDL, then implement it, using the same practices as would be used in the absence of a TMDL. It is unfortunate that water quality improvement activities will be delayed for areas or pollutants that lack adequate tools for TMDL development. Additionally, we've had to implement an informal TMDL awareness campaign to let potential cooperators know the limitations of next year's funding and to familiarize them with TMDLs. We have changed our RFP process to accommodate proposal submission on a more or less continuous basis, so that as more people become interested in implementing TMDLs, we can make awards efficiently. We are beginning our RFP process for FY2003 at the end of this month. We cannot recommend any modifications to EPA's guidance now, because it's too late.

Kathy Stecker, SC Dept. of Health & Environmental Control - steckemk@columb32.dhec.state.sc.us

Tennessee

We face this situation in Tennessee. The Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation has begun the process of developing TMDLs, but selecting a watershed to develop a TMDL is one thing, and selecting one to fund on-the-ground BMP installations to improve the water quality is entirely another. We are optimistic that we will have projects within the watersheds where TMDLs have been developed. It is highly likely that we won't be able to allocate all our incremental funds in these watersheds. EPA Region 4 is very aware of the situation, and they have committed to work with us and be as flexible as they can. I am hopeful that this means if we show good faith by proposing projects within the TMDL watersheds, then they will allow us to use any remaining incremental funds for projects to restore other impaired watersheds.

ASIWPCA (Association of State, Interstate Water Pollution Control Administrators) has weighed in on the FY 2003 Guidance.

John McClurkan, Director, Nonpoint Source Program, TN Dept. of Agriculture - jmclurkan@mail.state.tn.us



Local Initiative Updates

Point and Nonpoint Stakeholders Join Forces

For the second year in a row, point and non-point source communities met in a joint conference, linking the annual **Non-Point Source Conference**, sponsored by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management with the annual **WaterQuest Conference**, sponsored by the Business Council of Alabama. The two-day conference, attended by **285 participants from across the state**, highlighted ongoing water quality improvement projects and provided updates on both federal and state regulations. Jimmy Palmer, new EPA Region IV Administrator, was one of the highlighted speakers at the event. Day two of the conference centered around ten river basin break-out sessions of the Alabama Clean Water Partnership (ACWP), a statewide project based on the watershed approach, designed to bring the point and non-point source communities together in order to facilitate long term water quality improvements across the State. To date, over 2,500 stakeholders have been identified and invited to participate in the process, with approximately 750 of those having actually attended at least one ACWP-related meeting.

Contact: Allison Newell, (334) 514-8326.



Receiving the Partner award for Outstanding Support of the AL Clean Water Partnership. (l to r) Jack Rutledge, Gadsden Water Works, John Grogan, AL Power Co., Buddy Morgan, Montgomery Water works and Roy McAuley, AL Pulp & Paper Council.

KWA Meets with EPA to Discuss Federal Rulemaking

In a move prompted by the filing of a Notice of Intent to Sue the agency; EPA is the process of conducting **Federal Rulemaking for Kentucky**. The Rule will replace deficient portions of the State's regulations implementing antidegradation policy in high quality waters. EPA first disapproved Kentucky's regulation in 1997. A second disapproval in 2000 prompted **Kentucky Waterways Alliance (KWA)** to form a coalition of groups to force action. EPA staff met for over two hours in Kentucky with representatives of KWA and the other interested organizations in December 2001. The Rule will set a National Precedent for the implementation of antidegradation policy in high quality waters. The proposed rule should be published in the Federal Register in June of 2002.

Contact: Judith Petersen, KWA Executive Director
Director@KWAlliance.org

Water Toolkit for Local Officials

The **Georgia Department of Community Affairs** has developed a full-service **Water Resources Toolkit** for local government officials available in CD format. Thousands of graphically designed fact sheets are easy to access, read and print out and are filed under such categories as Water Supply, Water Conservation, Water Protection, Watershed Planning, Coastal Issues, Public Education and Funding. A Resource Directory of contacts, agencies and organizations is also included, along with videos on TMDLs and nonpoint source pollution. This is an excellent resource for local officials, and others involved in city/county resource management.

Contact: Randy Hartman, GA Dept. of Community Affairs
-rhartman@dca.state.ga.us

Citizens Comment on Proposed Land Exchange

SAMAB Executive Director Robb Turner facilitated three public scoping meetings for the proposed **Great Smokey Mountains National Park — Eastern Band Cherokee Indian Land Exchange**. Meetings were held in Cherokee, NC, Knoxville, TN and Asheville, NC. From 110 to 160 people

Local Initiative Updates



Penny DuBarry, USGA with students at part of the award-winning 2001: A Water Odyssey Exhibit at the Kentucky State Fair.

attended each meeting and voiced their opinions on what should be considered in the environmental impact statement, as well as what should be the outcome of the decision process.

Contact: Robb Turner —rsturner@utk.edu

KY Exhibit Wins Olympic Gold

The **2001: A Water Odyssey Exhibit**, showcased at the Kentucky State Fair last year, has been selected to win a **Spirit of the Land Award** being offered at the 2002 **Winter Olympics**. The Spirit of the Land Award recognizes excellence in environmental education around the world. The Water Odyssey is a 22,000 square-foot exhibit hall filled with water education and activities. There is a stream down the middle of it, with different land uses along the stream that explain problems associated with those uses. There are numerous exhibits, interactive stream tables and other water related interactive exhibits. The exhibit provides hands-on learning of simple stream monitoring techniques and a working lock & dam and more. Months before the fair, information was sent to interested teachers who taught pre and then post visit classroom lessons to the students.

The exhibit was mostly funded through an EPA Clean Water Act, Nonpoint Source Section 319(h) grant from the Kentucky Division of Water. There were approximately 16 project partners including state and federal agencies, Conservation Districts, Cooperative Extension, the Jefferson County Schools Office for Environmental Education, and the Kentucky Institute for the Environment and Sustainable Development. All the exhibits are still used in KY classrooms and museums. For special events they are available for schools and other groups to borrow.

**Contact: Judith Petersen, KWA Executive Director
Director@KWAlliance.org**

Sustainable Forestry Coordinator Position Available

The Little Tennessee Sustainable Forestry Project seeks a talented and energetic Program Coordinator for an innovative land conservation and management program based in Franklin, NC. The Project is a collaboration of The Land Trust for the Little Tennessee or LTLT (which will be the institutional home of the Coordinator), The Conservation Fund, Western Carolina University and Duke University. With major support from national foundations, the project seeks to explore new ground in building sustainable forestry, conservation, and community-based land protection. The Little Tennessee River basin is a hotspot of biodiversity, recreational opportunity, and high quality of life in western North Carolina's Appalachian Mountains. For full position description and application instructions, mail or e-mail the contact below.

**Contact: Search Director, P.O.Box 1148, Franklin, NC 28744
or ltlt@dnet.net before April 15.**

Brown & Williamson Donates Shoreline to Chesterfield, VA

Last fall, **Brown and Williamson Tobacco Corporation donated 262 acres on the James River** to Chesterfield County. The land which includes nearly a mile of riverfront and a 20-acre lake is valued at \$1 million. The nonprofit group, **Friends of Chesterfield's Riverfront**, facilitated this land gift and is advising the county on using the land. According to Executive Director Janit Potter, the gift will help protect water quality in the James River by providing an important riparian buffer.

Local Initiative Updates



TVA Clean marina Initiative Team from left to right: Linda Harris, Debra Heck, Tere McDonough and Art Schettini. (TVA Photo)

The project is another model of how industry and business can work with nonprofits and local government to improve environmental quality and community quality of life. The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation has given the Friends a grant of \$40,000 to develop a plan for the site. Chesterfield now has more than 1000 acres in a wildlife preserve and conservation area, including the 800-acre Dutch Gap Conservation area along the James River.

Contact: Janit Potter — 804-796-6091.

Scientific Measurements Re-established in Callasaja River

Thanks to the tireless efforts of the **Upper Callasaja Watershed Association**, based in Highlands, NC, the USGS has completed its installation and calibration of a stream gage on the Callasaja River at Turtle Pond Bridge. The gage records the river depth every 15 minutes and the results are available on the Internet an hour after the measurement is taken. The gage will calibrate flow rates in cubic feet per second which will help measure runoff from the upper Callasaja River. In addition, two more rain gages have been installed, bringing the total number of automatic rain gages to four throughout the watershed. The group hopes to add three more gages in the future. The third major measurement system returned to the watershed is for groundwater. Watershed members are taking weekly measurements in two

town wells. Groundwater monitoring was discontinued in 1988, yet communities in the watershed are drawing groundwater for their drinking water supply. With a growing population, the watershed is now in a better position of monitoring any changes in groundwater levels.

Contact: Bob Wright, 828-526-9938, ext. 23

TVA Hosts National Clean Boating Campaign

The **National Clean Boating Celebration** is being held in downtown Chattanooga, Tennessee, on **June 22, 2002**, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., at the Public Dock at Ross Landing. The event will kick-off at 11 a.m. with welcome ceremony and awards. The event will include Coast Guard demonstrations, a Boat Parade, River Tours on Chattanooga Ducks, Marina-led tour of a Clean Marina, Divers Treasures from the Tennessee River and numerous educational exhibits at the Public Dock.

The annual program has been held in the Chesapeake Bay, Great Lakes and Puget Sound areas. This is the first time it has been held in the Southeast. The National Clean Boating Celebration is held in cooperation with the **Marine Environmental Education Foundation**, a national nonprofit organization devoted to promoting clean boating practices. TVA has spent several years developing a basin-wide **Clean Marina Initiative** that provides training and recognizes marinas that agree to use marina best management practices.

The **Tennessee Valley Clean Marina Initiative (TVCMI)** is a voluntary education and outreach program developed by TVA's Resource Stewardship Division to encourage environmentally responsible marina and boating practices throughout the Tennessee Valley. TVCMI is designed as an ongoing program to reduce water pollution and erosion in the Tennessee River watershed. The program encourages marina-sponsored boater education, increased coordination among state and federal agencies and better communication of existing laws, and offers incentives for creative and pro-active marina operators. Certified marinas are awarded a Clean Marina flag to display, signaling their commitment to clean water, recognition in TVA's publications and website, and the opportunity to use the Clean Marina logo in promotions.

Beginning in the fall of 2000 and continuing through 2001, TVA and several partners began working directly with marina operators to help them evaluate the sources of pollution at their mari-

Local Initiative Updates

nas, understand the impacts of boating sewage on the environment and public health and acquire the resources they needed to address the issues. TVCMI Guidebooks are currently being distributed to all Valley marinas along with a much requested booklet on Sewage Tank Systems for Recreational Boats.

In 2001, all **23 marinas on Norris reservoir** committed to ensuring that marine waste is handled properly within their harbors. Currently, 95% of the boats on Norris are voluntarily complying with marine waste regulations and marinas not yet in compliance are actively pursuing that goal. This success in changing boater behavior to significantly reduce dumping of waste into the reservoir is directly attributed to the Clean Marina Initiative.

Contact: Linda Harris, TVA lbharris@tva.gov



2001 Clean Boating Campaign Public Outreach (TVA Photo)

MS Holds Coastal Roundtable

To further involve more local organizations in discussions about watershed issues of concern to the coastal communities, the South Mississippi Environmental and Agricultural Coordination Organization (SMEACO) is hosting the first **Mississippi Coastal Basin Watershed Roundtable**. Scheduled for **March 12, 2002** at the **Orange Grove Community Center in Gulfport**, this one-day meeting will provide discussions on development, smart growth, conservation, TMDLs and other relevant watershed issues. It is principally designed to further public awareness of their watersheds, solicit public input on the key issues facing watersheds in the region, and to establish a network of interested people, organizations, businesses and agencies. SMEACO is a network of persons from local, state, and federal agencies, nonprofit groups and business and industry within a six coastal county area of Mississippi interested in promoting environmental education.

Contact: Mark LaSalle, MSU.- markl@ext.msstate.edu

New Partnerships for Bird Conservation

The **U.S. Forest Service** joined with the **Kiawah Island Natural Habitat Conservancy (SC)** in February to host the **Taking Wing Workshop**, designed for strengthening wetland

and water bird conservation in the foothills and coastal areas of North and South Carolina and Georgia. The program will serve as a kick off to the expansion of one of its most successful partnership programs. Taking Wing grew out of a desire to improve wetland habitat for waterfowl on National Forests and National Grasslands. It has grown into a very successful public-private conservation venture, with partners conserving habitat along the Chesapeake Bay, and the Boreal Forest of Canada and Alaska. Taking Wing partners help identify habitat priority areas and links to the North American Waterfowl Management Plan and the U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan.

Contact: Kiawah Island Natural Habitat Conservancy - 843-768-2029

BMPs Cut Community Runoff

The **Kentucky Watershed Team** recently partnered with **Five Rivers Resource Conservation and Development Council** and the **City of Waverly, Tennessee** on a 319 grant to implement sediment control measures at the Waverly Industrial Park. The Park has been identified as the largest contributor of sediment into Trace Creek, a tributary to Kentucky Reservoir. The \$40,000 319 grant covered the implementation of a variety of Best Management Practices (BMPs), including a 3-acre sediment retention basin, riprap of drainage ways, plantings, and establishment of a public walking trail around the retention basin. The BMPs were recently tested during a 7-inch rain event and worked just as designed.

Resources

EPA-NSF Funding For Valuation For Environment Policy

Funding is available for research that will contribute to the development of practical, credible approaches for estimating the benefits and costs of environmental policies and improving decision making about environmental issues. The three specific research areas focus on 1) ecosystem valuation, 2) research linking individual environmental values with group or community valuation of environmental amenities, and 3) the role of environmental information in environmental decision making. **Contact:** <http://es.epa.gov/ncer>

Funding-Technical Assistance for Organizational Capacity-Building

The **Environmental Support Center(ESC)** works to strengthen the organizational effectiveness of local, state, and regional organizations working on environmental issues in the U.S. ESC provides funds and technical assistance to improve management, plan strategically, boost capacity, increase funding, strengthen leadership, and promote collaboration. ESC s programs include:

The **Training and Organizational Assistance** program offers funds to help board, staff and volunteers attend trainings or bring in a consultant to build skills in strategic planning, fundraising, board development, technology, membership, organizing, etc. Applications are reviewed and subsidies *awarded monthly*.

The **Leadership and Enhanced Assistance Program** provides subsidies for more intensive capacity building assistance in several management and operational areas over a longer time frame. LEAP has two *deadlines* — *April 5 and July 19*.

The **Environmental Loan Fund** provides low-interest loans and technical assistance subsidies to help you diversify, stabilize, and increase your income into areas such as membership and donor development, entrepreneurial ventures, and other income producing projects. Loan *deadlines are 3/15, 6/15, and 9/15*. Tech. assistance deadlines are monthly.

The **Technology Resources Program**, ESC s newest program, provides technical assistance to advocacy organizations working with under-served populations in the Southeast.

The **Workplace Solicitation** program works to strengthen state and regional environmental federations that raise money through payroll deductions.

The **State Environmental Leadership Program** supports a national network of 50-60 state environmental councils that are improving environmental advocacy at the state level.

For guidelines, deadlines, applications, and other information, call ESC at 202.331.9700, see our website at www.envsc.org, or email us at general@envsc.org.

Nat l Fish & Wildlife FD. Provides Conservation Challenge Grants

The National Fish & Wildlife Foundation(NFWF) operates a conservation grants program that awards challenge grants of \$5,000 or less to nonprofit organizations on a competitive basis. Proposals are received on a year-round, revolving basis with decisions made within 60 days of proposal receipt. Challenge grants request a 2:1 match (includes in-kind contributions) of non-federal funding to NFWF funding.

Contact Joe DeVivo at 404.679.7120, devivo@nfwf.org or go to their web site at www.nfwf.org/programs.

Send Us Your Nominee!!

Nominations Open for 2002 SE Natural Resource Leaders Group Watershed Awards

The Southeast Watershed Forum is proud to host the 2002 Watershed Awards of the Southeast Natural Resource Leaders Group. Please complete the form below with the required information to nominate a local **community, stakeholder group, corporation or youth** that deserves recognition for their contribution to the improvement of the health or quality of their watershed using the criteria listed below. Return the form along with a description of the project and any supplementary information you see fit to the address listed below by **June 7, 2001**. Please note that any materials you submit cannot be returned. The winners will be recognized at a ceremony during the July, 2002 Southeast Watershed Roundtable.

Selection of the winners will be based on the following criteria:

INNOVATION: Did their actions contribute new information on how to improve water quality? Did their approach include a new concept or process? Is it a creative solution to a problem?

BENEFICIAL VALUE: Did the project make a significant contribution to improving the quality of the watershed? Did it reduce a

health risk or conserve resources? Did it reduce a large volume or significant percent of water contaminants? Was it beneficial to the economy, the environment, or local community?

MEASURABILITY: Can we measure the project results in improved environmental quality?

EDUCATIONAL VALUE: Did the project promote public awareness or education? Did it include employee training or technology transfer? Did it include how to guidelines/brochures/videos? Did it encourage other environmental efforts? Did it serve as a model for other efforts?

COOPERATION: Did the project involve a cooperative effort between multiple entities or organizations (city/state government, industries, civic groups, schools, citizens, associations)?

EXCEPTIONAL QUALITIES: Was the project self-sustaining or address other social needs?

The Southeast Natural Resource Leaders Group 2002 Annual Watershed Leadership Awards Nomination Form

Nominee _____

CATEGORY

Local Government Stakeholder Corporation Youth

If your nominee wins an award, please provide us with the name and title of the person who will most likely accept the award.

Name _____

Title _____

Please mail this application postmarked by June 7, 2002 to:
Marjan Peltier

USEPA - Region 4 - Atlanta Federal Center
61 Forsyth St., SW, Atlanta GA 30303
or, email to peltier.marjan@epa.gov

GENERAL INFORMATION

Contact Person _____

Title _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ St. _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

email _____

Website Address _____

Watershed/Waterbody _____

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Southeast Watershed Forum
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