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The Tennessee Watershed Roundtable is a program designed to bring together a broad spectrum of interests from the public and private sectors to discuss the important issues related to water resource management and to develop action plans and partnerships necessary to address those issues.

The emphasis in this second statewide Watershed Roundtable will be on building plans to achieve measurable water quality in impaired streams. Facilitated breakout sessions will bring business leaders, city planners, watershed organizations, farmers, and government agencies together to identify priority streams on which to partner and plan a restoration project. Projects that demonstrate real results will be considered for 319 Nonpoint Source grants.

On March 27, 2002 nearly 200 leaders from throughout the state representing industry, agriculture, municipalities, environmental groups, watershed organizations and state and federal agencies were invited to attend the first Tennessee Watershed Roundtable in Nashville. The purpose of the Roundtable was to build cooperation among a broad spectrum of stakeholders on the importance of water quality and supply issues to the quality of life in Tennessee. Planned by a committee of diverse stakeholders from throughout the state, the Tennessee Roundtable sought to:

- Increase the understanding and visibility of water quality and supply issues in the state,
- Highlight successful stories in watershed protection,
- Encourage discussion and feedback on resource priorities for the State of Tennessee, and
- Explore the establishment of a neutral forum for long term dialogue on water issues.

The Roundtable exceeded all expectations established by the planning committee. Nearly 70 percent of the attendees felt that the event gave them a chance to network with other organizations and nearly half of the attendees felt the program gave them a better sense of local issues and concerns. When asked if the information received at the

Roundtable would change the way people do business in their community, organization or agency, 28 percent said that it would and another 36 percent said that it might change the way they operate. That represents a lot of potential change for Tennessee.

The response to creating a forum of watershed stakeholders to foster dialogue and cooperation on water programs and issues in the State was almost unanimous at 96 percent. And 78 percent wanted the Tennessee Watershed Roundtable to be an annual event!

The heart of the Roundtable was the facilitated breakout sessions for the three major river basins in the state; the Tennessee, Cumberland and Mississippi. The groups were asked to identify the top resource priorities for the state, define action plans to address those priorities and define some next steps for the Tennessee Watershed Roundtable.

The top resource needs identified were the need to protect water quality and quantity, especially in the face of urban sprawl and development, the need for more education of elected officials, developers and the general public, and the need to improve coordination in regional planning and implementation of water programs.

The Tennessee Watershed Roundtable Planning Committee met on these recommendations in September, 2002 and decided to move forward in planning the second statewide Roundtable in 2003. Presentations will address the top resource needs identified in 2002 and facilitated discussions will continue to encourage cooperative partnerships to address those resource needs at the watershed and statewide levels.

- To build cooperation among a broad spectrum of Tennessee stakeholders.
- To provide greater awareness of the importance of water resources to the quality of life in Tennessee.
- To increase understanding and visibility of water quality and supply issues in the State.
- To increase understanding of new laws and regulations which impact water management.
- To highlight Tennessee success stories in watershed protection.
- To encourage discussion and feedback from a broad mix of Tennessee stakeholders on water quality and water supply issues.
- To establish a neutral forum for long term dialogue on water quality and supply issues among a broad-based network of Tennessee organizations, agencies and industries.

Working Together for Measurable Water Quality Results

The 2003 Tennessee Watershed Roundtable was indeed a watershed event for the State!

Nearly 130 representatives from industry, agriculture, watershed organizations, city and county government and state and federal agencies came together to develop action plans for achieving “measurable water quality results” in their watersheds. We were privileged to have two mayors and six county executives among our attendees, demonstrating the increasingly complex issues that cities and counties are facing in regards to watershed protection. In addition, we were honored to have the participation of six agency and association leaders on our Leadership Panel; including TDEC Commissioner - Betsy Child, TDA Deputy Commissioner - Terry Oliver, NRCS State Conservationist - James Ford, USDA Farm Services Agency Executive Director - Louis Buck, TDOT’s Chief of Environment and Planning – Ed Cole and Doug Goddard, Executive Director of the TN County Commissioner’s Association.

Our keynote speakers lent new, long term perspectives on some old ideas about Tennessee’s water resources and farmland. Six presenters showcased local success stories in watershed protection which reflected strong public-private partnerships and innovative planning. The Tennessee Growth Readiness program received its state-wide rollout at the Roundtable. This program is designed to provide communities the training and tools they need to protect their local quality of life in the face of growth and development pressures. And several organizations and agencies provided specific information on areas to secure financial support for their local watershed efforts.

The heart of every Roundtable, though, is the interaction, networking and partnership-building that is generated through the basin breakout sessions. This year’s basin-level breakout sessions generated tremendous support, as

demonstrated by the vigorous group participation, the commitments that were made and the scores on the evaluation sheet. The objective of the sessions were to identify an issue/pollutant or geographical area to be improved and then to secure commitments from each participant to help make that change possible. As you can see from the summary table on page 19, there are an impressive array of commitments to work together for measurable water quality results. In addition, one specific basin plan was developed for the Tennessee River basin.

Sixty-five percent (65%) of the Roundtable evaluations voted the basin-level breakout sessions the part “you liked most about the Roundtable.” Only the watershed success stories rated a percent higher – 66%!

Such high marks speak to the amount of pre-planning and preparation that went into the 2003 Roundtable. Months in advance, staff at the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation worked with Roundtable planners to develop oversized, color maps of impaired streams in the Tennessee, Cumberland and Mississippi river basins for use in the break-out discussions. These maps served to help participants focus on where cooperative activity could have the most impact. The breakout discussions were expertly facilitated by specially trained staff from TVA, NRCS, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and Southeast Watershed Forum.

With over-night staff work on the part of the lead facilitator, we were able to present a synopsis of issues, concerns and local commitments to the members of the Leadership panel at Friday’s Leadership Breakfast. The dialogue that ensued was especially gratifying, for as the local commitments were presented, they evoked commitments from the Leadership panelists to sustain and promote these local watershed initiatives, while improving their own agency’s delivery of services.

The Tennessee Watershed Roundtable continues to provide a unique opportunity for networking among organizations and agencies, with a 90 percent score on the evaluations. Approximately 92 percent of the evaluations would like to see an ongoing watershed “forum” to foster

continued watershed cooperation and collaboration. Most feel that such a Tennessee Watershed Forum could improve coordination of regional water issues (77%), promote water education (77%), enhance public-private partnerships (76%) and serve as a clearinghouse of watershed information. Others suggested that such a forum could facilitate more local watershed partnerships and funding. And 33 people signed up to help start smaller basin-level “roundtables” throughout Tennessee. A number of people mentioned the need for follow-up and communication with Roundtable attendees throughout the year, which is another role that a Tennessee Watershed Forum could serve. And for the second year in a row, participants voted to have the Tennessee Watershed Roundtable an annual event (90%)!

There will be much for the Roundtable Planning Committee to discuss when it reviews all the recommendations and feedback provided in the evaluations. My commitment to all of you is to make sure your recommendations get reviewed and acted upon.

John McClurkan
Administrator, Water Resource
Tennessee Department of Agriculture



Betsy Child, Commissioner of TDEC and Terry Oliver, Deputy Commissioner of TDA listened to the issues and concerns from the Roundtable Breakout Sessions.

MYTHS ABOUT TENNESSEE

Is Tennessee a Water Rich State? Separating Myth From Reality

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While traditionally blessed with abundant precipitation, as well as numerous aquifers and streams to store and transport it, this presentation argues that calling Tennessee a “water rich” state is facile and risky – indeed it is a myth. Tennessee faces many challenges to its water resources – challenges that are in many ways inseparable from its position as an “upstream” water source in a region experiencing numerous, hard to resolve disputes over water supply. This presentation will show how growing and competing demands; continuing challenges to water quality; and, periodic drought make it increasingly difficult to provide plentiful and useable water to support the people and natural resources of our state. We will discuss the drivers behind these growing demands – both in- and out-of-state – and the environmental and social sacrifices that could be necessary to acquire additional supply. We will also consider whether various options for managing, protecting, and using our water are acceptable to the public and decision-makers. We conclude that the biggest challenge facing our state’s water supply will be satisfying the needs of local communities and the welfare of various users, while at the same time ensuring that we do not sacrifice – or short-change – the needs of natural resources, including fish and wildlife habitat, aquifer recharge, and our state’s inherent God-given beauty and bounty. Rather than asking whether

we are water rich, we should recognize that what we have is all we’re going to get. Thus, a far better question is: “How can we best manage our water resources to ensure that all our water needs – for people and for nature – can be satisfied, now and in the future?”

Clean Water – Dirty Water Who knows the Difference – Who makes a Difference

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There are over 60,000 stream miles and nearly 540,000 lake acres in Tennessee. It is encouraging to report that most streams and lakes in our state have good water quality, and support their designated uses. Almost half of the State’s 60,000 stream miles have been monitored and assessed within the past 5-years. Of those monitored stream miles, almost 70 percent are assessed as fully supporting their designated uses. 24% of the stream miles are partially supporting. This leaves 6% of the assessed stream miles that are not supporting their designated uses.

Tennessee has 91 publicly owned reservoirs and 1 lake (Reelfoot) that totals 536,724 acres. 99% of these lake acres have recently been monitored. Over 78% of the lake acres were found to be fully supporting, 5% were partially supporting, and 16% were assessed as not supporting designated uses.

How does the Division get the information needed in order to determine if waters of the State are clean or not? The answer is in the relatively new way we do business. In 1996, the Division began collecting, analyzing and interpreting water quality data on a watershed basis. We rotate our monitoring efforts into approximately 11 different

watersheds each year, until data have been collected in each of the 54 watersheds. The process is completed every 5 years, at which time we start the cycle over again.

This process provides the correct type and correct amount of data necessary to determine the quality of Tennessee's waters. It also provides an added level of efficiency to our programs, since we can now focus our attentions on a specific watershed...including the type and extent of activities that are taking place at the time our monitoring efforts are carried out

Recently, we started the second (2nd) 5-year cycle of planning and data collection. The majority of our efforts will be directed toward sampling those streams that were un-assessed during our 1st 5-year cycle, while confirming the condition of previously assessed waters. This approach will enhance our coverage of assessed streams and will identify the quality of more waters than at any previous time in our State's history.

Myths about Tennessee Farmland and Open Space

Gerry Cohn, Southeast Regional Director
American Farmland Trust
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www.farmland.org

This presentation will discuss the loss of farmland nationwide, highlighting causes and impacts. A focus will then be placed on Tennessee, with maps and figures detailing productive Tennessee lands in the path of development pressure. I will discuss the impact on both urban and rural communities, highlighting the various constituencies who should have an interest in seeing this farmland protected.

After all this bad news, I will share some success stories of the positive role that farmland protection has had in watershed protection across the country. I will provide some positive examples of win-win situations, outline some existing opportunities, and challenge Roundtable attendees to adopt these models in Tennessee.

SUCCESS STORIES— MEASURABLE RESULTS

Session: Land Trusts and Local Watershed Initiatives

Tennessee Parks & Greenways Foundation

Kathleen Williams, President & Executive Director
Phone: 615-386-3171 Fax: 615-386-3115
e-mail: tenngreen@earthlink.net

Formation and Mission

Founded in 1998, the Foundation operates statewide. Its mission is to preserve the natural beauty of Tennessee by creating an interconnected system of parks, greenways, and wildlife areas across Tennessee. State Parks will be the destinations in these corridors. The focus is on acquiring lands for public use.

Some of the Foundation's Accomplishments:

Land Acquisition:

CAIN CREEK GORGE - an inholding of more than 400 acres was acquired at a cost of \$11,000 to the Foundation which arranged for a national organization to purchase the tract

The heart of the Tennessee Watershed Roundtable is the group discussions that take place in the Breakout Sessions. This year the sessions focused on securing commitments to improve impaired streams.



and then sell it to the State.

BLACK MOUNTAIN - this acquisition of 528 acres was the Foundation's largest project to date.

FALL CREEK FALLS - helped protect 419 acres in the middle of Millikan's Overlook, one of the most beautiful vistas in Tennessee.

CUMBERLAND RIVER - purchased a 1.7 mile rail/trail in Ashland City along the Cumberland River

Grants

The "State Parks Connections" program provides grants of approximately \$500 - \$2,500 each to fund trail or greenway projects. During the last 3 years, grants have been made to 68 entities.

Conservation Easements

Conservation easements can be used to protect the most important natural features of the property in perpetuity while the property remains in private ownership. The Foundation has used conservation easements to help protect: a 145-acre easement in Greeneville on the Nolichucky River, a 100-acre easement on a 230-acre farm on Big Bigby Creek in Maury County, 45 acres at the Charles R. Russell Obed Preserve, and in partnership with the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy, a 135-acre easement at Walnut Mountain.

Education and Outreach

In 1999, the Foundation began the campaign called "Keep the Country in Tennessee" and conducted six seminars and trained over 230 people on the benefits and procedures for donating conservation easements. The Foundation has also published 10,000 booklets called "Landowner's Options... a guide to the voluntary protection of land in Tennessee" that it distributes at no charge.

Waterfalls Project

The Foundation has initiated a project to protect Tennessee's waterfalls. The project involves identifying and working with key landowners to encourage conservation through voluntary measures such as conservation easements

and purchase agreements.

Land Trust for Tennessee

Jean Nelson, Executive Director and President
Phone: 615-244-5263 Fax: 615-244-6948
e-mail: jnelson@landtrusttn.org

Overall goals in watershed protection:

- Provision to landowners of permanent protection of riparian buffers through conservation easements
- Provision to landowners of education and information to encourage improvements through the lasting relationships

Results to date: 20 properties protected in 3 major watersheds;

- Greater Cumberland River Watershed (457 acres, 1.67 miles of frontage of tribs and mainstem river);
- Harpeth River Watershed (1759 acres; 4.06 miles);
- Duck River Watershed (939 acres; 1.45 miles)

Harpeth River Watershed Highlights

- Origin in stakeholders meetings LTTN participated in that led to formation of Watershed Group and need from characteristics of the county
- Multiple partners including Harpeth River Watershed Association; NRCS staff and District Conservationists; communities; Heritage Foundation; National Park and local nature center and others
- Activities: at initial stage but to date: stream stabilization plantings by Watershed Group on LTTN protected properties; exchange of information and strategies for threats; joint fundraising for awareness on LTTN protected property.
- Do Differently: Do more

Duck River Watershed Highlights

- Origin and Background: world significance shown by The Nature Conservancy; in corridor we started our initial work in; farms
- Multiple partners but less formalized for the parts of the Duck where we are working; as always NRCS

- Activities: primarily headwater creeks and springs of this watershed to date; future significant ones in process
- Do differently: again early in process

Greater Cumberland River Watershed

- Origin: Waters protection been one of our priority categories from our start in 1999; inspiration from Cumberland River Compact
- Multiple partners including Red River Watershed Association recently founded, NRCS and others
- Activities: Shared Board members; educational role; cross-awareness raising
- Do differently: find more time to work together

Session: Farmland Protection and the Farm Bill

Bullrun Creek Watershed Restoration Initiative

Todd Reed, District Conservationist
 Natural Resources Conservation Service
 2178 Hwy 25-E, Suite 2
 Tazewell, TN 37879
 Phone: (423) 626-3811 ext. 101 Fax: (423) 626-9036
 e-mail: treed@tn.nrcs.usda.gov

The Bullrun Creek watershed drains a 104 square mile area that includes parts of Anderson, Grainger, Knox, and Union counties. Hallsdale-Powell Utility District and Maynardville Utility District draw water from the Bullrun Creek watershed. Bullrun Creek is classified as impaired by the State of Tennessee [303(d) list]. Causes for this impairment are siltation, pathogens, and habitat alterations from agricultural practices, permitted industrial discharge (quarry), and a minor municipal point source.

The Bullrun Creek Partnership (BCP) was formed in 1999 in response to concerns of watershed residents about deteriorating water quality, along with several requests for assistance with implementing agricultural best management practices (BMPs). This partnership was formed to coordinate efforts of 14 agencies to restore water quality in the Bullrun Creek watershed. BCP members bring a broad base of knowledge, expertise, and resources to address all aspects of watershed restoration. BCP's long-term goal is to restore Bullrun Creek and remove it from the 303(d) list.

Changing poor land management practices which impact water quality will take several years and will require a comprehensive program with the following elements:

- Resource condition and pollution source assessments
- Community support
- Information/education
- Technical assistance
- Funding
- BMP implementation

Clear pollution reduction goals, a diverse partnership, and strong community support are key elements to making

this initiative successful. BCP is committed to this watershed restoration initiative until the restoration of Bullrun Creek is complete.

The Cane Creek Watershed Project

(Lauderdale County, Tennessee)

Doug Taylor, TDA Regional Administrator

Phone: 901-484-9197

e-mail: doug.m.taylor@state.tn.us

The Cane Creek Project was the brainchild of the Cane Creek Watershed Board of Supervisors and NRCS District Conservationist Richard Cooke.

The Tennessee Department of Agriculture was approached as a possible funding source. Application was made and approved for 319 grant pool funding. The purpose of the project was to install structural and cultural conservation practices on private farmlands, primarily in the Nelson Branch section of Cane Creek. Due to the entrenched nature of Nelson Branch and Cane Creek, it was decided that the majority of the grant would be spent to install Grade Stabilization Structure to help control the many head cuts degrading back out of the creek channel and tributaries. Both dry structures and structures with a permanent pool have been utilized. The decision whether or not to have a permanent pool was based on the site involved and the desires of the landowner. All structures meet NRCS standards and specifications and have been designed to handle a 10 or 25-year storm, depending on the structure

and drainage area. The goals of the project have been to reduce erosion in the watershed, reduce local flooding in the area, thus improving water quality and ultimately removing agriculture as a principle pollutant source to Cane Creek on TDEC's 303(d) List.

The project has been funded by TDA's grant pool funding (319) and the Ag Resources Conservation Fund. The Cane Creek Watershed Board and the Lauderdale County Soil Conservation District provided administrative services for the project. The Natural Resources Conservation Service' Ripley Field Office and Jackson area engineering staff have provided technical assistance and engineering expertise.

TDA cost-share assistance of approximately \$ 193,000 has been utilized by 25 cooperators since the inception of the project in 1999. Three cooperators built more than one structure. 27 Grade Stabilization Structures (19 structures with a permanent pool and 8 dry structures), one set of pipe outlet terraces and a critical area treatment have been installed. There is a dry structure currently under construction. With an FY2003 contract through the Ag Resources Conservation Fund for \$30,000.00, it is hoped that 5 – 6 more cooperators can be served this year



Doug Taylor, from the Department of Agriculture, discusses the Cane Creek Watershed Project during the concurrent sessions on Watershed Success Stories.

Session: Impaired Waters Recovery

Arkansas Creek: Williamson County Landfill

Lewis Bumpus, Director Williamson County Solid Waste Mgt.

Phone: 615-790-0742

e-mail: lewisb@williamson-tn.org

Arkansas Creek was impacted by sediment, rapid runoff, and loss of biological life due to denuded operations and uncontrolled runoff quality from the Williamson County landfill. The Creek was on the State's "303(d)" list for impaired waters not supporting designated uses, particularly aquatic life. In 4 years, this has been turned around. The Creek now supports life. Turbidity and sediment in runoff from the site is virtually non-existent. A series of eight wetlands, more than 30 check dams, numerous pre-filter felt-lined down drains (affectionately called "Bumpus booms"), a leachate collection-recirculating-aeration system, and an innovative monitoring program that "tracks" soil moisture are all part of this world-class operation.

Bear Creek: Coal-Fields to Community Use

Jack E. Lay, Mayor

Town of Oneida

Phone: 423-569-8300 Fax: 423-569-2990

e-mail: rectres@highland.net

Oneida, located along the Tennessee and Kentucky border as well as the Big South Fork National Recreational Area, is a rural area with limited industry. The Town of Oneida along with the Oneida Industrial Development Board initiated a search for property to build an industrial park.

Property at Bear Creek became available and the location and condition of the property left many questions to how an industrial park could be developed. The Bear Creek property was virtually lifeless. It's poor water quality was the result of acid mine drainage from abandoned coal mines and sedimentation from mines and improperly managed timber harvest. Bear Creek had drastic environmental, economic and social problems as a result of the poor water quality.

Through the partnerships between state and federal agencies, local government, watershed residents, and private citizens, varied monies have been used to turn the virtual wasteland into industrial development opportunities and a recreational activities paradise for the people of our community. Through the recreation development we hope to reach the youth of our community and provide environmental education and awareness, which they can teach to the next generation.

WATERSHED DIALOGUE

Tennessee Growth Readiness: An Invitation to Tennessee Communities

Joel Haden, TVA Sustainable Growth Project
Phone: 865-632-2132, Fax: 865-632-8114
e-mail: jmhaden@tva.gov

On behalf of the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, UT's Water Resources Research Center, Southeast Watershed Forum and Tennessee Valley Authority, you are invited to participate in the Tennessee Growth Readiness program. The program helps communities learn how land use decisions affect water quality, comply with new regulatory requirements, and make informed decisions about managing growth.

Planners and public works officials from four communities helped develop and pilot the program for their colleagues in other communities. They built the program from existing best practices by the University of Connecticut, State of Alabama and Center for Watershed Protection. These officials are invited to participate in the program because they are intimately involved in the day-to-day, nuts-and-bolts of their community's land use and water quality decisions.

Participating planners and public works officials receive training, presentations, maps and references. With these materials, they can explain simply and succinctly the complex issues and choices surrounding land use and water quality to elected officials, developers, builders, farmers and homeowners.

Each presentation describes why water quality is important from economic, quality of life and legal perspectives. Audiences quickly learn about water pollution, watersheds, regulations, and land uses' contributions to water quality problems. Through simple community-specific maps, they can see how current and future land uses could exacerbate existing water quality problems. Presentations conclude with actionable choices that allow for growth and water quality, too.

One choice communities have is to implement water quality friendly development rules. Program participants

learn to lead a Site Planning Roundtable in their community. Through a Roundtable, diverse community leaders select development rules from a pallet of twenty-two principles conceived by an equally diverse, national expert panel convened by the Center for Watershed Protection.

You and your community can have growth and water quality, too. Your community is invited to have your planners and public works officials participate in training. Tentative dates and places include:

Date	Time	Place
Aug 13, 2003, Wed	8:30 - 12:30	Jackson
Sep 2, 2003, Tue	1:00 - 5:00	Cookeville
Sep 3, 2003, Wed	1:00 - 5:00	Chattanooga
Sep 10, 2003, Wed	8:30 - 12:30	Jackson
Sep 16, 2003, Tue	1:00 - 5:00	Nashville
Sep 17, 2003, Wed	8:30 - 12:30	Nashville
Sep 23, 2003, Tue	8:30 - 12:30	Knoxville
Sep 24, 2003, Wed	8:30 - 12:30	Knoxville
Sep 30, 2003, Tue	1:00 - 5:00	Johnson City

To register, please contact Tim Gangaware, register@tgr.utk.edu, or (865) 974-2151.

Assistance Panel

Wendy Smith, Session Moderator
World Wildlife Fund
Phone: 615-297-1423
e-mail: southernrivers@att.net

Opening comments: The Tennessee, Cumberland, and Mobile River drainages are one of the most diverse river systems in the world. The World Wildlife Fund's Southeastern Rivers and Streams Support Fund provides grants to local organizations working to protect and restore them. The Fund receives support from the Mott Foundation to assist local organizations and to conduct a study of these rivers. The report is being finalized and would be a great reference for the groups represented at this Roundtable.

This panel, from state and federal agencies, also provides support for local initiatives.

Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency

Bill Reeves, Chief

e-mail: bill.reeves@state.tn.us

This presentation will cover the current efforts and future involvement of TWRA in watershed issues. Topics to be discussed will include our in lieu of fees program, Farm Bill/small game/riparian lands efforts, wetlands purchases and management, upland purchases and management, outreach, GIS capabilities, Environmental Services Division grants and programs, Fisheries Management Division streams and rivers management and web page development, and the TWRA grants specialist. TWRA's involvement in an aquatic habitat plan for the southeast will also be presented.

Office of Surface Mining

Marykatherine Gonzales, Program Analyst

Phone: 202-208-2585

e-mail: mgonzales@osmre.gov

Danny Ellis is the contact person for the Watershed Partnership Assistance Program. (dellis@osmre.gov) The Office of Surface Mining awards cooperative agreements to not-for-profit organizations, especially small watershed groups, that undertake local acid mine drainage (AMD) reclamation projects. The maximum award amount is normally \$100,000. See the Watershed Cooperative Agreements page on our website to find out more about the program and how to apply.

Abandoned Mine Land grants have several different program functions, or subaccounts, combined into one grant agreement. They can cover Administrative Costs (1 year): Functions needed to operate the regular Abandoned Mine Land program; Project Costs (3 years): Construction work to reclaim abandoned mine sites; and Clean Streams Program (2 years): States provide funding to local groups to use as seed money to develop partnerships for acid mine drainage reclamation projects.

The Office of Surface Mining Summer Watershed Intern Programs provides administrative support to local watershed groups via internship programs to help set up monitoring, field days, and cleanups with local groups and

project specific grants. OSM covers \$2,000 for 12 weeks of full-time work and \$500 for related expenses. The program requirement is that it shows direct benefit to water quality from acid mine drainage from somewhere in the watershed. Contact me or Danny for interpretation or guidance. In addition, there is a longer intern program which includes Ameri-corps or Vista volunteers. It is a 3-year program for a fulltime watershed coordinator to help establish watershed groups.

A "new" initiative with the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and OSM, supports innovative design treatments for projects that transform environmental liabilities into community assets.

OSM is working with EPA Brownfields, re-conceptualizing the program to fit coal-impacted watersheds. It offers new possibilities for critical inventory, assessment and planning funds for local watershed efforts.

All of these programs and grant requests for an intern can be obtained by contacting me or visiting the OSM website at www.osmre.gov.



Wendy Smith, (center) of the World Wildlife Fund's SE Rivers & Streams Project, moderated the Assistance Panel. The Panel included (from l to r), Paula Lovett - ARC, Donald Dotson - USDA, Bruce Webster - Urban Forestry Coordinator, Marykatherine Gonzalez-OSM, Bill Reeves-TWRA and John McClurkan-TDA.

USDA FARM BILL

Donald Dotson, Assistant State Conservationist, USDA
NRCS

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**SUMMARY OF FARM BILL ACCOMPLISHMENTS-
FY2002**

MARCH 28, 2003

EQIP: Environmental Quality Incentive Program

TOTAL NO. OF APPLICANTS	1540
TOTAL DOLLARS IN REQUESTS	\$10.6 MILLION
APPLICANTS/CONTRACTS APPROVED	449
DOLLARS IN CONTRACTS	\$4.8 MILLION
TOTAL CONTRACTS (97-02)	NO. 2654
DOLLARS	\$16.7 MILLION

WRP: Wetland Reserve Program

TOTAL NO. APPLICANTS	5
TOTAL DOLLARS IN REQUESTS	\$572,000
APPLICANTS/EASEMENT APPROVED	3
APPLICANTS/EASEMENT DOLLARS	\$322,000
TOTAL EASEMENTS FILED	NO. 85
ACRES	14,261
TOTAL EASEMENTS PENDING	NO. 10
ACRES	1033
TOTAL DOLLARS IN EASEMENTS	\$11.4 MILLION

WHIP: Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program

TOTAL NUMBER OF APPLICANTS	30
TOTAL DOLLARS IN REQUESTS	\$212,096
APPLICANTS APPROVED	21
DOLLARS IN CONTRACTS	\$190,433
TOTAL CONTRACTS (98-02)	NO. 257
DOLLARS	\$1.1 MILLION

CRP: Conservation Reserve Program

(NO GENERAL SIGNUP IN FY 02)

CONTINUOUS SIGNUP:

CONTRACTS DEVELOPED AND APPROVED	380
ESTIMATED ACRES IN CONTRACTS	3100

FPP: Farmland Protection Program

TN USING NON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGO) TO IMPLEMENT FPP
TENNESSEE STATE GOVERNMENT CURRENTLY HAS NO FARMLAND PROTECTION PROGRAM ORGANIZED SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE STATE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF FPP
FPP PROPOSED RULE PUBLISHED, COMMENT TIME CLOSED, AND FINAL RULE TO BE PUBLISHED. BUDGET, APPORTIONMENT, AND REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS ANTICIPATED BY LATE WINTER/EARLY SPRING.

Appalachian Regional Commission

Paula Lovett, Program Grant Manager

Phone: 615-741-6201

e-mail: Paula.Lovett@state.tn.us

Serves 50 counties in Middle and East Tennessee.

Each year around \$4,552,149 is available.

Fifty percent of the funds must be used in distressed counties or distressed areas. Residential water service projects are ineligible unless in a distressed county or can show a compelling need. Please call and we will work with everyone on this.

ARC Priorities

Education

Health

Infrastructure

Business Development

Leadership and Civic Development

2003 Distressed Counties:

Campbell Clay

Cocke Fentress

Hancock Jackson

Johnson Meigs

Morgan Scott

Process: One page pre-application is taken in October. They are reviewed then a full application is requested from communities that we wish to fund.

Tennessee Dept of Agriculture: Urban Forestry Program

Bruce Webster, Staff Forester

Division of Forestry

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Overview of Tennessee's Urban and Community Forestry (U&CF) program and grants, Tree City USA program, TN Urban Forestry Council, State Urban Forestry Conference, RELEAF program, and other projects will be described. A background fun fact is that an increase in (urban) forest canopy from 27 % to 40 % reduces storm water runoff by 31 % with a potential savings of \$41 M in capital and operational/maintenance costs to a city. Trees are good and can be a part of the solution for storm water management.

Tennessee Dept of Agriculture: Water Resources Grants Program

John McClurkan, Administrator

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Section 319 of the Clean Water Act (EPA funding) goes for restoration of 303(d) listed (impaired waters) and protection (threatened watersheds) projects in Tennessee. There is an education and outreach component that is included in 319 projects. The deadline for submittal of 319 funded projects for 2003 is June 30.

The Real Estate Transfer Tax is state generated funds for conservation practices in the 95 counties of the state. More than 1200 -1500 practices have been funded in the state with the funds from the tax and have included installation of best management practices, field days to promote conservation practices and other education/outreach activities.

Garland Wiggins - TDEC, Jerry Coen - American Farmland Trust, David Feldman - UTK and John McClurkan, TDA compare notes on presentations at the Tennessee Watershed Roundtable



Tennessee Roundtable: Watershed Plans From Breakout Sessions

Frank Sagona, Southeast Watershed Forum
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Process Summary: The 2003 Tennessee Watershed Roundtable participants went into one of five regional watershed breakout sessions to discuss and develop commitments that each group could make to address issues in their watershed. Each group had a series of 3 facilitated discussion sessions to address 4 questions.

The first working session focused on review of streams not meeting state water quality standards and criteria which appear on the State's "303(d)" list.

The second session focused on what the participants knew was the cause or source of the water quality impact, to set a water quality goal, and begin discussions on actions to address the issue(s).

The final breakout session focused on ideas and commitments of what it would take to correct, improve, and in some instances protect watershed water quality resources, and suggestions for the development of a "Tennessee Forum"

The five regional watershed breakout groups included:

1. Cumberland River 1 (due to number of participants, Cumberland River was divided into 2 groups)
2. Cumberland River 2
3. Upper Tennessee River (east Tennessee upstream of Chattanooga)
4. Lower Tennessee River (Chattanooga area, Duck and Elk Rivers, west Tennessee)
5. Mississippi River

The outputs of the sessions were summations presented to a leadership panel on the second day to get feedback and response to the plans each watershed work group discussed during their sessions. Notes from each watershed group are included in the "Abstracts" Session of this report.

Overall Summary

Dialogue Steps:

Question 1: Where can we work together?

Breakout groups were given the option to focus on a geographic area (e.g. subwatershed where consensus suggested improvements could be made in 3-5 years), or on a pollutant issue(s) where institutional framework is needed to address the issue(s).

Mississippi River: This watershed group identified and selected Sugar Creek to develop a watershed plan.

Cumberland River 1, 2, Upper Tennessee, Lower

Tennessee: These watershed groups selected an issue, "siltation", as a primary cause of water quality problems in their watersheds. The sources of the siltation varied among the groups but generally involved development, roads, agriculture, streambank erosion. The groups then discussed ways to address the "sources" of siltation in their watersheds and region.

Question 2: What's needed?

All the watershed groups listed some aspect of the following elements:

- **Education, outreach, training** with specific suggestions such as tapping into existing programs such as County Technical Assistance Service, Municipal Technical Advisory Service, Public Service Announcements with targeted messages and audiences, training assistance such as Tennessee Growth Readiness.
- **Planning needs** such as **land use planning**, local watershed planning committees, involvement with road/transportation planning.
- **Targeting** of best management practices to efficiently utilize available funding and technical assistance as well as new or alternative funding assistance sources.
- **Enforcement** of current regulations rather than adding new ones.

Question 3: What's the commitment?

- **Commitment to growth readiness:** Jonesborough, Cocke County, and some of the Cumberland River counties expressed interest in pursuing "growth readiness" training

and review in their communities.

- **Convene training sessions** at county-level for officials, superintendents, or employees with soil and water conservation districts and others about conservation practices that protect water quality
- **Participate in state's** (TDEC's) watershed planning cycle

Question 4: How should the Tennessee Watershed Roundtable work?

- **Continue** annual statewide dialog
- **Expand** audience to others such as developers, industry, foundations
- **Invite elected officials** to speak and present issues/actions/needs
- **Move dialogue closer** to local level

Leadership Panel Opening Comments

BETSY CHILD, Commissioner

Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation

Background and experience with economic development will complement the interrelated issues and approaches needed to improve and protect Tennessee's watersheds and water resources. For example, TDEC and TDOT meet on a six-week basis to identify and address issues on the front-end rather than through a regulatory and compliance framework. This type of planning should reduce the number of regulatory actions by the Department. TDEC is glad to be a partner in the Tennessee Watershed Roundtable and is encouraged by the variety of attendees and issues being addressed.

JAMES FORD, State Conservationist

USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service

A provision of the new Farm Bill allows for third party

Christine Olsenius from the Southeast Watershed Forum introduces the Leadership Panel which includes (l to r): Betsy Child, Commissioner of TDEC; Terry Oliver, Deputy Commissioner - TDA; James Ford, State Conservationist-USDA-NRCS; Ed Cole, Chief of Environment & Planning - TDOT; Louis Buck, State Executive Director - USDA Farm Services Agency; and Doug Goddard, Executive Director - TN County Commissioners Association.

assistance to put conservation measures on the ground to address farm-related water quality issues. This technical service provider provision will go through local (county) soil conservation districts. The districts will address cropland and pastureland erosion, animal waste and nutrient management, riparian and habitat conservation, and many other natural resource issues in watersheds. Many Roundtable attendees are familiar with and have worked with local districts to identify resource issues and to develop plans to correct those issues. You are encouraged to seek and interact with the districts in your county, and become more familiar with the new provisions in the Farm Bill and how it can help your watershed efforts. Also, I encourage attendees to work with local Resource Conservation and Development Councils, multi-county organizations with a broad mission to address many watershed and resource issues. They often engage in many innovative and creative projects at the local level.

ED COLE, Chief of Environment and Planning
Tennessee Department of Transportation

There is a strong relationship of transportation and patterns of growth. Early planning of alignments and facilities (bridge crossings, storage facilities for salt, oils, etc) can help minimize and avoid future watershed and water quality issues. There are impacts with the "footprint" of existing facilities even if perfectly constructed. A key is to identify and if possible avoid sensitive areas. That is where planning can make a big difference. TDOT is undertaking an 18-month multi-nodal study for Tennessee. There will be 80 public meetings to hear and receive inputs about impacts from transportation. I commit to encourage TDOT



employees and county road building representatives to attend and participate in next year's meeting.

TERRY OLIVER, Deputy Commissioner
Tennessee Department of Agriculture

TDA is pleased to be a sponsor and partner of the Tennessee Watershed Roundtable. We are encouraged by this type of exchange and your enthusiasm and desire to improve and protect Tennessee's watersheds. TDA is committed to continuing to support this dialogue in Tennessee. We hope to see you next year.

LOUIS BUCK, State Executive Director
USDA Farm Services Agency

The FSA, TDEC, and TDA are exploring innovative ways to work through current federal/state cost-share matching requirements. A loss of state cost-share funds could translate into a lost of federal match for many worthwhile and successful watershed nonpoint source pollution control projects. The FSA administers many of the federal USDA farm grants and programs. Tremendous progress has been made in Tennessee's watersheds through the partnership and efforts with TDA, especially the Agricultural Resources Conservation Fund, the state program funded by the Real Estate Transfer Tax. We will need to look for non-traditional ways for matching state and federal funds that benefit watershed resources, perhaps low or no interest loans for watershed trading or permitting opportunities.

DOUG GODDARD, Executive Director
Tennessee County Commissioners Association

Three-fourths of counties in Tennessee are committed to reviewing or seeking assistance to review county ordinances. Intent is to bring ordinances up to date and to allow sound development and alternative practices locally that we now know reduce impacts. TCCA is committed to continue to involve local officials at the Roundtable and to grow participation by county officials.

Questions for Leadership Panel from breakout groups:

1. Real Estate Transfer Tax. There is general consensus and concern of the 2003 Roundtable attendees about potential reductions to the Real Estate Transfer Tax and impacts on

the state's cost-share programs such as the Agriculture

Conservation Fund and programs for conservation and recreation. Will any of the panel comment about the status and prospects of these funds?

Response: The State's fiscal situation will require all funding sources to be reviewed. It will be difficult to fully restore proposed changes, but some restoration may be possible.

2. Organizational commitment to the Roundtable:

The attendees see much value in the annual dialogue provided by a statewide meeting such as the Watershed Roundtable. There is synergy that occurs as groups discover and understand what another has to offer. Because of this synergy, the attendees would like to see more agency and organizational representation. Who will comment about sending more staffers to interact with attendees at the 2004 Tennessee Watershed Roundtable?

Response: The panel would like to see specific suggestions and comments from groups (evaluation summary) of ideas for leadership panel. In particular, the value of sending staffers to future meetings and specific ways organizations can assist.

3. More active role of County officials: The presence of county officials at the 2003 Roundtable demonstrated the value of elected officials and decision-makers to the discussions and dialogues and ideas/commitments at the county-level. Attendees see a need for more of this. Can the "Tennessee Association of Counties" take a more active role in training counties on watershed and land use protection as well as participation at next year's Roundtable?

Response: (Doug Goddard, primary respondent) The Tennessee County Commissioners Association (TCCA) continues to promote, encourage and invite elected officials to attend the annual Watershed Roundtable. This is difficult given the tremendous turnover of members with each new election season. We are a member of the Tennessee Watershed Roundtable Planning Committee and will work with the Committee to develop a program next year that involves local officials on the speaker platform and perhaps panels.

Specific Watershed Summaries (Flipchart Notes)

CUMBERLAND RIVER BASIN GROUP 1

Selected Area: Cumberland River Basin

Issues:

Resource coordination clearinghouse

1. Reduce pollutant loads
2. Educate public, agencies, others
3. Coordinate needs and actions
4. Provide funding source for coordinator(s)
5. Clearinghouse for technical information, funding sources, educational material

Goals

1. Central site for water answers (one-stop shopping)
2. Data resource locator
3. Ed materials by target audience
4. Maximize existing resources by resource coordination
5. Dedicated staff

Action steps

1. Grant for staff. Start small. Project coordination. \$75/yr for three years.
2. Sustain with member contributions.
3. Ongoing discussion/development.
4. Invite participants.
5. Education
 - a. Web sites
 - b. Local advocate
 - c. Resource/info center
 - d. Awareness/use of resources
 - e. Target audience approach
 - f. Decision makers focus
 - g. Media outreach
 - h. Spokesperson
 - i. County Soil Conservation District
 - j. Local grassroots org
 - k. Training – contractors
 - l. Business/environment awareness ed programs
 - m. Ed thru regulation

- n. Resource coordination
- o. Models – AL Clean Water Partnership
- p. Ed materials – menu/lists; examples; sources
- q. Water One Call Service

Who?

- TDEC
- Soil conservation Districts
- Utility Districts
- NGOs – PR, funding; TN Wildlife Resources Foundation
- Center for Living Watersheds (Cumberland River Compact)
- Referral list – Metro Water
- Green Book (when available)
- Funding – Personnel resources

What?

- Regulations
- Education materials
- Alternative enforcement activities
 - Education; mitigation
 - Linkages

CUMBERLAND RIVER GROUP 2

Selected Area: Harpeth and Red Rivers (as models)

Issue

siltation from

- Growth & development
- Agriculture
- Mining
- Streambank erosion
- Roads
- Forestry

Goal

Reduce the number of stream segments impaired by siltation in the Lower Cumberland Basin by 33 percent in 5 years.

Action Steps:

1. Growth & development tools
 - a. Target and partner with homebuilders association

- b. Education/outreach – e.g.:
 - i. TDEC’s “Abate and Control” school for developers (basic BMP training)
 - ii. MTSU Center for Environment & Education’s PSA “WaterWorks” on watershed principles (available statewide)
 - iii. Cumberland River Compact & Greater Nashville Regional Council – to survey county officials on how to help on water quality issues.
 - iv. Planning commissions must have a set number of training hours per year.
 - v. Stormwater phase 2 - track and monitor progress of MS4 working group.
 - c. Tools for community decision making - SE Water Policy Institute (GIS system for counties).
 - d. Powerpoint on economic and water management relationships (e.g., Cumberland County).
 - e. UT County Technical Service, partnering with:
 - i. MTAS – “City University” works with cities to deal with stormwater phase 2 assistance (John Charson, West TN).
 - ii. Center for Industrial Service (George Smelcer) Farmland protection cost share
2. Roads
- a. Tennessee Highway Officials Association (THOA) – training and certification program; will provide extra dollars to county
3. Streambank erosion
- a. Ag tools for private landowners – e.g., CRP program (Farm Service Agency, NRCS)
 - b. Local government ordinances in urban counties; rural counties have need for ordinances.
 - c. 319 program dollars for BMPs on streambanks
 - d. Land trust and conservation easements
 - e. TN Streambank Mitigation Program (TWRA)
 - f. Greenways provision in EPA Brownfields legislation that can be applied to streambank mitigation
 - g. T3 (Federal Highway Administration program for greenway development; former ICTEA/T21)

Commitments:

- 1. Cheatham County – each SWC district to bring home-builders and developers together for BMP training

- 2. MTSU Center for Environment & Education – “WaterWorks” PSA on watershed principles (available statewide)
- 3. Cumberland River Compact & Greater Nashville Regional Council will work in partnership to conduct survey of county officials on how to help on water quality issues.
- 4. UT County Technical Service will come out on the invitation of a county and provide training and certification courses associated with roadwork along streams to members of TN Highway Officials Association and provide courses at annual conferences scheduled by groups in the county. Also developing on-line training. (Carrot: extra dollars for counties going through training/certification program.)
- 5. Cumberland River Compact will continue to connect stakeholders to experts and funding sources in the Caney Fork, Stones River, and Old Hickory Watersheds within the next 5 years.

Forum Suggestions:

- 1. Annual statewide meeting.
- 2. Become formal in order to open the door to expanded funding (e.g., bring Southeast Watershed Forum model down to state level).
- 3. Do a better job of partnering with foundations on common interests.
- 4. Incorporate a three-year annual meeting as part of the state’s proposal to the federal government for watershed projects.
- 5. Increase the number of elected officials invited to be speakers.
- 6. Focus on themes.

Questions for Leadership Panel:

- 1. Who will go to bat for landowners in terms of state cost-share programs such as the Agriculture Conservation Fund and the Real Estate Transfer Tax?
- 2. Can each of you commit to sending staff to the TN Watershed Roundtable next year?

Parking lot issues:

- 1. Results of World Wildlife Fund (WWF) studies on biodiversity need to be incorporated into watershed man-

- agement decisions.
2. South Fork of the Cumberland is poised for coal mining. Question of adequacy for protection.
 3. Build partnerships with users like water utility interests (e.g., sediment spikes and treatment costs on water plants).
 4. Is anyone looking at the relationship between water quantity withdrawals (how much water we're taking out) and impacts on water quality?
 5. Tie watershed planning to NPDES permit and reissue and other funding projects (e.g., TMDL).
 6. How can a landowner who has property that is not on a 303(d) list get help before their stream makes the list?

UPPER EAST TENNESSEE (UET)

Selected Area: Region

Issue 1: Water quality problems caused by siltation throughout the region

Goals (issue 1):

Conduct pilot projects at a local level that result in:

A regional program to tackle issue

Pilot community streams de-listed for siltation in 3 to 5 years

Actions (issue 1):

Develop a regional program that:

1. Provides advice and training to city/county government on how to enforce use of BMPs and build awareness of their importance.
2. Builder recognition program modeled after NC builder certification program
3. Awareness and outreach through local government to owners of one acre lots that will be required to file permit statewide for construction.
4. Explore feasibility of Little Limestone Creek in Jonesboro as pilot.
5. Explore NRCS list of priority streams for tackling siltation to identify other pilots.
6. Purchase development rights for stream buffers modeled after GA program per Doug Goddard.
7. Explore use of Farm Bill program to create buffers. Program name is CRP continuous sign-up.

8. Determine how much buffer width is enough to get off 303(d) list. (Look at Chesapeake Bay research.)
9. Explore use of Scenic Rivers program or other programs to help market importance of river.
10. Develop similar program to designate small streams to help market their importance (e.g., heritage streams).

Cooperators (issue 1):

- Development districts
- TDEC
- TDA
- NFWF
- Farm Bureau
- NRCS
- SWCD
- Chambers of Commerce
- Others:
 - Home builders association
 - Contractors association
 - TVA
 - Ag Ext and Ag Economics
 - TWRA
 - Utility districts
 - USGS
 - City/county government
 - Watershed association
 - Env. Health
 - Farm Land Trust

Action Plan (issue 1): To put in place program & pilots

1. Create clear action plan for this issue
2. Convene meeting of cooperators organized around development districts
3. Identify project owner—either individual agency or coalition
4. Find out specific requirements for removing pilot streams from list in consultation with TDEC
5. Series of public meetings to communicate vision and request participation

Commitments (issue 1):

1. Convene meetings of cooperators in Johnson City (First Tennessee Development District; Tobie Bledsoe, Mayor, Jonesboro; Danny Seals, SWCD)

2. Sponsor pilot in Jonesbor area (Tobie Bledsoe)

Issue 2: Lack of awareness of (a) how current and future land use and practices affect water quality, and (b) solutions to problem

Goal (issue 2): \Regional approach to education about these issues and solutions

Actions (issue 2):

1. Conduct planned TN Growth Readiness training for planners and public works officials.
2. Hold regular programs at Development District meetings.
3. Develop regional and subregional support group.
4. Develop coordinated/comprehensive marketing and public relations plan.
5. Publicize success stories through development districts and other channels.

Cooperators (issue 2):

- Watershed organizations
- Development districts
- TVA
- UT
- NGOs that have educational focus on issue, e.g., League of Women Voters

Action Plan (issue 2):

1. Create clear action plan for this issue.
2. Discuss creation and management of marketing and PR plans with Development Districts.

Commitments (issue 2):

1. Discuss with Johnson City based Development District (Tobie Bledsoe, Danny Sells).
2. Discuss in Knoxville based Development District (Iloff McMahan, Cocke County Executive; Hamblen County Executive).

LOWER TENNESSEE RIVER/ CHATTANOOGA AREA

Issue: Sedimentation from urban development

Water Quality Goal: Reduce sediment input to the extent we can de-list waterbodies

Action Steps:

1. Local planning committees need training in water quality protection so that local land use plans/zoning ordinances reflect water quality concerns and include BMPs. For example:
 - a. Growth readiness training
 - b. Adding an environmental component to existing continuing education training
2. TDEC needs to do a better job of enforcing current regulations and should encourage even better development and land use practices through the permitting process. For example:
 - a. TDEC should offer incentives for implementing BMPs properly and impose fines for improperly implemented BMPs.
 - b. Special point: Government should adopt a policy that no fill from public works projects can be dumped in a flood plain.
3. State Economic & Community Development (ECD) needs to be proactive about funding projects that are watershed-friendly.
4. Need education to create grassroots support of better land use practices. For example:
 - a. Educate property owners regarding the importance of riparian vegetation;
 - b. Educate school children about sedimentation and its impacts;
 - c. Educate the general public about the connection between sedimentation and drinking water, recreation, fisheries, etc.
 - d. Educate developers and land use planners through local watershed groups.

Commitments:

Individuals in the Lower Tennessee River/Chattanooga Area break-out session committed to:

1. Sign up for community growth readiness training.

2. Promote the Tims Ford conservation development as a model blueprint project.
3. Bring together a broad range of stakeholders (both public and private) at the local level to discuss local water quality issues.
4. Meet with Commissioner Child to discuss water quality issues.
5. Participate in TDEC watershed planning process.

Note: Break-out session participants also suggested that the Tennessee Association of Counties commit to taking a leadership role in educating local land use professionals on watershed-friendly development.

Suggestions for Forum:

1. Continue statewide discussion.
2. Also move process to local level.
3. Expand audience in state and local roundtables (e.g., include the Corps, EPA, TDOT, developers, home-builders).

MISSISSIPPI RIVER BASIN

Selected Area: Sugar Creek (Haywood County)

Issue: Sedimentation

Water Quality Goal: Reduce sedimentation to acceptable level for restored use

Action Steps/Recommended Partners:

1. erosion and sedimentation ordinances (3-5 years)
 - RC&D
 - CTAS
 - MTAS
 - Utility Associations
 - City of Brownsville
2. use of settling basins (3-5 years)
 - TDA
 - NRCS
 - TN Nature Conservancy (TNC)
 - WTRBA
3. installation of buffers (3-5 years)
 - NRCS
 - TNC
 - TWRA

- TVA
4. floodplain controls (3-5 years)
 - CTAS
 - MTAS
 - US Army Corps of Engineers
 5. streambank stabilization (1-5 years)
 - TDA
 - NRCS
 - TNC
 - TWRA
 - USACE
 - WTRBA
 6. watershed evaluation (1st year)
 - TDEC
 7. inventory drainage and relationship to water quality (1st year)
 - NRCS
 - TDEC
 8. increase use of cover crops (1st year)
 - TDA
 - NRCS
 - Haywood Soil Conservation District
 9. in-stream sediment traps (3-5 years)
 - WTRBA
 - TDEC
 - USFWS
 10. better enforcement of construction permits (3-5 years)
 - TDEC
 11. increase training for contractors and builders (3-5 years)
 - City of Brownsville
 - UT
 12. organizing/involving stakeholders (1st year)
 - TNC
 - Haywood Soil Conservation District
 13. formulate watershed plan
 - Everybody

Suggestions for Forum:

- Continue statewide
- Regional and local (as needed)

What purpose does the Roundtable serve for your organization or agency?

- 90% Gives me a chance to network with other organizations and agencies
- 73% Helps clarify state and national watershed programs
- 69% Gives me a better sense of local watershed needs/concerns/issues
- 61% Gives my organiz/agency new ideas for implementing watershed programs
- 38% Provides innovative programs that can be replicated in my watershed
- 4% Other _____
- ___ None

Do you feel the information, programs or networking at the Roundtable will change the way you do business in your community, organization or company?

- 42% Yes 8% No 39% Maybe
- Please explain: _____

What do you like most about the Roundtable program? (check all that apply)

- 52% General Session
- 66% Concurrent Sessions/Success Stories
- 65% Basin-level breakout sessions
- 38% Leadership Panel (Day 2)
- 27% TN Growth Readiness
- 24% Assistance Panel

How could the Tennessee Watershed Roundtable be improved?

Would it be valuable to the State, to have an ongoing coalition of watershed interests, to foster dialogue, collaboration and cooperation on water programs – something like a

Tennessee Watershed Forum?

92% Yes 1% No

How would you view the role of a Tennessee Watershed Forum?(check all that apply)

- 66% Acting as a clearinghouse of watershed information
- 1% Providing watershed training
- 77% Improving coordination of regional water issues
- 76% Enhancing partnerships between the public and private sectors
- 77% Promoting water education
- 63% Serving as a neutral convener on State or regional water issues
- 20% Other _____
- Other _____

Would you like to see the formation of Basin-level Roundtables?

63% Yes 15% No 5% Other

If yes, would you be willing to help form a Basin-level Roundtable?

Please provide your email address: _____

Should the Tennessee Watershed Roundtable be an annual event?

90% Yes No 4% Other (Biennial)

Would you attend the Roundtable if it was held at a less formal setting than a hotel? (i.e. University, State Park, etc.)

92% Yes 1% No Other

Written Evaluation Responses

What purpose does the Roundtable serve your organization

- Helps me see how my programs fit in.
- Working within the individual basins provided an opportunity to actually discuss and work with the local officials, agencies and watershed partners in your basin. Great!
- It needs more emphasis on “Gives a better sense of local watershed needs. I realize this may happen in the years to come.
- Allows agencies to communicate programs/laws to public.
- Share information and ideas with others.
- Helps build trust and a collaborative atmosphere.

Do you feel the information, programs or networking at the Roundtable will change the way you do business in your community?

- New ideas will provide new tools to achieve my agency's goals.
- It will help us improve the way we do business by getting to know programs available.
- Cumberland River Compact already does many of these activities, programs but new ideas and contacts are always helpful.
- I always find out about new programs that I can take to stakeholders.

- May bring more players to the table.
- I would like to see more engineering-specific information disseminated.
- Dependent upon resources.
- I hope it will facilitate the TMDL process, primarily in terms of implementation planning and stakeholder involvement.
- Expand network options for program delivery.
- Broader sense of partner's tools/abilities/concerns.
Do you feel the information, programs or networking at the Roundtable will change the way you do business in your community?
- Provides examples of success-new ideas and motivation.
- A lot of discussion at the Roundtable has focused on education. I think the participants have heard good ideas about how to implement the education in their communities, but success will depend on getting the education programs to take in these communities.
- Acquired information about new assistance that can be utilized.
- Better relationships to work with.
- I've learned a lot and the networking enhances any organization's efforts.
- New contacts and new resources to draw upon.
- Provides focus and direction.

- Implementation of TN Growth Readiness and other planned water quality projects.
- Will help me to proactively partner regionally on matters of common concern.
- Need to take information back to local areas and sell it to local leaders.
- Talking inside with like-minded individuals is easy. Implementation with individuals who don't necessarily care about "regional" issues is much more difficult.
- I think that the Roundtable will change the way many do business.
- All part of a learning process – fruitful ideas.
- New contacts and sources of information for programs.
- Will improve the way we effect watershed improvement.
- Knowledge of other agencies and their mission.
- What I have learned will probably enhance the watershed work already done.
- Realized new awareness to elected officials.

Do you feel the information, programs or networking at the Roundtable will change the way you do business in your community?

- We are already doing what was recommended.
- If we can get all the agencies to meet together at the local lunch.
- Inspired greater educational efforts.
- As group matures, will have more impact.

- It will provide us with ideas on how our programs can help local watershed efforts.
- Good contacts. Good ideas.
- Will help the Cumberland River Compact to understand the direction of its effort.
- Makes me aware of concerns/problems of local communities.
- Most are being implemented in our county.

How could the Tennessee Watershed roundtable be improved?

- Concurrent sessions would be better if entire group hear each story.
- It was great! Improve? Maybe some "spin-off" local (regional) meetings.
- More focused question/direction for the beginning of the breakout session. A lot of time was wasted trying to set a direction. With so many interests in a group, it's a tough focus.
- More local elected officials participating.
- Maybe a little more organization/direction for the breakout sessions. Seemed to get off track easily.
- Additional time for specific questions to the Leadership Panel would have been nice. Establishing basin-level roundtables throughout the state is an admirable goal, and I applaud and support this goal. However, I suggest that in order to show timely returns, you might consider selecting one basin in each of East, Middle and West Tennessee to showcase the benefits of this effort. One idea is to partner with ongoing activities. For instance the Cumberland Compact has ongoing plans to expand

into several watersheds over the next few years. Maybe the roundtable could combine the efforts/networks to grow watershed programs to

- Implement development planning models and water quality protection programs. Possibly include informal gathering to promote more interaction among participants.
- Just liked it all! More people? Get key attendees to ask 5 additional folks to come.
- State-level meetings are great, but region and local level meetings need to be held as needed.
- More opportunity for General Session questions from the audience.
- Expand the diversity of participants to include municipalities, utilities, developers, etc.
- I did not see the “Leadership Panel” to be very useful. Broader participation.
- Move to Knoxville.
- More technical presentations on basic watershed principles.
- Widening the cross-section of stakeholders and/or local agencies affecting watershed activities.
- Have the panel ready to address questions from the audience.
- We need to get participants in some of the groups that we spend a lot of time attacking: developers, planners, etc. So that they can either defend themselves or get educated, and share ways that they might be able to help, too.
- Minor point: Aim for non-caffeine choices for meals

(water, as well as tea, non-chocolate or two choices for dessert.) Develop a proposal or proposals for structure of Tennessee Watershed Forum that Roundtable attendees can react to.

- More consistency and communication throughout the year. More “open” breakout discussions. The roundtable constituency should set the agenda.
- Better representation of all stakeholders of TN’s water resources: water resource users, suppliers, regulators. Representation of unorganized groups, e.g. homeowners, general public citizens. Consider the pros and cons of having the planning committee develop a draft document outlining short and long term outcomes of the TN Watershed Roundtable.
- Keep within time limits on breakout sessions. Leadership panel - a short break was needed between breakfast and panel after all that coffee.
- I would prefer to have breakouts by small geographic watersheds, so more specific planning/action items can be initiated. Facilitators need to push harder for specific action planning. The outcome of our breakout session was not reflected in the verbal summary to the group. Development of a central resource coordination mechanism would boost productivity for all watershed efforts.
- Allow more opportunity for participant participation through breakouts and group general sessions.
- Thought the basin-level breakout sessions were not productive.
- Always getting broader participation but this was very helpful for bringing folks together.
- If the program goes two days, include an evening social/mixer.
- Better explanation in the notification material of the

“level” of detail in the work sessions. My organization should have sent watershed team managers who have direct management over watershed projects in the different basins.

- Provide hardcopies and internet access (if possible) to all power point presentations during opening “General Session.” This will allow communities new to watershed issues to start a library for further educational purposes within counties.
- Whether directly or through appropriate participating parties, take on one or more of the identified priorities and facilitate needed education or action in the state. These don’t have to be issues that jeopardize the “neutrality” of the Forum as a “safe” convener of interest and stakeholders.
- Provide more time for breakout sessions. Put breakout session results on Power Point so attendees and panel can see results.
- Breakout sessions with a set issue/topic/predetermined before the session starts. Make an effort to invite the “users” of water: utilities, rec groups, etc. Invite Development Districts.
- More structure in breakout groups. I enjoyed the success stories, however, I think it would be more beneficial to invite actual landowners to discuss changes as opposed to agency representatives who helped/facilitated the implementation.

How could the Tennessee Watershed roundtable be improved?

- Add other major players to discussions such as EPA and Corps of Engineers.
- Better focused on problems and issues Not being addressed by other forums, e.g. Smart Growth and water resources; re-orienting breakouts – less focused on artificial “resource objectives” – more focused on improving

process of decision-making, planning, anticipating problems and overcoming impediments to good water policy.

- More local involvement.
- I think it would be beneficial for the Leadership Panel to attend the first day sessions and breakout sessions. They would have more of a clue about what to discuss and what the concerns of the attendees were. Perhaps the facilitators for the sessions should lead the Panel Discussion.
- This year’s breakout facilitator was very good (TVA employee). Food and hotel excellent for this session. Improvements? I noticed by comments that some participants (10-20) do not understand basic function of a watershed, buffers, land use, cover types, etc. I suggest weaving a 15-20 minute primer into one of the first presentations.
- I would like to see more “real-life” success stories. I would like to see the community of developers present at the meeting.
- I didn’t feel like the main point from our breakout session was conveyed on the second day of the group.
- More people around the table besides the usual suspects. Facilitator had a difficult time getting things started – but enjoyed the session overall. List of participants in back should include email addresses. If each person “committed” to inviting at least 5 new people next year. Double-sided copies to keep costs down – other binding possibilities. What I liked: Impressed with how “on-time” we stayed throughout; good meeting facility and hotel services and overall good speakers and panel.
- Needs more focus. Leadership panel talks about many issues, but most had nothing to do with water quality or watersheds. The same was true at Breakout sessions. There were many solutions, but most had nothing to do with the issues at hand. Breakout sessions need more direction – morning had nothing accomplished, after-

noon was minimal.

- TDEC needs to have common sense when they work with landowners. Everything is not cut and dry. Real estate transfer tax needs to be available through local soil conservation district for BMPs. Other cuts could be made. Not funds to the local farmer who supports and sustains like in rural TN.
- Emphasis on nonpoint source pollution control methods analysis and monitoring. Opportunity to ask questions of local import in informal setting. Encourage TVA watershed team representatives and participation.
- I thought it was a great event. I wouldn't change a thing.
- Needs more private citizen involvement. Some meeting organization problems – agenda before meeting – Almost too much info – so many panels inhibits discussion and limits time for panelists to give detailed info.
- More local group representation. More key stakeholders and landowners, but may have to be accomplished through basin-level forums.
- Have the participants identify topics and issues they want discussed at the Roundtable – pre-planning survey of past participants.
- More emphasis on policy issues; more elected officials.
- The public needs a presentation as to the authority and mandate and services TDEC provides. I think the Leadership Panel should attend the breakout sessions. More TDEC and TDOT programs should be represented in each of the breakout sessions.
- Many people had confusion about the role of TDEC-WPC and services offered (not just regulatory). Would be good to have a session on this topic. Should have some water supply people present and maybe invite

folks from states which share watersheds. Leadership panel should attend breakout session. That would help them understand the concerns/issues and they would be prepared to respond.

Would it be valuable to have an ongoing coalition of watershed interests ...like a TN Watershed Forum?

- I think so. I am familiar with our great local watershed groups – CRC, Harpeth River, Red River – so for me their work and a SE meeting like this one may be the best without a whole new – but I am not sure enough.
- We already have this with the watershed meeting.

How would you view the role of a Tennessee Watershed Forum?

- I think we need to use this forum to direct folks to involve them in already existing programs. For example, TDEC watershed plans attempt to catalog information in the watershed. They try to list activities of other agencies and groups.
- Folks asked for this in roundtable breakouts. We should try to use this forum to push folks to get involved in the existing watershed program. TDEC can be that central clearinghouse with plans.
- Instead of working so much on “new” ideas, maybe it would be a good idea to focus more on programs that already exist and promote education and attendance of those. (Such as TDEC watershed meetings.)
- Marketing partner with TN Dept. of Economic & Community Development & Tourism Development. Great PR for showcasing responsible and proactive watershed management.
- Acting as a lobby for funding watershed needs. Acting as a pass-through agent for small watershed grants.

- Acting as an advisor to various funding agencies to provide a regional perspective on proposed projects in regard to watershed quality and quantity.
- Helping to bring new sources of funding on water quality/supply improvements to state by bringing partners together.
- Networking forum
- Education/general public @ subwatershed level. A resource statewide for policy makers.
- Review and improve state policy, local ordinances, etc.
- Provide blueprint for local forums.

Would you like to see the formation of Basin-level Roundtables – Other:

- Where there is interest, we should form 8-HUC level roundtables. These can then be sent out to work with TDEC watershed approach. They can work to have restoration and recovery.
- Cumberland River Compact provides this in the Cumberland River Basin and any new initiative should not overlap ongoing efforts.
- One of the benefits of being statewide is the ability to become familiar with issues for all of Tennessee. I'm not sure that you would get the same attendance breaking it out. It would be great to think we could gain enough interest to have separate sessions but at this time we need to build a bigger foundation first.
- NO. It would dilute the group and not as many folks would come. There are too many conferences already and this is too important to dilute.
- Yes. More important than the State-level roundtable! Specific action item.

- As long as the state-wide is continued also.
- No. Not at this time – too many meetings. Maybe have a session where watershed groups meet.
- Facilitate sub-watershed groups.
- Yes. We, the Cumberland River Compact, already work on the entire basin, so I don't see a need for overlap in this basin. But it might be needed for other basins.
- Have a theme like 319 Program or watershed (TDEC) and ask how everyone can be a part of them.
- Yes. Division of "basin-level" sectors inappropriate for some. E.g. separate watersheds from Duck and Elk Rivers.

Those willing to help with Basin-level roundtables:

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Should the Tennessee Watershed Roundtable be an annual event?

Basin level every year. State level every other year.

Miscellaneous

Would love to present next year on Water Works – Karen Hargrove – MTSU.