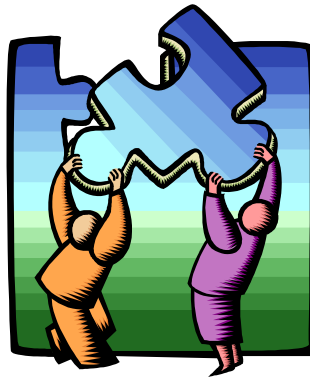
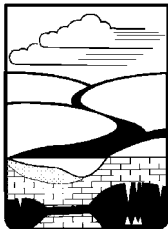


FINAL REPORT
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
NOVEMBER 2003



Solving the Watershed Puzzle
Kentucky Watershed Roundtable

August 19-20, 2003 — Lexington, Kentucky



Prepared by:

Kentucky Waterways Alliance, Inc.
854 Horton Lane, Munfordville, KY 42765
Phone: 270-524-1774 Email: Director@KWAlliance.org
Web site: www.KWAlliance.org

This project was funded (in part) by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, with Clean Water Act, Section 319(h) grant money (# C9994861-99) through the Kentucky Division of Water to the Kentucky Waterways Alliance.

Printed on recycled paper

There were so many individuals and organizations that contributed to the success of this event, it will be impossible to thank them all, but we would also like to thank the facilitators and their organizations.

Roundtable Facilitators:

Jon Walker, US Forest Service
Karen Schaffer, J. E. Edinger Associates, Inc.
Vicki Pettus, KY Infrastructure Authority
Frank Sagona, Southeast Watershed Forum
Mike Griffin, USGS
Patti Grace-Jarrett, Metropolitan Sewer District
Christine Olsenius, Southeast Watershed Forum
Leslie Cole, KY Environmental Quality Commission
Mary Kathryn Dickerson, Boone, Campbell and Kenton County Conservation Districts

Networking was key! It put me in touch with key people who can help me move this issue along at the county level.

Roundtable participant...

Conference objectives:

- ◆ Raise awareness of watershed issues and resources
- ◆ Leverage resources by building trust and forging links among partners
- ◆ Provide tools to support watershed and community development



Opening plenary session of the Roundtable.

I made a great number of contacts and found out who to communicate with and go to work on all these great ideas.

Roundtable participant....



Above: Conference participants take advantage of networking opportunities.

Executive Summary

After a year of planning the first Kentucky Watershed Roundtable, it was wonderful to see the crowds fill the ballroom at the Holiday Inn North in Lexington. A total of 228 people attended some portion of the day and a half event with nearly 200 in attendance each day. A mix of local, state and federal government professionals, nonprofit and citizen groups, and individuals participated in the Roundtable sessions and discussions.

The objectives of the Kentucky Watershed Roundtable were: to raise awareness of watershed issues and resources; to leverage resources by building trust and forging links among partners; and to provide tools to support watershed and community development. Comments from the participants were very supportive and encouraging. Indeed, the evaluations showed that the objectives were on target and were achieved:

- 87% thought the Roundtable was a good chance to network with other organizations and agencies;
- 76% thought the training and workshops offered practical applications for their city, organization or watershed; and
- 96% thought the Roundtable should be an annual event!

The Roundtable blended a mix of facilitated basin breakout sessions and informational sessions on a variety of topics. A plenary session opened the Roundtable with an overview of watersheds and watershed processes. A discussion panel comprised of a variety of interest groups told the crowd why the Roundtable was important to their interests. A leadership plenary session comprised of state and federal agencies and other state leaders closed the Roundtable by listening and responding to the top concerns raised by the participants.

The luncheon speaker was Christine Olsenius, Executive Director of the Southeast Watershed Forum addressed “The Role of the State Watershed Roundtable”. Ms. Olsenius discussed the need to build a constituency for watershed protection and how Watershed Roundtables help accomplish this goal.

The Southeast Watershed Forum piloted the first multi-stakeholder regional Roundtable in 1998, as part of an effort to see how local issues and concerns could be better communicated to State and Federal Agencies. This regional Forum has fostered the subsequent development of state level Roundtables in Mississippi, Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama -- and now in Kentucky. She defined Watershed Roundtables as signature events that bring together a broad representation of stakeholders in a neutral setting to foster dialogue, build partnerships and improve water protection and restoration activities. She concluded by stating, “It is good to see a great first Roundtable in Kentucky!”



Participants were seated by watershed at the luncheon for additional networking opportunities.

A key feature of the Roundtable was a series of facilitated watershed breakout sessions. This provided participants an opportunity to express and discuss issues and actions in *their* respective watersheds. Participants met with others within their watershed, within each of seven major river basin groupings in the state: Big and Little Sandy, Four Rivers (Jackson Purchase area), Green-Tradewater, Kentucky, Licking and nearby Ohio tributaries, Salt and nearby Ohio tributaries, and Upper Cumberland watersheds.

The respective Division of Water Basin Coordinator and Kentucky Waterways Alliance Basin Delegate gave an overview of the conditions in each basin. A facilitator then guided each group with three basic questions.

1. Where can we work together: on issues or locations?
2. Who is doing what: actions and partners?
3. What do we commit to: in our organization, in our basin group, or outside this meeting?

Input from each basin group was compiled to provide a statewide summary of issues, actions and calls for commitments. The following are the key summary points raised by the participants, in preparation for the leadership panel in the closing session of the Roundtable. The details of each watershed breakout session are provided in Appendix B of the full Final Report.

Top Issues Presented to the Leadership Panel by Basin Groups:

- ◆ **Straight-pipes and septic systems**
- ◆ **Resource extraction** for both logging and mining
- ◆ **Nonpoint source runoff (NPS) and Urban Wet Weather Pollution;** including wet weather-related issues such as sedimentation, stormwater, combined sewer overflows (CSOs), confined animal feeding operations (CAFOs), development, flash floods, pathogens and agricultural runoff
- ◆ **Development, urban sprawl** and land use planning- the need for a comprehensive approach.
- ◆ Need for **community interest, involvement, and education**

Calls for Action and Action Steps:

- ◆ **Straight-pipes (septic systems)** call for systematic approach for operation and maintenance of systems when/where “sewer” pipes not available, and enforcement from state level
- ◆ **Resource extraction** calls for logging to stipulate minimum log size and to prohibit “bad” players from selling to mills; and for mining to include intermittent and ephemeral streams in federal legislation.
- ◆ **Nonpoint Source Pollution** calls for proper installation and use of best management practices (BMPs) encouraged by incentives, recognition, and enforcement (as appropriate) combined with research and application of innovative designs and materials
- ◆ **Development** calls for (1) education of buyers and builders, channel restorations, holistic developments, community-level roundtables, and greener ordinances; (2)

incentives and rewards for existing developments, compensation for lost green space, and comprehensive planning; (3) ordinances and enforcement of existing laws/regulations and consistency in regulations

- ◆ **Community interest, involvement, and education** calls for better collection, assessment, and dissemination of data, encourage local officials to attend education seminars (e.g., “water ed”), lobby for adequate staffing to implement erosion control programs
- ◆ **Urban sprawl** calls for increased education, outreach, and communication between agencies and public; develop and implement ordinances that protect water quality and quantity; and increase Health Department’s role in permitting and enforcement of onsite systems
- ◆ **Land use planning** calls for landowner and resident education, geographic information system (GIS) to track failing septic systems, targeted monitoring, publicity, and small flows planning

Selected Commitments from Groups:

- ◆ Kentucky Infrastructure Authority to look at *funding* resources, especially State Revolving Loan Funds (SRF)
- ◆ Area Development District’s via Water Councils to **work** with utilities and co-ops
- ◆ Roundtable attendees to be *included* on River Basin Team membership and correspondence
- ◆ *Continue and expand* informal (monthly breakfast) communication/coordination with local utilities and planning staffs
- ◆ Look to realtor boards to *sponsor* education efforts
- ◆ *Enhance* stormwater education from Division of Water (DOW)
- ◆ PRIDE to *contact* electric co-ops and, through the billing process, reach residents with information about septic systems
- ◆ Basin coordinators to *expand* invitations list for annual basin conferences

The statewide Leadership Panel was given this summary of issues, actions and commitments from the Roundtable participants. The Panel was asked the following for response and/or commitment for the “piece of the watershed puzzle” they hold. The questions and selected responses from the panel follow the list of Leadership Panelists.

Leadership Panel Participants:

Hugh Archer, Commissioner, Department for Natural Resources

Lloyd Cress, Chamber of Commerce

Rice Leach, Commissioner, Department for Public Health

Bob Logan, Commissioner, Department for Environmental Protection

Jerry Deaton, Director, League of Cities

Roger Recktenwald, Executive Director, Kentucky Infrastructure Authority

Marjan Peltier, EPA Region IV

1. How can we get better communication and cooperation between your agencies?

- ◆ Cities are in the middle of this. Education is the key. The League has added staff for water and wastewater issues. (Jerry Deaton)
 - ◆ Institutionalizing the process by incorporating (communication and cooperation) into one of our "media units," the Division of Water. This has helped to get a holistic approach. (Bob Logan)
 - ◆ With less state revenue and many pressing public health issues, you need to build the case better. It's not enough to state: "It's a public health problem" since there is no widespread disease. Must work together at the local level. (Rice Leach)
2. What about inconsistency and how can we increase enforcement resources?
- ◆ Enforcement is a tool that a resource agency uses to ensure that there is compliance with regulations and laws. Is it a good tool? That depends. Consistency is always a difficult task. Enforcement does not have clear-cut rules and procedures. (Bob Logan)
 - ◆ Enforcement should be prompt, decisive, effective, and directed at compliance rather than penalties. Our experience recently has not been decisive or prompt. If there is a compliance issue, there needs to be prompt resolution. (Lloyd Cress)
 - ◆ It's going to be hard to hold the line through traditional enforcement. This is running into private property rights. Thus, the future of environmental management is in education: adult and K-12. We need to get landowners involved. (Hugh Archer)
 - ◆ Any time an entity enforces a law, one hopes to get a change in behavior or a change in the environmental conditions. (Marjan Peltier)

Where to go for more information:

You can assess the full Final Report on-line at the web sites of the Kentucky Waterways Alliance, Inc. (www.KWAlliance.org) or the Kentucky Division of Water, watershed information (kywatersheds.org) or the University of Kentucky, Water Research Institute (www.uky.edu/WaterResources/) to see the details of the basin breakout sessions, the agenda, list of participants and more! Questions or comments about the event should be directed to Kentucky Waterways Alliance.

It was extremely helpful as Basin Coordinator to get many diverse individuals in one room to discuss and vote on issues and actions for the Salt River Basin. New thoughts and ideas were mentioned that no one else has ever brought to my attention. I believe this first Roundtable in Kentucky is the beginning of a great dialogue in the Salt River Basin.

I look forward to another great one next year!!!

*—Angela Kessans,
Salt River Basin Coordinator*

The Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet (NREPC) and the Kentucky Waterways Alliance do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, or disability. The NREPC and the Kentucky Waterways Alliance will provide, on request, reasonable accommodations including auxiliary aids and services necessary to afford an individual with a disability an equal opportunity to participate in all services, programs and activities. To request materials in an alternative format, contact the Kentucky Division of Water, 14 Reilly Road, Frankfort, KY, 40601 or call (502) 564-3410. Hearing- and speech-impaired persons can contact the agency by using the Kentucky Relay Service, a toll-free telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD). For voice to TDD, call 800-648-6057. For TDD to voice, call 800-648-6056.

Funding for this project 2003 Watershed Roundtable Conference was provided in part by a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) through the Kentucky Division of Water, Nonpoint Source Section, to the Kentucky Waterways Alliance as authorized by the Clean Water Act Amendments of 1987, §319(h) Nonpoint Source Implementation Grant # C9994861-99. The contents of this document do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the USEPA, KDOW or the Kentucky Waterways Alliance nor does the mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement. This document was printed on recycled paper.

Additional funding for this event was provided by the US EPA Region IV, the Tennessee Valley Authority, the University of Kentucky, Water Resources Research Institute, the United States Geologic Survey and the Kentucky Waterways Alliance, Inc.