

NC Source Water Collaborative Meeting

February 15, 2012

Attendees

Peter Kittany, Anne Coan, Bill Eaker, Christy Perrin, Don Rayno, Phil Trew, Bob Midgette, Tim Davis, Gale Johnson, Evan Kane, Lisa Creaseman, Cy Stober, Beth McGee, Kim Colson, Julie Ventaloro, Chad Ham, Sarah Bruce, Mike Schlegel, Pete Campbell, Jeff Marcus, Keith Starner, Brian Grogan, David Proper, Amy Keyworth, Melinda Chapman, Greg Jennings, Jay Frick, Amy Axon, Lisa Corbitt, Kim Garrett, Erica Anderson, Ed Buchan, Dale Threatt-Taylor, Greg Walker, and Fleming El-Amin.

Summary

The NC Source Water Collaborative held its second meeting on February 15, 2012. The meeting was held at the Dempsey Benton WTP in Garner. The primary objective of the meeting was to achieve consensus on mission and vision statements to capture the ideas and values of Collaborative members. A secondary objective was to agree on operating procedures to help guide the way in which the Collaborative makes decisions and does business. As per the agenda, the meeting had four components: (i) introductions, (ii) discussion of mission and vision, (iii) discussion of operating structure, and (iv) discussion of alternate meeting locations and future project ideas.

Introductions

While introducing themselves, participants were asked to answer the following question:

“Do you have an idea of what you wanted to contribute to the Collaborative? If so, what is one idea?”

Summary of the responses to the question:

Facilitation and watershed planning; DWR Water Supply planning and support with environmental education; incorporate source water collaboration ideas into land use planning; staff support; wellhead protection expertise; bring county health department and groundwater protection perspective; integrate land conservation with source water protection; work to support source water protection planning; work on prioritization of CWSRF with drinking water; represent regulatory side; bring the utility perspective and identifying opportunities for collaboration; clean water education outreach, experience with mass media; experience with complex regional problems associated with water resource planning and regional collaboration; experience with habitat protection and conservation collaboratives; identification of priorities for protection; interested in engaging local government and developing recommendations for land use planning and wildlife habitat protection; development of source water protection plans; research, education and partnership from the planning perspective; represent the Cooperative Extension and education; work to show how the Farm Agency can help with source water protection; outreach and advocacy to bring in lower income communities to help with education and awareness; and experience with Mills River, French Broad and Black Mountain source water protection.

Mission and Vision Discussion

With so many diverse participants, defining a mission and vision to reflect the group as a whole was anticipated to be difficult. Members of NC Cooperative Extension volunteered to help guide discussion and apply techniques to reach consensus. Discussion was active and a wide range of relevant ideas were suggested by the members. While it took some time, the members did an excellent job working through

their differences and opinions to refine their Mission and Vision. Group dynamics were greatly enhanced by Christy Perrin, NC Cooperative Extension Service, who led facilitation and applied consensus techniques. Resulting Mission and Vision statements are shown below, with one slight improvement made after the meeting via email discussion.

Mission

We facilitate collaborative approaches and creative solutions for drinking water protection through identification and implementation of complementary objectives, stewardship, education and outreach, and leveraging of resources.

Vision

North Carolina's drinking water resources and their associated environmental assets are protected to provide safe, sustainable drinking water for the benefit of all citizens.

Discussion of Operating Structure

Jay Frick led discussion regarding the operating structure of the Collaborative. Participants agreed they need a mechanism to make formal decisions. A draft Operational Structure was presented. The draft Structure defined roles of SW Collaborative participants, established how the group will achieve consensus, and outlined meeting procedures.

The group discussed many questions, including:

Who can be considered a member and what process will be used to make decisions?

Who will sign the statement of purpose and commitment?

Who will be representative of each organization?

What will the decision making process include: consensus process vs. Roberts rules?

Can only signing members vote?

Do we have to have a quorum to pass decision?

General agreement was reached that the Collaborative would embrace the following: utilize the consensus building process to achieve agreement on topics, as described by Christy Perrin; allow members that have signed the statement of purpose and commitment (and their designated representatives) to vote on Collaborative issues; and define a quorum threshold with the caveat that quorum decisions can be made via email or doodle polls. Finally, the group agreed to revise the draft Operational Structure document to reflect the decisions made during meeting. The document would then be sent out to the group for review and comment.

Meeting Adjournment

Due to lack of time, discussion was shortened for the remaining agenda items. However, the group agreed to continue meeting at the same location. Also, the "Candidate Source Water Protection Collaborative Initiatives" document was distributed and the group was asked to consider ideas or concepts that would make the list more comprehensive. Participants were asked to bring these ideas to the next meeting.

