

# NC Source Water Collaborative

## May 6, 2015 Meeting Summary

### Attendees

Rebecca Sadosky, NCDENR DWR	Anjie Ackerman, NCDENR DMS	Julie Ventaloro, NCDENR DEMLR	Tom Gerow, Jr, NCFSS
Jay Frick, NCDENR DWR	Christy Perrin, WRRRI	Caitlin Burke, CTNC	Cy Stober, PTRC
Annette Lucas, NCDENR DEMLR	Joey Hester, NCDENR DSWC	Leigh Ann Hammerbacher, Raleigh	Amy Keyworth, NCDENR DWR
Debbie Maner, NCRWA			

### Introduction

The meeting was called to order by Rebecca Sadosky. An announcement was made that this was the first Web enabled meeting of the NC SWC. Introductions were made around the room.

### HB894

Jay Frick provided an update on HB 894 legislation. The update topics included:

- December 2014 Stakeholder Meeting – included a summary of exit survey, and PCS exercise results
- April 2015 Interim Report – highlighted the existing regulations in place that assist with drinking water protection
- May 2015 Stakeholder Meeting – topics to include; progress made since December meeting, the introduction of a revised SWP planning approach, discussion and information gathering exercise, identification of mandatory plan components brainstorming exercise, and the identification of criteria to be used to determine schedule and plan complexity requirements.

Following the presentation there was some discussion regarding the redundancy between some existing plans including the Hazard Mitigation Plan and Emergency Response Plan and the revised SWP Planning approach. Jay indicated that would be an excellent comment for the stakeholder meeting.

### SWP Awards

Rebecca gave a presentation on the inaugural round of source water protection awards and proposed minor changes to the forms and maintenance activities moving forward. Ten nominations were received for the 2015 awards and 8 awards were given. Nominations were received for all 6 categories and provided good geographical representation. The team has received positive feedback about the program as well industry recognition. The Awards team met separately after the general meeting to discuss the changes and maintenance in more detail.

## **Speaker Topics**

### **Topic # 1 – Minimum Design Criteria (MDC)**

Annette Lucas with DEMLR Stormwater Program provided an overview of the development of MDC for stormwater control measures and the fast-track stormwater permitting program. The MDC are currently out for public input. In addition to the public comment period, the stormwater program has announced that under certain conditions, the MDC are now available for use.

### **Topic # 2 – High Rock Lake Watershed Project Summary and Examining Effects of Land Use/Land Cover on Water Quality and Treatment Costs.**

Tom Gerow, Jr, with the NCFS spoke about the relationship between forests and water quality in one watershed in NC. Below is an excerpt from the subject study's abstract. Forests are recognized as a priority source of relatively high quality and reliable water, be it for human use or ecological function. The High Rock Lake watershed straddles the piedmont and foothill regions of North Carolina, and a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) restoration plan is being developed for the reservoir. The findings of the study should add to the body of knowledge regarding how forests can be a solution for protecting water resources, and may help to reduce the costs of treating public water supplies. Seventy-one datasets obtained over five years of benthic macroinvertebrates sampling within the watershed were analyzed, and used as a proxy for determining overall water quality. Estimates of the costs to treat water, and water quality grab sample data from thirteen public water systems in the watershed were also obtained and analyzed. Finally, a method was developed for conducting a GIS-based stream buffer land cover assessment, in an effort to localize the findings of the study and identify potential land parcels where forestry-related conservation practices may improve watershed health, function, or quality. This study identified a correlation between the extent of forest cover, and effects of other land cover types, with the quality of water for ecological function as well as the relative cost to treat public water supplies.

## **Follow-Up Actions**

Rebecca: Schedule next NC SWC meeting.