

**NC Source Water Collaborative
Meeting Summary
May 19, 2016**

Attendees

Anjie Ackerman, NCDEQ DMS	Anne Coan, NC Farm Bureau Federation	Jay Frick, NCDEQ DWR
Tom Gerow, NCDACS NCFS	Joey Hester, NCDACS DSWC	Gale Johnson, NCDEQ DWR
Amy Keyworth, NCDEQ DWR	Rebecca Sadosky, NCDEQ DWR	Cy Stober, NCDEQ DWR
Dale Threatt-Taylor, Wake Co. SWCD	Liz Weisbrot, City of Raleigh Public Utilities	

Introduction

The meeting was called to order by Rebecca Sadosky, who introduced Cy Stober to the stakeholders.

Reorientation of SWC and Its Activities, Past & Present

Cy Stober’s presentation of the NC Source Water Collaborative (SWC) history, accomplishments, and needs is attached to these minutes for reference. In brief, they highlight that the NCSWC accomplished a lot in a short amount of time, including the establishment of an organization infrastructure, mission, vision, and statement of purpose. A NCSWC logo and tag line were also developed in that short time. It also established an Education Work Group that was focused on outreach to local elected officials, developing a water supply protection primer and postcard, but was somewhat derailed in its focus by the introduction of HB894; and an Awards Work Group that very successfully launched an annual awards program that has handed out twelve NC Source Water Protection Awards in six categories.

Introductions

Cy Stober briefed the attendees that he held off on introductions as he felt that the NCSWC needed to justify their meeting and the participation of the attendees first before asking them to introduce themselves and share one reason they are there and one thing they need the NCSWC to do for them to continue to participate.

Dale Threatt-Taylor stated that, while she was attending on behalf of the Wake County SWCD, she is active in multiple groups that are stakeholders in the NCSWC and could continue to contribute on their behalf. One of the main reasons she is attending is to justify conservation actions for the development of potential future water supplies – namely the Little River – regardless of whether they are developed or not. She needs the NCSWC to empower/support her to manage resources for such new supplies at a watershed scale.

Tom Gerow is primarily interested in the relationship(s) between healthy forests and clean waters. He has participated with many other southeastern states to proactively address water quality conditions through forestry BMPs, and emphasizing to the public that active forestry can be compatible with clean water. This is especially important, as most of the timber in the United States comes from the US Southeast and the sector is only expected to grow. He is working with a group that is focusing on this message and actively connecting public water supply administrators with forestry practitioners, especially to keep watersheds forested. He needs the NCSWC to serve as a single point of contact for drinking water issues in the state and speak on behalf of all of its stakeholders. There are so many professional organizations and non-profits in the field that it is confusing to figure out who the (best) resources are. He also wants (NCSWC) to be a clearinghouse for relevant information; a repository for case studies, research, and communication.

Liz Weisbrot is attending on behalf of the City of Raleigh's Water Supply Section because the NCSWC serves the city's mission. The City has a Water Protection Advisory Task Force that could benefit from work by the NCSWC and could be a practitioner of the actions and policies that the NCSWC might promote. She also needs support in better promoting drinking water protection to a larger public audience.

Joey Hester coordinates the reporting for all affected soil and water conservation districts in the state's four nutrient sensitive watersheds. He needs the NCSWC to connect non-agricultural communities with the agricultural community and its water quality protection activities. He needs to be used more by the NCSWC so that the outreach products created meet his needs.

Anne Coan from the NC Farm Bureau, Inc., wants to hear more about both HB894 and SWAP 2.0, which she has checked out online already. She is uncertain how the NCSWC will ever make inroads with the private sector and private landowners. She represents NC's largest constituency of private landowners and is still unclear what the NCSWC can do for them. She does need the NCSWC to communicate all of the work and water quality protection the agriculture sector does throughout the state.

Anjie Ackerman is a planner with the NC Division of Mitigation Services and is very interested in integrating water supply protection into their watershed planning efforts, including project prioritization. She is going to be initiating a planning effort in Chatham County in the Jordan Lake watershed and needs the NCSWC to have some role in that process if source water protection is going to be highlighted in the effort.

Amy Keyworth focuses on groundwater planning and outreach on the needs for groundwater supplies and protection in her position. Nearly half of the state relies upon groundwater supplies, yet it is discussed with much less frequency than surface water. She needs to know how she can have the NCSWC better communicate to a larger audience on the concerns and needs of groundwater supplies and communicate with other NCSWC members on these issues as well.

Jay Frick is the branch manager within the Public Water Supply Section and Rebecca and Cy's supervisor. He provided a little background on the NCSWC and how the USEPA gave a grant to NC to pilot the program to set a national example. He responded to the presentation and comments by stating that the NCSWC can't meet just to meet – it needs to assert where it is going and how it can serve as a communication conduit and sounding board for involved members. He needs the NCSWC to raise visibility on important issues for all members and produce deliverables that add value to everyone's work. He mentioned that the quarterly

meeting format may hamper some productive inertia and that meeting more frequently – even indirectly via phone – may provide more energy for the NCSWC. He observed, though, that some of the major visibility and organization issues will need to be redressed with additional funding.

Kelly Coffey is new to the NCSWC, and is representing the High Country COG, which is an original member. He needs to be able to engage local elected officials to think about source water on both short- and long-term scales.

SWAP 2.0 Webmap Portal Training

Rebecca Sadosky led a presentation on the new portal for accessing SWAP information, especially the watersheds that drain to public water supplies and PCSs. She explained the various functions and tools and provided screen shots. The application includes a database of potential contaminant sources. It also has delineated areas for all of the state's nearly 9,000 public drinking water sources. Proximity tools allow users to locate potential contaminants and/or drinking water sources around a geographical point of interest. A .pdf of her presentation is attached to these minutes for reference. The response was generally enthusiastic and supportive of NCDEQ making an updated and easier-to-use online map.

Tom Gerow requested a glossary of terms for reference by those not intimately involved with source water and water quality issues.

HB894 Briefing

At the request of several NCSWC members, Jay Frick briefed all present on the current status of HB894 rules, which are being drafted internally. They are interpreting a law passed in 2014 in response to the chemical spill on the New River in West Virginia and the Eden, NC, coal ash spill. The NCSWC provided a key role early on in the outreach and feedback on how to act in response to the new law. In summary, they are currently being interpreted to require public surface water suppliers to assess the potential contamination sources (PCS) in their water supply watersheds, determine the general risk they pose to supplying consumers with drinking water, evaluate responses to a contamination event, open communication with the PCS owners in an effort to mitigate risk, and communicate with the public about these source water protection plans. There will be no requirements for PCS owners to do anything, although the intent of the rules is to have open and good communication between them and the public water supply operators. Anne Coan and Tom Gerow asked some clarifying questions and Jay replied in detail. The NCDEQ will be having a stakeholder meeting to review draft rules soon, hopefully this summer.

Next Steps

Cy Stober briefed the stakeholders on the PWSS's emerging efforts to revisit and reboot the entire Source Water Assessment and Protection program, from how it evaluates the inherent vulnerability and potential contamination of all public surface and groundwater supplies in the state to how these results and their issues are reported and shared with the public to how the NCSWC can serve this effort's needs by assisting with outreach, education, and guidance. On July 26 Cy will have a State Technical Advisory Group meeting to outline improvements to SWAP. Some of the objectives on the

agenda include grouping potential contaminants into groups that give them relative weight on calculating Susceptibility Ratings. There will also be discussion on how to improve assessments for groundwater systems.

Anne Coan and Tom Gerow requested that staff **clarify the three parallel efforts** for everyone's sakes so that they can be clear on which meetings they need to prioritize and how they may inform each other. This request was supported and echoed by all others.

Cy Stober requested input and guidance from the NCSWC on next steps he can take to build momentum for the NCSWC and have another meeting with actionable items soon.

Joey Hester and Amy Keyworth want to **prioritize the local elected official/legislative education packet**. They want to know the current status of the notes and evolution of the packet. They would also like a **short list of funding entities that could support for different parts** of developing such a packet and distributing it throughout the state. They would like to know what other states are doing.

Amy Keyworth would like to **revisit the two voting spreadsheets used at one of the last meeting held by the NCSWC and at one of the first meetings to draw upon for action items and re-engaging NCSWC members who aren't present**. This should all be present in the meeting minutes.

Cy Stober acknowledged that participation in the NCSWC Awards program dropped this year, especially in eastern NC, so a **simple evaluation of the awards program** could be beneficial.

Cy Stober offered to **report back on other states' SWC's for reference**, especially for those programs east of the Mississippi River, where water is treated as a public good. He also offered to report back on **evolving discussions with the NC Wildlife Resources Commission, Watershed Stewardship Network, and Clean Water Management Trust Fund on potential programmatic collaboration**.

*All programs in **bold** are action items for NCDEQ staff for the next meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:40.

Notes by Cy Stober, NCDEQ, PWSS.