



THE BLACK CREEK WATERSHED WIRE

News from Black Creek Watershed, Cary, NC

February 2009

Visit the project website at www.ncsu.edu/WECO/blackcreek

Black Creek Highlights Oct. '08- Jan '09

Happy New Year, Black Creek Fans! We have exciting news as lots has been happening since our last meetings in 2008! We have new watershed babies, a new proposal under consideration, new educational materials, and a new funding source for 2009!

Read on to learn more details, and come to our next meeting on March 30 to review and discuss the draft watershed management plan, and help plan for spring activities, including the first

Springtime Big Sweep for Black Creek.

The Black Creek Watershed Association (BCWA) met on Oct. 27 at Town Hall and Dec. 8 at Bond Park. Thanks to Charles Brown for securing the locations.

The next BCWA meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 30 at Bond Park Community Center.



Watershed Management Plan Update

Goals, Objectives, and Strategies

We define *goals* as the desired medium - long term outcomes. For example, one goal for the watershed plan is:

Provide clean water for safe physical contact with creek

We define objectives as specific measurable impacts. For example, an objective in the plan is:

Reduce fecal coliform bacteria levels in stream to <200 CFU

A strategy to help meet the objective of reducing fecal coliform bacteria is:

Install pet waste stations at entrances to the Black Creek Greenway

A matrix containing potential goals, objectives, and strategies was built based on results from the watershed assessment and feedback from the BCWA over the last 2 years. This matrix has been circulated on the listserv, and handed out at the last 2 meetings for review and discussion.

BCWA members amended the goals and objectives, and added potential strategies. Some members provided feedback via email when they were not able to attend meetings. These changes have been incorporated. The most recent draft of the matrix is posted on the website for public review.

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The Black Creek Watershed Association typically meets on the last Monday of the month as needed- there is no February Meeting.

Next meeting:

Monday, March 30

6:15-8:30 p.m.

(Social time 6:15-6:30)

LOCATION:

Bond Park

Community Center

Agenda:

- ◆ Review and discuss draft Watershed Plan
- ◆ Plan community events for Spring
- ◆ Discuss CWMTF Grant

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Watershed Management Plan Update

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Evaluating potential impact of strategies

At the December meeting, participants considered the connections between the proposed strategies and the goals the plan seeks to achieve. The Goals were placed on one side of a large piece of paper posted on a wall, and juxtaposed across from the main strategies under consideration. The exercise promoted discussion about the potential impacts of the strategies. Lines were drawn between each strategy and its respective goals. The number of connections were then tallied to determine potential impact.

Strategies that were perceived to have the broadest range of impact across goals scored higher. The scores were as follows:

- 7 Continue/expand litter removal
- 6 Protect natural areas adjacent to greenway
- 5 Design/create BMPs in public spaces as demos
- 5 Increase forest canopy in developments adjacent to greenway
- 4 Remove exotic & invasive plants
- 4 Hold community workshops to educate about BMPs
- 4 Install pet waste stations
- 4 Install many residential/HOA BMPs
- 4 Create view spots of natural areas
- 3 Present Education & watershed plan to TOC Boards & Council
- 3 Citizens learn to recognize & report erosion control failure
- 3 Maintain forest canopy over greenway
- 2 Educate HOAs & community groups through presentations

Photos of the exercise will be added to the website.

Discussion about moving forward

Source of phthalates?

Participants at the October meeting pondered the source of phthalates found in Black Creek water quality samples. Phthalates are used in beauty products (fragrances) and

as plasticizers. Shelby commented that quality control of sampling is important (could plastic sample bottles leach into the samples?).

They reviewed the dates of the Town of Cary's illicit discharge survey of the watershed, since illicit discharges that were found were immediately rectified. The date the phthalates were reported by the Tech Team was November '07, while the Town survey was conducted between Dec. '06- Feb. '07. Participants hypothesized that if the samples were taken after Feb '07, the sources were likely not removed.

Identifying sites: The group discussed how to involve citizens to identify specific stormwater retro-fit sites. With the map resources we have, we should be able to show citizens where to look (where stormwater pipes end, or on the land uphill of concentrated stormwater flow).

Support for implementation: Participants suggested partnering with the development community, such as Crosland Homes, to seek matching for projects. They also wondered if letters of support from Homeowners associations would help with grants.

Town of Cary Citizen Advisory Groups

Vicki explained how the new Town of Cary Citizen Issue Advisory Group process works. The purpose of the process is to help citizens bring an issue before the Town Council. Citizens form a group, then have 60-90 days to research and discuss their issue. They formulate their recommendations and are allowed 15 minutes to speak to the Town Council. The request has to benefit the Town and its citizens. The BCWA discussed the possibility of bringing the finished watershed plan to Council through this method. A potential request is for matching funds for implementation.

Watershed Assessment Report

The Tech Team is finishing their report of results. The draft report will be provided for review in advance of the March meeting.



Funding Black Creek Watershed Improvements

NC Clean Water Management Trust Fund

WECO staff just received notice that the NC Clean Water Management Trust Fund (CWMTF) has decided to partially fund the Black Creek Innovative Stormwater Grant proposal. This is just one of the proposals we worked on together at a meeting. The CWMTF Board chose to remove the portion of the grant that funds large retro-fit BMPs on public property. They suggested approaching them at a future date with specific locations and completed BMP designs.

The funded part of the proposal includes:

- ◆ a survey of watershed residents to learn their views about Black Creek in general and how to fund restoration and stormwater retrofits,
- ◆ conducting homeowner disconnect campaign, and
- ◆ implementing backyard BMPs.

The total amount of the grant will be \$122,000.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) 319 Grant

A grant proposal (for EPA Section 319 funds for stormwater runoff) was submitted to the NC Division of Water Quality in January. The grant includes public and residential BMPs, a salamander study to better quantify a baseline for these critters, and hydrologic modeling to follow where the watershed assessment left off. This seeks to better quantify potential improvements that can be made by implementing practices throughout the watershed.

If chosen for the first round, partners will be invited to interview for the grant in May.

Student Logo Winners Honored at Reception

BCWA held a reception on December 8 to thank participants of the student logo contest. The BCWA honored Lizzy Seaquist (below) winner of the high school category of the logo contest, and Cindy Chen (right) winner of the middle school category. They were presented with certificates of appreciation and giftcards to Café Carolina. The logo contest and educational materials developed were funded by a grant from the Cary Community Foundation.

A slideshow of all student logo entries is posted on our website. Special thanks to everyone who participated!



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Welcome watershed babies!

Congratulations to Elena Horvath and her husband on the birth of their second daughter, Addie!

Congratulations to Shelby Gull Laird and her husband Malcom on the birth of Patricia, their first child!

A Springtime Big Sweep for Black Creek?

Based on the high level of interest in keeping Black Creek clean, we propose adding a springtime Big Sweep for Black Creek. Winter storm events have washed more trash into the creek. This will be discussed via email to see if there is interest in rounding up volunteers for a springtime event. If you or your community group is interested in participating, please contact Christy.

Fate of the stream gauge

The stream gauge has been taken offline, as the equipment needs repair, and support for maintaining the equipment and collecting/analyzing data has not been identified yet.

Watershed Swag

Thanks to the grant from the Cary Community Foundation, of the NC Community Foundation, the BCWA has a new logo, and this logo has been printed on stickers and reusable cloth grocery bags. The bags also carry the slogan:

Less Rain Down the Drain!

When folks attend the Oscars they get a bag of swag - come to the next BCWA Meeting to get your swag!
With these materials and a new CWMTF grant, we are poised to start a disconnect campaign.



October Meeting Participants

- Patrick Beggs, *WECO; NCSU*
- Charles Brown, *Town of Cary*
- Susan Davenport, *Beechtree, Cary PRCR*
- Amin Davis, *Beechtree resident*
- Bill Dupont, *North Raleigh*
- Marilyn Grolitzer, *North Raleigh*
- Elena Horvath, *Silverton*
- Shelby Gull-Laird, *NCSU*
- Eric Kulz, *North Harrison Trace, DWQ*
- Vickie Maxwell, *Wessex HOA*
- Bob Morris, *Silverton HOA, Cary Greenways Committee*
- Christy Perrin, *NCSU; Windchase*

December participants

- Patrick Beggs, *NCSU*
- Charles Brown, *Town of Cary*
- Cindy Chen & family
- Nathan Cobb, *Beechtree*
- Susan Davenport, *Cary PRCR*
- Bill Dupont, *North Raleigh*
- Marilyn Grolitzer, *North Raleigh*
- Pat Hudson, *Cary Rotary*
- Vicki Maxwell, *Wessex HOA*
- Heidi Maloy, *Cary Academy*
- Bob Morris, *Silverton, Cary Greenways*
- Christy Perrin, *NCSU; Windchase*
- Lizzy Seaquist & family
- Shirley Wasson

