

LA/UE River Comprehensive Watershed Study

Meeting Minutes, February 29th, 2008
Cobb County-Marietta Water Authority

In Attendance:

Jerry Jones, Malcolm Pirnie	Steve Shelton, CCWS
Dean Trawick Mobile USACE	Lynn Tully, Dawson County
Gary Evans, BCWS	Doris Cook, EWSA
Michael Yancey, BCWD	Tim Perkins, Forsyth County
Clete Barton, BCWD	Norman Pope, Pickens County
Marjorie Hicks, Cherokee County	Brian Ruggs, Malcolm Pirnie
David Kubala, CCWSA	Mike Wooden, Malcolm Pirnie
Mike Morrissey, CCWSA	Steven Davie, Tetra Tech
Lori Forrester, CCWSA	Chris Millard, Tetra Tech
Jennifer Lowe, CCWSA	Steve Blackburn, EPA
Jim Parsons, CCMWA	Stacey Bouma, EPA
Patrick Pherson, CCMWA	Liz Booth, EPD
Karen Osborne, CCMWA	Brandon Moody, EPD
Bob Kenyon, CCMWA	Sandy Tucker, FWS
Dolisa Williams, CCMWA	Chris Smith, USGS
Chris Welsh, CCMWA	Diane Minick, Upper Etowah River Alliance
Bob Bourne, CCWS	Susan S. Raines, Facilitator

Summary of Discussions:

10:00 am

1. Thanks go to Jim Parsons and Cobb County-Marietta Water Authority for hosting the meeting.
2. USACE Updates: Dean Trawick
There will be no funding appropriation for current FY 08 and there is no indication to date that there will be any FY 09 funding either. If there are unused funds from another project, it may be possible to secure up to \$100,000 in funds. For this to occur, it will be critical that all in-kind services and funds have been supplied and recorded in order to be in balance with the 50/50 split between federal and local funding. Please ensure that you have entered all your in-kind service contributions via the project website at www.la-uewatershed.com
3. Website Demonstration: Mike Wooden, Malcolm Pirnie
www.la-uewatershed.com
Please use the website to access meeting minutes, announcements about future meetings, draft and final reports, send emails to project leadership, etc. Subscribe via the website in order to receive updates via email.
4. In-Kind Services Database Update: Jerry Jones, Malcolm Pirnie

Every sponsor will create a unique password. For multiple employees in each group, there will be 1 sponsor-contact in charge of sharing the password and managing access to this database for his/her employees. Most sponsors have successfully logged in-kind services in this database. If you have not done so and need guidance to do this, please contact Jerry Jones (jjones@pirnie.com). Please log in all your current data (since January 1st, 2008) and all data going forward.

5. Data Viewer Update: Steven Davie, Tetra Tech
The data viewer is now available online and can be reached through a link on the main project website: www.la-uewatershed.com. Data from WRDB (water chemistry, etc) and EDAS (ecological data) are now accessible through an Oracle database that will respond to queries. This system was demonstrated at the meeting. Each sponsor will have a password and can manage access to the data for its own employees via this password. Data can be accessed by county, HUC 10, HUC 12, and individual sites. Sonde data has not yet been integrated into the dataset as the sponsors are currently working to QA/QC the data. Please use the data viewer and report any concerns or questions via the data viewer itself or to Jeffrey.white@tetrattech.com

6. Watershed Assessment Update: Sam Stribling, Tetra Tech
The various types of data gathered for this project are being integrated, combined and given weighted in order to create a clearer picture of the status of the individual sub-watersheds. This is now being done at the HUC 10 level, but the data will allow for analysis at the HUC 12 level by Year 6 of the study. The goal is to examine the sources of environmental stressors and the environmental responses to those stresses. “Sources” include land cover and land use, water withdrawals etc. “Response indicators” are biological conditions (MMI), such as fish populations, etc. The biological condition gradient will give a number to each sub-watershed and assign a number from 1 to 6, to indicate the level of degradation for each area. A “1” indicates pristine conditions and a “6” indicates the highest level of degradation. This information, known as the “Integrated Assessment”, will become part of the larger watershed assessment and protection plan. The draft integrated assessment was distributed in hard copy at this meeting and will be posted on the web site within the next 2 weeks. EPD has been consulted regarding the methodology for the integrated assessment.

More detailed information on the methodology for the integrated assessment can be obtained from Sam Stribling at Tetra Tech (James.Stribling@tetrattech.com).

7. Watershed Protection Plan (WPP) Update: Brian Ruggs, Malcolm Pirnie
The WPP will examine the stressor sources and link them to potential activities to protect those areas of the watershed that are less impaired and improve those that have higher levels of impairment. The report will contain a toolbox of management practices that can be used to address the types of concerns highlighted by the data in this study. This will include potential policy recommendations and the predicted impacts of each suggested change to policy

and practice. The report will include potential public perceptions about the suggested policies and practices.

8. Statewide Water Plan Report: David Kubala

The Statewide Water Plan has passed the legislature and sub-state planning will begin soon. The local sponsors for this project will fall into two different watersheds for the state's planning purposes.

9. Sponsor Wrap Up: Susan Raines, Facilitator

Next Meeting: May 2nd, 10 am – 12:00 pm, Dawson County. Specific location and directions TBA.

Research: In the next few months sponsors and other project collaborators will receive a survey designed to gather the “learnings” from this project that may be of use for other similar efforts at multi-jurisdictional environmental collaborations. Participation in this survey is voluntary and can be anonymous (if desired). Surveys will be emailed to the entire list in 1-2 months.

| [12:15 pm. Adjourn](#)