

1. Agenda

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[RCWC MTG AGENDA JAN 2018 .PDF](#)

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[RCWC MTG NOTES JAN 2018 .PDF](#)

Robeson Creek Watershed Council

Ag Conference room in the Chatham County Conference and Ag Center

Thursday, January 25, 2017 @ 10 am to 12 pm

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions (Catherine Deininger, Biocenosia LLC)
2. Chatham Park Stormwater Manual (Fred Royal, Town Engineer)
3. Grant applications for Town Lake (Catherine)
 - a. Duke Energy Water Resources Fund
 - b. NC Water Resources Development Grant
4. Robeson Creek Greenway & opportunities for continued development and expansion (Harvey Harman, Chatham Habitat with Humanity)
5. Wetland protection (Karen Hall, Biocenosia LLC)
6. Other updates and/or announcements (all)
7. Set next meeting date (all)



Notes from meeting on Thursday, January 25, 2018 @ 10 am to 12 pm

Attendance Catherine Deininger, Biocenosis; Fred Royal, Town of Pittsboro; Karen Hall, Biocenosis; Emily Sutton, Haw River Assembly; Susannah Goldston, Chatham SWCD; Cindy Perry, Town Mayor; Harvey Harman, Chatham Habitat; Bett Foley, Town Board; Paul Clark, NC DEQ-DWR

Chatham Park Stormwater Manual

- Fred Royal, presented on how the Chatham Park (CP) Stormwater Element and a Stormwater Manual were developed. Hunter Freeman, WithersRavenel, and Fred worked with Bill Hunt, NCSU and others to develop the manual
- Basis for the stormwater manual was to answer the question - does development within CP Planned Development District quality for stormwater excellence?
- Used the State's new Stormwater Control Measure (SCM) Manual (both Pittsboro and CP use this manual) which uses a minimum design criteria (MDC). This manual has primary and secondary SCM. The State has done away with Total Suspended Solids (TSS) criteria. If you using a primary SCM then you do away with 85% TSS automatically. According to the state the design criteria for TSS of 85% is not reachable in the field.
- How do we measure environmental excellence with CP? Came up with a recommendation to do a scoring mechanism and counting points. CP is so huge that a stormwater Master Plan map had to be develop with 13 subwatersheds. How many go into Robeson Creek? Performance scoring occurs where the water leaves the subwatershed.
- Bonus points – developed an average performance standard with 100% as a baseline. CP has to be higher than 100% to be excellent – have to meet 120%. Get to 120% with bonus points from wider buffers, protecting trees, avoiding streams, steep slopes, education, signage, etc. Susannah that erodible soils be included. Catherine suggested looking at GIS layer that combines steep slope with erodible soils.
- Expect next version of CP stormwater manual includes an increased score of 130% to address area adjacent to the Haw. Fred is hoping to see higher points for steep slopes and higher bar for Haw River lands. Also, he is curious to see how the development scores within the subwatershed stack up. Chatham Park stormwater manager will have to keep track of the scoring.
- Emily concern about profitable land on Haw being more developed. Concerned that the point system isn't strong enough to prohibit this from happening. Fred suggested that the need to avoid development on steep slope will help. Can land conservation be traded off for education? Yes, but education provides a lot less points than land conservation.
- Waiting for a new version of the stormwater manual and element from CP. Still also looking at tree protection and open space elements.

Proposed service station/car wash/fast food project on the corner of Masonic & East Streets

- Eagle Gas station is being proposed and they have the right to move forward with project since the parcel is zone C2.
- Stream was piped under the site in the past.
- Need help in following ways:
 1. Looking for outpouring from community to newspapers, to the board, petition showing objection adjacent to historical, water quality problems. With people who know the lay of the land that can speak to the issue.
 2. Seeking to find someone who is willing to sell appropriate piece of property out by the bypass for development of an Eagle Gas station.
 3. The town needs to figure out what should go into this property and have the zoning change so this won't occur again.
- Town staff has been going through multiple reviews of the property. Required solid removal stormwater devices. And also requiring them to Green the site by doing a lot of planting and reduce the impervious surface.
- Proposal is still in front of the planning board, so don't expect it will come to the town before April or May. Also, Noel the produce man has been given another year lease suggesting that project won't begin for at least another year.
- Potential project area for a linear park for daylighting the stream. Grants are available to help pay for the cost. Share the feasibility study from Siler City for the daylighting the stream in Park Shopping Center. Karen and/or Catherine will come to the next comment period to present the story about the creek that runs under the property.
- Traffic concerns about demolition trucks exiting on to 64. Fred said construction trucks will be required to use an entrance off of a side street.

Grant applications for Town Lake

- Biocenosis LLC will support the Town of Pittsboro in grant application process to obtain funding to install a spill way and enhance wetlands at Town Lake Park.
- Applications will be prepared for the private Duke Energy Water Resources Fund (WRF) and the NC Water Resources Development (WRD) Grant.
- Budgets and timelines will be developed so that the Duke Energy grant can be used as a match the NC WRD funds. The Duke Energy WRF has an 18-month working schedule and the NC WRD has a 2-year working schedule.
- Letter of Inquiry for Duke Energy WRF is due April 1, request for proposal occurs May with decision given in Fall 2018. Spring application cycle for NC WRD is Jan 1 to June 30.
- Review of the grant applications have to go to the town board as part of their consent agenda.
- Damage done to spillway from Matthews could be possible have emergency disaster funds from SWCD for repair. Susannah will look into this.
- Slider turtles and beavers continue to be an issue too.

- Note Amin is administering two grants right now so his time availability is limited.

Robeson Creek Greenway & opportunities for continued development and expansion

- Harvey Harman, suggested that focus needs to be brought to the subwatershed that the Robeson Creek Greenway leads to before development occurs that will cause increase stormwater. Habitat for Humanity is developing in that subwatershed and they are protecting the stream, but they could use help. They'd also would like to see the Greenway extended into the subwatershed and make connections to downtown.
- Current RC Greenway has erosion problems and has received some money to repair but only enough to put it back to the stage it was at before.
- Water Resource Development Grant can also be used for greenway!!!!
- The town has put in a grant application to DOT to update their Pedestrian and Park and Recreation plan. Would be good to have trail in the new plan. Harvey says it's in the existing plan but not highlighted. Trail needs to go so somewhere in order to be well used.
- Subwatershed between the two creeks could use a SCM to reduce the runoff. Fred suggested that we look at 319 funding for SCM. Mayor pointed out that Boy Scout could help with projects.

Wetland protection

- Karen Hall expressed interest in seeing a greater protection of the wetlands within the watershed. Not a lot of wetland with the RC watershed, but the ones are very valuable for water quality and education. Good way to expand the environmental programs with a focus on the wetlands.
- Grants are available for preservation and education. CWMTF does conservation easement grants. Who would these be of value to and would be willing to hold easements?
- Wetlands within the floodplain are already protected. Need to identify if there are wetlands outside the floodplain that need protection. Example wetlands behind the Justice Center and the wetlands between the Conference Center and CCCC. Dave Penrose found mussels in the wetland between the CCC and Conference Center.
- Paul suggested doing an assessment of the wetlands use the Rapid Wetland Assessment method. Triangle Land Conservancy had a map of Climate Resiliency map. Also, could talk with the County's Climate Change Committee.
- Is the wetland with beaver dam behind Powell Place protected?

Next meeting dates are April 26th, July 26th and Oct 25th