



Sink or Swim?

Why Local Staff are Critical to Watershed Planning and Implementation

NOAA CNP Conference
Nov 16-18, 2006

CENTER FOR
WATERSHED
PROTECTION



Fisher-Price Watershed Planning Device

For practitioners
6 mos or older

COW not
included*



It takes a combination of
inputs to generate an
effective watershed
management product!



Choose Your Shape

Who's in Your Watershed Rolodex?

Agencies

- Elected officials
- Public works
- Planners
- Schools, parks, utilities
- COGs
- State DEP, DNR, COE, NRCS

Public

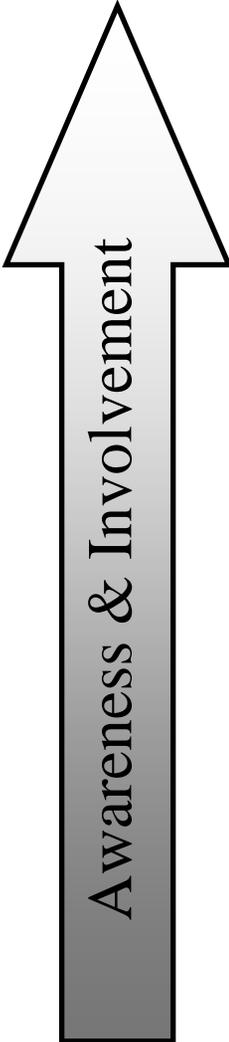
- Watershed groups
- Civic groups, recreational groups
- Adjacent property owners
- Receptive public (churches, schools, voters)
- General public

Non-Gov partners

- Responsible parties (utilities; permittees)
- Local media
- Consultants, non-profits, scientists
- Big environmental groups; universities

Funders

- Local gov
- State grants
- EPA, COE, FWS
- Foundations, Corporate, Individuals



Awareness & Involvement

CWP Top 10 Reasons Why local staff are critical

1. They have the authority to establish and enforce land use and water quality regulations (*protect isolated wetlands, establish riparian buffers, set stringent stormwater criteria, hold conservation easements...*)
2. They have the mandate (*NPDES, SWDA, TMDLs, citizen complaints...*)
3. They have, or are eligible for, watershed money (*CIPs, SMW utilities, 319 grants, SRFs*)
4. They have the GIS and other technical resources
5. They have the space for watershed planning (*public property and meeting rooms*)

CWP Top 10 Reasons Why local staff are critical

6. They have the staff capacity to assess, inspect, maintain (*and trespass...*)
7. These are the folks that respond to maintenance concerns and watershed emergencies
8. They are the gate keepers of future watershed buildout conditions
9. Local planners are the key to watershed protection (*comp plan, development regs, site plan review*)
10. Local public works/engineers/parks are the key to watershed restoration

CWP War Stories

- Powhatan Creek-James City County, VA
- Big Rock Creek- Lewisburg, TN
- Little Lick-Durham, NC
- Appoquinimink-Middletown, DE
- Bronx River- Westchester County, NY
- Baltimore, MD
- Builders for the Bay

Builders for the Bay



Deer Creek
Watershed
Association

Director of
Planning

President of local
homebuilders chapter

Powhatan Creek, VA

- Feb 2002 Board of Supers adopted plan (*20 of 24 recommendations*)
- Hired watershed coordinator
- Implemented Special Stormwater Criteria
- Updated GIS/RPA layer
- Put projects into Capital Budget
- Constructed Retrofits
- Adopted Yarmouth Watershed Plan Oct 2003
- BSD Roundtable in Dec 2003



Big Rock, TN

- Funded by The Nature Conservancy-Duck River
- Town of Lewisburg very little buy-in, very few resources
- Disputed Phase II status
- The “Eddie” Factor
- NRCS involvement required
- Greenway plan driver
- Piecemeal implementation by TNC



Little Lick, NC

- Led by Upper Neuse River Basin Association
- Funded by NC EEP
- Triangle J COG=GIS work
- Assessed with City of Durham SMW Service, Durham County Engineers, NC Division WQ
 - Illicit discharges
 - Stream restoration
 - Riparian reforestation
 - Stormwater retrofits
 - Enforcement actions
 - Maintenance concerns
- Immediate implementation of enforcement and maintenance issues
 - Septic to sewer funding
 - Stormwater education



Appoquinimink, DE

- Funded by DNREC
- Watershed coordinator
- Minor participation by locals, more input from DOT and County stormwater
- Implementation slow, state driven
- NFWF grant for retrofits
- Targeting neighborhoods for stewardship/education



area

Bronx River, NY

A photograph of a flooded asphalt parking lot. In the foreground, a large log jam is partially submerged in the water. The water is murky and reflects the sky. In the background, a person wearing a blue jacket and jeans stands near a green car. A green chain-link fence is visible behind the person. The scene is outdoors with trees and a building in the distance.

- Institutes and Workshops
- Westchester County Planning Dept & NYC Dept Parks and Rec
- Bronx River Watershed Coalition
- Amazing MOU
 - 11 munis
 - 3 local agencies
 - 2 state agencies
 - 2 watershed orgs
- Preliminary watershed assessment...

Baltimore, MD

- Good example of local gov. funding watershed group efforts
- Baltimore County
 - Adopt a Stream- Jones Falls
 - Adopt a Pond- Herring Run
- Baltimore City
 - Watershed 263
 - Street sweeping research



Take home

1. Build your case
2. Get local government partners on board early
3. Get them out in the field
4. Make it relevant
5. Get something in the ground fast
6. Provide recognition and incentives
7. Don't underestimate the power of "Eddie"

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www.cwp.org

