

Sassafras Watershed Action Plan
Core Team Meeting
Washington College
May 6, 2009

Present: Joe Blizzard, Allen Davis, Jen Dindinger, Kascie Herron, Kim Kohl, Nancy Metcalf, Karen Miller, Amy Moredock, John Seidel, Shannon Rose, Eric Shertz, Paul Sturm, John Seidel, Ellyn Vail, John Vail

Teleconference: Charlie Hayes, John McCoy, Rupert Rossetti, Jennifer Volk, Sara Wozniak

Absent: Chris Aadland, Jeff Cornwell, Carl Gallegos, Diane Stoecker, Gail Owings, Mitch Keiler, Jen Jaber, Mike Whitehill, Ken Yetman

1. Stakeholder Meetings

Kim reported that the next Stakeholder Meeting will be July 21, 6:30 pm at Turner's Creek Pavilion. The meeting will combine SRA's annual meeting and Stakeholder meeting. The purpose of the meeting will be to present restoration strategies that are linked back to stakeholder inputs.

Kim is trying to secure a well known environmentalist for the meeting, such as Tom Horton or Howard Ernst. Other suggestions included Russ Brinsfield, state level politician; John Seidel said he would ask Wayne Bell for other possibilities. Joe Blizzard presented the most novel idea, asking Michael Phelps to swim the Sassafras.

Kim thanked everyone who wrote a letter of recommendation for SRA's NFWF grant proposal. 15 letters were received from grantors and members of the Core Team.

2. Characterization

Kim alerted the Team to the final outcome of the SWAP which is to have all Team members endorse the document by signing off. Members were urged to read the Characterization and make recommendations to Kascie so that the document is as inclusive as possible.

Kascie highlighted the new areas, landscape and living resources. Kascie suggested that specific areas are assigned to specific members to increase efficiency around edits.

DNR, MDE and DNRC should review water quality section. Kascie believes it may be too technical and lengthy, especially pp. 12 – 14. John McCoy will look at it, but cautioned that if DNR wrote it they're not likely to want to change it.

Jen Dindinger pointed out two areas that referred incorrectly to the Corsica. Kascie noted as she was following the Corsica's format she had used their headings as a guide and will correct the heading to reflect the Sassafras.

Kascie agreed to send out revised version today and follow up with individuals on specific sections. All associated maps have been posted on the SRA website. She would like to meet with anyone who has comments or recommendations and then will send edited version to Paul Sturm by the end of the month for final input.

Joe/Karen/Nancy/Charlie will review soil sections.

Amy Moredock volunteered to review information from Kent perspective and Eric Shertz, from a Cecil perspective. Jennifer Wozniak will review for New Castle. ;

John Seidel suggested including information on Comprehensive plan and zoning and potential impacts. John also suggested a section "working landscapes." Kim suggested that these perhaps become part of the draft plan if not in the Characterization itself.

Rupert Rossetti recommended Michael Helfrich to assist with data on Susquehanna. Rupert also noted by May 20 he will have current and 2030 data on non-point source analysis from Water Resources Element of CC Comprehensive plan.

Kim pointed out the Ken Shanks will review the final version of the Characterization. Ellyn asked if there would be more edits after Paul's input. Kim cautioned that the document cannot be edited by a committee and that everyone should provide Kascie with inputs now. Paul will follow up with individuals if there are discrepancies going forward.

Allan Davis raised the issue of the nitrogen sources pie chart from the TMDL. Allan's concern is that there is little discussion about what forms agriculture's contribution to Nitrogen. Allan expressed a need to identify what has been done already by agriculture. Paul replied that from a scientific perspective he doesn't think it's terribly accurate, but it's is how the state produces TMDLs. Kascie noted that the Characterization is to cite all reliable sources of data. Amy Moredock referred to the Chester WRAS documents and conferred that the Characterization is not a subjective interpretation of the data – it simply includes what has already been written.

Allan questioned why bmp data had not been included. Nancy Metcalf replied that bmps data cannot be pulled by watershed. And added that given the number of programs a farmer could be involved in there was no centralized database to track this information. Karen Miller agreed.

Ellyn recommended we point out the limitations of data.

Kim cautioned that we could not omit this information and that we did have EPA criteria to meet; Paul believed that including the TMDL data was not one of the criteria but agreed it should be included somehow. Nancy suggested summarizing the TMDL but omitting the pie chart.

Charlie Hayes referred to p.18 (nutrients) and the loading percentages from NPS stating that this was based on a land-use computer model and not very inaccurate. The Bay-wide TMDL may force greater restrictions on point-sources (by December 2010). Kascie is aware of the Bay-wide draft coming out this summer.

Paul and Kascie will take another look at TMDL and determine how best to present the material.

3. SWAP Goals and Objectives

Kim circulated inputs received from stakeholders and asked if there were any glaring omissions or significant additions that the team should include.

Jen asked if we should include education and engagement as a goal. Amy suggested grouping restoration strategies together to create larger strategies. Kim had prepared a table but suffered a computer glitch and will resend the table for further evaluation.

4. Key Dates

- Core Team meeting Wednesday, June 10, Galena Town Hall, 9:30 am
- Core Team meeting Wednesday, July 8, Washington College 9:30 am
- SWAP Stakeholder Meeting, July 21, 6:30 pm, Turners Creek Pavilion

5. Other Business

As there was no other business the meeting was adjourned.