

# Creedmoor Staff Review of Upper Neuse Watershed Management Plan July 30, 2003 Meeting Summary

Prepared July 30, 2003

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*UNRBA mission: To preserve and protect the water quality in the Upper Neuse River Basin through innovative, cost effective and environmentally sound strategies and to create a coalition of local governments and stakeholders in a water resources partnership.*

On July 30, Chris Dreps of the Upper Neuse River Basin Association (UNRBA) met with staff from the Town of Creedmoor. One Commissioner (Joel Cross) was present. The objectives of the meeting were to:

- Review the Upper Neuse Watershed Management Plan (the Plan);
- Discuss the management strategies proposed for Creedmoor; and
- Receive guidance for proceeding with the introduction of the Plan to Commission members or other decision-makers.

Meeting attendees are listed below.

| Name               | Department/Program                     |
|--------------------|--|
| Tony Hammond       | Town Manager                           |
| Joel Cross         | Town Commissioner (UNRBA Board Member) |
| Lynwood Hicks      | Water Supply Manager                   |
| Gerald Wilson      | Planning/Inspections                   |
| Jim Roberson       | Planning/Inspections                   |
| Johnny Chavis, Jr. | Engineering                            |

## **Presentation**

Chris Dreps summarized the Plan's analysis and the general recommendations. He then presented the recommendations specific to the Town of Creedmoor.

The recommendations applying to Creedmoor are:

- Performance Standards for Nitrogen (3.6 lbs./acre/yr. in urban area & 1.7 lbs./acre/yr. in Lake Rogers watershed)
- Performance Standards for Phosphorous (0.6 lbs./acre/yr. in urban area & 0.3 lbs./acre/yr. in Lake Rogers watershed)
- Enhanced peak flow management (meet pre-development peak flow for 1-yr., 24-hr. storm.)
- Upper Neuse long-term monitoring program
- Enhanced construction site inspection/enforcement
- Stormwater quality BMP inspection/enforcement
- Education for "Low-Impact Development"
- Buffer maintenance education for homeowners
- Targeted lands acquisition/conservation easements
- Adopt-a-stream program
- Stream and wetland restoration projects
- Stormwater retrofits

A general estimate of the new costs of implementing the Plan in Creedmoor is \$3,958 per year in year one. Additional grant proposal writing would necessitate staff time; however, some of this time could be offset through working with the UNRBA on grant proposals.

Note: Creedmoor depends upon the state for stormwater oversight, inspections and enforcement. The cost estimate above is for time expected on specific projects (assumes that there is a staff member already in place to meet the requirement).

### **Discussion**

Major issues discussed included the fact that the city and county are not working well together on issues of development, and this could affect progress on recommendations, especially in the Lake Rogers watershed. Mr. Hammond and Commissioner Cross expressed hope that the town and the county can work effectively together on the Upper Neuse recommendations.

Joel Cross is concerned about making sure that folks in the community understand performance standards. What does it mean to allow 3.6 lbs./acre per year on a new development? What does that translate to in land use?

Several members of the group are concerned about oversight of performance standards and other stormwater recommendations. Gerald Wilson and others wonder what approaches are recommended for making sure developers comply.

Chris' response was that the stormwater recommendations, if implemented, would work at several levels:

- 1) Early in the process, during design review, the developer would need to prove that any proposed design could meet the standards for new site development;
- 2) The best management practice (BMP) inspection and maintenance program would ensure that the BMP's put in place by developers are working as they should;
- 3) Regular, watershed-wide monitoring and updating of assumptions would help us determine whether the BMP's are performing up to our standards.

Mr. Wilson wanted to know who would be responsible for inspections and maintenance. Chris replied that the UNRBA does not make recommendations specific to management, but several communities (including Huntersville, NC) want to retain oversight responsibilities to better insure compliance.

Commissioner Cross asked what the effects of the State's agriculture practices (spraying fields) in Butner might be on the watershed. This could be a concern for nutrient input. Mr. Dreps does not know what practices are used for stormwater management on that site, but he will look into this.

The group discussed the need to have tools to oversee stormwater performance standards. Mr. Dreps agreed and mentioned that the UNRBA has funds that could be used to develop a tool in the Upper Neuse if the members were to

agree that the "site evaluation tool" (SET) is important enough in the overall goals of the UNRBA. The group expressed interest in developing such a tool. This should be brought to the attention of the UNRBA Board of Directors.

Chris mentioned that the director of the State Division of Soil and Water Conservation, David Vogel, has expressed interest in having the SWCD conservation officers assist local communities in stormwater BMP oversight. This is a potentially excellent opportunity to use the staff already in the field to help growing communities without stormwater programs to improve stormwater practices on new development. The group expressed interest in this possibility, and Chris will call Mr. Vogel in order to pursue the issue further. Chris thinks that Wake County used such an approach when the county began its stormwater program.

### **Next steps**

Chris will work with Lori Dutra and Ken Krulik to see how the recommendations compare to current requirements (ie, subdivision ordinance, sediment & erosion control plan), specifically in the area of stormwater management.

Chris will continue pursuing opportunities to work with the State Division of Soil and Water Conservation (Director--David Vogel) and will ask the following questions:

- Could the Division use its local conservationists to do stormwater oversight, inspection, or enforcement?
- Are there training programs in place to train these people how to oversee stormwater management on urban/suburban development?