

**Dix River Watershed Council Meeting  
Danville City Hall  
May 20, 2008**

**Meeting Notes**

**Attendees:** Malissa McAlister (UK KWRRRI); Preston Miles (landowner); John Webb (Ky. Division of Water); Bill Hundley (Boyle Co. Conservation Board); David Jewett (landowner/Herrington Lake Conservation League)

**Watershed Activities**

- *Status of 319 Re-obligation Funding for Watershed Planning Assistance*  
It looks likely that remaining EPA funds can be reobligated for outside, professional assistance in completing watershed plans for the Clark's Run and Hanging Fork subwatersheds. The Watershed Council will assist with water quality management recommendations for the remainder of the watershed outside of the two subwatersheds. Questions that need to be answered are: What is the data telling us? What needs to be done? Who are the key participants and what will they commit to doing?
- *Growth Readiness Workshop Series*  
The third "Growth Readiness" workshop for the four-county region of Anderson, Boyle, Mercer, and Washington Counties was held in Harrodsburg on April 21<sup>st</sup>. Representatives of these counties are interested in learning more about low impact development and are developing draft local ordinances relating to development practices (streets and parking/lot design/natural areas). Participants will be working to encourage development practices that reduce impacts on local water quality, preserve greenspace, and increase the overall desirability of their communities. The final workshop is scheduled for June 16<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 p.m. at the Lion's Park Community Center in Harrodsburg.
- *Field Trip to Lincoln County Wetland Mitigation Site*  
Art Parola, of the University of Louisville, has agreed to lead a field trip to the stream and wetland restoration site in Lincoln County. He has suggested an August outing, when the project will be farther along and the vegetation better established. The Council will be notified as soon as a date is set. Preston Miles has already visited the site and noted the tree plantings along the creek.
- *Microbial Source Tracking Project*  
The first round of sampling for E coli hotspots was conducted in May at 75 sites. This sampling effort followed a heavy rainfall event and was intended to capture runoff.
- *Garrard County Environmental Field Day*  
Malissa assisted with water education at an Environmental Field Day for elementary school students in Garrard County. Jane VanHook, of Garrard County High School, coordinated this field trip for 400+ students.

**Water Quality Data Review: Overall Comparison of the Sampling Sites**

Council members reviewed a summary table showing a good/fair/poor rating for six categories at each of the 31 sampling sites in the Dix River Watershed. This format enabled members to assess which sites had water quality issues in multiple categories. A summary handout accompanying the table proposed best/worst sites in each of the three main subwatersheds (Clark's Run, Hanging Fork, and Dix River). These sites were as follows:

## **CLARK'S RUN SUBWATERSHED**

### **Proposed Best Sites:**

CLARK'S RUN AT BYPASS – good habitat score, mid-range E coli levels

CLARK'S RUN AT SECOND STREET – Good habitat score, relatively low E coli levels

### **Proposed Worst Sites:**

BALL'S BRANCH (2 sites, both headwaters) – high E coli levels, poor habitat scores, questionable chlorophyll level at Ball's Branch Mouth

CLARK'S RUN AT GOGGIN LANE – nutrient levels of concern, highest chlorophyll reading in subwatershed

CLARK'S RUN AT KY52 – highest nutrient levels

CLARK'S RUN AT CORPORATE DRIVE (headwaters) – high E coli level, poor habitat score

## **HANGING FORK SUBWATERSHED**

### **Proposed Best Sites:**

OAK CREEK – good, except for low habitat score

JUNCTION CITY – good, except for low habitat score

WEST HUSTONVILLE – good, except for high E coli

### **Proposed Worst Sites:**

MCKINNEY BRANCH (headwater) – high E coli levels, lowest habitat score

CHICKEN BRISTLE – high chlorophyll, high E coli, low habitat score

MCCORMICK CHURCH – high chlorophyll, E coli, total suspended solids, and low habitat score

MOORE'S LANE – high chlorophyll a, poor habitat ranking

## **DIX RIVER SUBWATERSHED**

### **Proposed Best Sites:**

GUM SULFUR – good ratings for all categories

GILBERT'S CREEK – good, except for marginal habitat score

DIX ABOVE HANGING FORK/DIX DOW AT KY52 – good, except for high total suspended solids and chlorophyll levels at Dix above Hanging Fork station

DIX ABOVE HANGING FORK/DIX DOW AT KY52 – good, except for high total suspended solids and chlorophyll levels at Dix above Hanging Fork station

### **Proposed Worst Sites:**

WHITE OAK CREEK (headwater) – Poor rating for nitrate, orthophosphate, E coli, and habitat

LOGAN CREEK – orthophosphate level of concern, high E coli

DRAKES CREEK – highest mean E coli level in Dix River subwatershed

Other handouts detailed why specific sites received fair/poor habitat scores and the benchmarks for ranking each of the water quality parameters as good/fair/poor.

## **Future of Dix River Watershed Council Planning Efforts**

The Council decided to form subwatershed groups that will focus on the issues in the Clark's Run, Hanging Fork and Dix River subwatersheds of the larger, overall Dix River watershed. Members of these focus groups will have particular knowledge and oversight in these subwatersheds and be able to make specific management recommendations to improve water quality. Preston Miles agreed to help coordinate this effort and volunteered to serve as the leader of the Clark's Run Subwatershed Focus Group. Leaders for the other two focus groups will be identified, and an initial meeting will be scheduled to jointly familiarize each of the groups with the Council's activities and findings. The focus groups will then meet independently 1-2 times to better assess the sampling results, maps, known land uses, and potential management activities.

The Division of Water is continuing to work on the funding for professional assistance with developing a formal watershed plan for the Clark's Run and Hanging Fork subwatersheds. If approved, the contractor would work in coordination with the Dix River Council and the focus groups to formulate planning recommendations. The Council will also work toward a less detailed plan for areas of the Dix River Watershed

outside of Clark's Run and Hanging Fork (i.e., Herrington Lake, Dix River mainstem, and other tributaries of the Dix River).

### **Newspaper Article Series**

Rose-Marie Roessler spoke with staff at the Danville Advocate-Messenger regarding a newspaper article series covering the Dix River Watershed, water quality issues, and ways that people can assist in improving local waterways. They have agreed to publishing a series of three articles in July and August. Vicki Stephens is the primary contact at the newspaper, and she will be working with two summer interns on the articles. The Council will provide them with an outline of what we would like for them to cover. Additionally, the Council requested an opportunity to review the articles for accuracy and wording before they are published.

### **Roadway Signs for Waterway Crossings**

Watershed and stream crossing signs have been noticed in several of the surrounding states (i.e., Georgia, North Carolina, and Tennessee). These signs are an effective way of alerting drivers to the presence of local waterways and encouraging a sense of pride in protecting them. The Council agreed that this would be an ideal project proposal for future grant opportunities. The county judge-executives would likely be instrumental in approving the signs and helping with their installation.

**The next meeting of the Dix River Watershed Council was scheduled for Tuesday, July 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at Danville's City Hall. The three focus groups will meet 1-2 times prior to this Council meeting.**