

**Dix River Watershed Council**  
**March 27, 2007**

**Meeting Notes**

Participants: John Webb, Bill Payne, Preston Miles, Tony White, Charles Poneleit, Jack Leech, Roger Fischer, David Smith, David Jewett, Rose-Marie Roessler, Jane Vanhook, Brooke Shireman, Pete Coyle, Malissa McAlister, Lee Colten, Patti Cox

After a welcome and introductions, participants mentioned several watershed-related activities that had occurred since the last Council meeting.

- CREEC (Clark's Run Environmental & Educational Corp.) held a town forum in Danville on March 6<sup>th</sup> to educate local citizens about the current water quality status of the creek and efforts of the organizations to improve it and encourage recreational enjoyment of the creek through the extension of a creekside trail.
- The Herrington Lake Conservation League has made presentations to 3 county fiscal courts (Boyle, Garrard and Mercer) on its accomplishments and the shared responsibility of the county governments to maintain its progress in keeping the lake clean.
- Garrard County High School received a watershed grant from the Kentucky River Authority to conduct Water Watch sampling in the Dix River watershed in Lincoln and Garrard counties, as well as conduct a Logan-Hubble Park Environmental Day.
- Governor Fletcher responded to citizen inquiries in Lancaster regarding e. coli levels in Lake Herrington by contacting Secretary Theresa Hill, of the Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet.

Watershed Planning 101

Lee Colten, of the Kentucky Division of Water, noted that the recent completion of water quality sampling by Third Rock signals a transition to the data analysis and modeling phase for developing a Dix River Watershed Plan. Preliminary assessment of the data indicates problems with high pathogen and nutrients levels at the sampling locations. In addition, growth pressures in the watershed and changes in discharge permitting for sewage treatment plants increase the urgency for developing a watershed plan.

Lee provided a presentation describing the steps and considerations involved in the watershed planning process. (This presentation is available on the Dix River Watershed website at [www.dixriverwatershed.org](http://www.dixriverwatershed.org).) The intention of the planning document is to highlight water quality issues and outline potential solutions and associated partners.

A group discussion followed this presentation, during which participants brainstormed the following topics pertaining to the Dix River Watershed. These responses will be compiled to draft the introduction to the Dix River Watershed Plan.

**What are important uses of this watershed?**

- Drinking water
- Healthy fisheries
- Recreation – swimming, boating
- Green space

- Agriculture – livestock, irrigation
- Wildlife habitat

**What are the critical water resource issues facing the watershed?**

- Waste disposal
  - Sewage treatment
  - On-site wastewater (e.g. septic tanks)
  - Boat and marina sanitation devices
- Adequate water supply
- Flooding and water retention
- Stormwater / polluted runoff
- Solid waste disposal
- Land use adjacent to waterways / protection of riparian areas

**What are your water resource goals for the future?**

- Extension of public sewers – to unserved areas
- Clean water – instream and for drinking
- Continuous monitoring – to measure progress, status, and trends
- Reduced impacts to water quality
- Improved riparian buffers
- Better public education and understanding – better mechanisms for sharing information on status of watershed
- Identification and remediation of straight pipe influences
- Development of marina guidelines

**What existing partnerships exist or are needed for watershed management?**

- County governments
- City governments
- Sanitation districts
- Conservation Districts
- Natural Resource Conservation Service
- Bluegrass Area Development District
- Cooperative Extension Service
- US Environmental Protection Agency
- State agencies
- Herrington Lake Conservation League
- Clarks Run Environmental Education Corporation
- Kentucky Utilities
- Local and District Health Departments
- Solid waste coordinators
- Kentucky River Watershed Watch
- Bluegrass PRIDE
- School systems and other youth groups (e.g. 4-H, scouts)
- Civic organizations
- Mariana owners

### Introduction to “Growth Readiness” Workshop Offering

Due to development pressures in the Dix River watershed, Brooke Shireman of the Kentucky Division of Water provided some background on a potential series of “Low Impact Development” workshops would provide local developers, planners, government officials and others. These workshops would describe urban impacts to water quality and describe alternative development practices that would limit these impacts, while also reducing development costs and enhancing property values.

If communities in the Dix River watershed are interested in pursuing these low-impact development concepts, the Kentucky Division of Water would assist the group in setting up the workshops with presenters from the Southeast Watershed Forum group facilitators. The Council members agreed to consider this option prior to the next meeting and discuss it further at that time.

### E-Coli Sampling Results

Lee Colten provided the E. coli sampling data and a map of the sampling locations. All of the sites, except one, showed E. coli results that were greater than Kentucky’s water quality standard for primary contact recreation (wading and swimming), which is a geometric mean of 240 cfu/100 ml. The highest E. coli concentrations were observed in the Hanging Fork subwatershed, where the greatest values were observed at the Peyton Creek, Chicken Bristle, McKinney Branch and McCormick Church sampling sites. Exceptionally high values were also observed at the Balls Branch sampling sites in the Clark’s Run subwatershed and Drakes Creek and Logan Creek of the Dix River.

Now that the 12-month water quality sampling efforts have concluded, Third Rock Consultants will be correlating flow data with the pollutant concentrations and developing a TMDL for Hanging Fork. This will enable them to assess overall pollutant load contributions from each of the sampling locations and better target potential pollutant sources.

### Other

Several homeowners living on Herrington Lake expressed interest in seeing more water quality data on the lake itself. Lee Colten stated that that information is available on the federal Environmental Protection Agency’s online STORET database. However, he said that he would try to pull some of the historical sampling results together for the next Council meeting. Council members were also encouraged to participate in the volunteer water sampling organization, Kentucky River Watershed Watch. The next training event is scheduled for Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in Danville. More information about registering for the training and KRWW is available at <http://kywater.org/watch/default.htm> or by calling 859.846.4905.

### Next Meeting

The next Dix River Watershed Council meeting was tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, May 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at the Danville City Hall. Meeting topics will include water sampling data interpretation and needs, an explanation of TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Loads) reports, and the potential for introducing low-impact development through community “Growth Readiness” workshops.