



Wake County Water Partnership Annual Report 2017-2018

I. Introduction

This report of the activities of the Water Partnership covers activities from March 2017 until 2018. A timeline of events in 2017 is listed below:

- March 2017: First Watershed Partnership Meeting
- April 2017: Subcommittees Formed
- June 2017: Elected David Knight as chair; established bimonthly meeting
- January 2018: Conducted annual planning retreat

The Water Partnership will report once annually on activities and actions undertaken within the year in order to report and measure success on:

- Number of Wake County rules and ordinances reviewed
- Number of new initiatives suggested
- Number of Stakeholder Groups that received new information regarding good water stewardship

This will be discussed, below in the following categories: accomplishments, challenges, and horizon issues.

II. Accomplishments

This year the Water Partnership held its first meeting in March of 2017. This was a busy year due to the need to form the structure of the group. The committee selected a chair and vice chair. David Knight is the Chair and Bill Holman is Vice Chair.

The Water Partnership formed a Raleigh-Durham delegation at the 2017 One Water Summit. This delegation brought the One Water focus back to be integrated into all the activities carried out by the Water Partnership.

Subcommittee Formation:

Once that was complete, committee members formed into four subcommittees as listed below. Each of the subcommittees has identified a chair and established a schedule to meet and work on water management progress.

Education, and Outreach – Chair: Bill Holman - This subcommittee considers methods of educating the public and various stakeholder groups concerning proper maintenance, operation, repair, and ownership of:

Wells – as outreach is conducted by the Groundwater Outreach Program within the Wake County Division of Water Quality

Septic Systems – as inspections and other outreach programs are conducted by the Wastewater and Technical Assistance section of the Wake County Division of Water Quality

Stormwater Control Devices – as outreach is conducted by the Watershed Management section of the Wake County Division of Water Quality

Comprehensive Planning – Chair: Joe Moore - This subcommittee coordinates activities in the areas of integrated water management planning, drought planning and conservation of water resources through demand side conservation strategies and technologies.

One of the results of bringing the One Water Vision back was the creation of a Scope of Work by the Comprehensive Planning Subcommittee for a One Water study which will be used as a starting point for strategic and long-term planning.

Coordination – Chair: Jeff Adkins – This subcommittee is gathering information about the progress of other water collaboratives including the UNRBA, the Jordan Lake Partnership, and Triangle J Council of Governments, among others. This information will be shared and discussed to ensure all of the stakeholders of the Wake County Water Partnership can hear the ideas and methods of water management that are being considered by those other entities.

The Coordination Subcommittee has created an excellent guide to communicate with the other groups in the area that are working on water stewardship. This guide will be used to coordinate attendance at the meetings of these groups, by members of the Water Partnership, so that insights and information can be brought back to the Water Partnership.

Green Infrastructure – Chair: Dr. Joseph Threadcraft - This subcommittee considers standards, and opportunities that can be implemented by Wake County singly, or in collaboration with members of this committee to complete green stormwater infrastructure projects in conjunction with stakeholders that are willing to work with the team.

The Green Infrastructure Subcommittee has brought staff from Raleigh to present experiences with Green Stormwater Infrastructure with the larger group. This subcommittee has also completed a survey of green infrastructure practices in all of the stakeholder municipalities so that each municipality can learn from others to advance water protection practices.

Rule Review:

Members of the Water Partnership also assisted in the formation of three rule review subcommittees. They collaborated with the Public Health Committee and other stakeholders to review and update three rules for Wake County. Those rules are:

1. Rules for the permitting and installation of offsite septic systems
2. Rules for the siting and permitting of private wells for drinking water
3. Unified Development Ordinance articles concerning Sedimentation and Erosion and Stormwater

The subcommittees contributed excellent support in the wording and content of these rules. The rule revisions are now substantially complete. The next steps are to finalize wording through edits and then review through the respective Wake County rule review process.

The subcommittee that reviewed the well rules also made a recommendation to expand the Groundwater Outreach program in the Division of Water Quality.

III. Horizon

The Water Partnership will be sending a Raleigh-Durham delegation to the 2018 One Water Summit. The One Water will be integrated into all the activities carried out by the Water Partnership including the Integrated Water Management Study which is proposed to be conducted by an engineer experienced in comprehensive water management planning.

The report developed by the Coordination Subcommittee will be integrated into development of Integrated Water Management Study and will lead to recommendations and activities that support the work being done by all groups that are contributing to long term water sustainability.

Further activities have been collaborations with groups that are eligible for grants to design and install projects to protect water quality in the County. These initial projects will be used as learning opportunities in the larger group.

Horizon issues facing the group include timing of meetings to allow maximum participation, development of additional collaborative methods for decision making, and development of a plan to monitor other groups that are working on water stewardship initiatives.

IV. Challenges

The greatest challenges that were faced by the group this year were related to the process of team formation. Each subcommittee and the overall group learned that it would be best to establish a specific day in the month to hold meetings so that members could plan around them. There were also some changes in methods of communication and locations for the meetings to accommodate the members' busy schedules.