

Item Title: Wake County Water Partnership Annual Report

Specific Action Requested:

That the Board of Commissioners receives and accepts the first Wake County Water Partnership annual report.

Item Summary:

The Wake County Water Partnership was created on May 16, 2016 to encourage collaborative discussion to inform decision makers concerning water policy and regulation for Wake County. The members of the committee were finalized on November 21, 2016. The first meeting was held on March 3, 2017. The Water Partnership now submits the attached year-end report on their accomplishments, horizon issues, and challenges for acceptance and approval.

Background:

The activities of this committee support Board Goal GS3.1: Collaborate with the Water Partnership on One Water initiatives, including:

- revise water resource policies to reflect current scientific data and understanding,
- protect watershed and stream buffers,
- participate actively in protection of Falls and Jordan Lakes, and
- promote conservation measures on lands in current and potential watersheds.

This report of the activities of the Water Partnership covers activities from March 2017 until 2018.

- 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 report discusses following categories: accomplishments, challenges, and horizon issues.

Accomplishments:

Subcommittee Formation

- Education, and Outreach – Chair: Bill Holman
- Comprehensive Planning – Chair: Joe Moore
- Coordination – Chair: Jeff Adkins
- Green Infrastructure – Chair: Dr. Joseph Threadcraft

Rule Review:

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

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

Horizon:

- The Water Partnership will be sending a Raleigh-Durham delegation to the 2018 One Water Summit.
- The report developed by the Coordination Subcommittee will be integrated into development of Integrated Water Management Study.
- Further activities have been collaborations with groups that are eligible for grants to design and install projects to protect water quality in the County.

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.

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.

Current Membership List:

Stakeholder Organization	Applicant
Apex	Matt Echols, P.E.; Assistant Town Manager
Cary	Jeff Adkins; Water Resources Manager
Fuquay Varina	Jay T. Meyers, PE; Utility Director
Holly Springs	Seann Byrd; Water Quality Director
Raleigh	Kenny Waldroup; Assistant Utilities Director
Garner	Jonathan Ham; Assistant Town Engineer
Zebulon	Joe Moore; Town Manager
Wendell	Teresa Piner; Town Manager
Wake Forest	Eric Keravuori; Director of Engineering
Water Advocacy Group	Bill Holman; NC State Director
Well Owner	George Matthis
Farm Bureau	Jackie Thompson
Wake County Home Builders' Association	Suzanne Harris
Private Water Provider	Michael Melton

Soil and Water Conservation	Dale Threatt-Taylor
Wake County	Dr. Joseph Threadcraft
Citizen Appointee	Archie Hart; Small and Minority Farms
Interim Chair (Citizen Appointee)	David Knight
Citizen Appointee	Mitch Woodward

Attachments:

1. Water Partnership Annual Report FY18
2. Water Partnership Annual Report