

Water Resources Planning Committee

Minutes from **May 29, 3:00-4:00pm**

Look for your **name** in **underlined bold letters**, which indicates a request for information or action. The **everyone** tag applies, as you would expect, to everyone.

Next Meeting: Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 13, 3:00-4:00pm, in RSW 035.

Attendees:

Kristan Cockerill, Bill Anderson, Carol Babyak, Patrick Beville, , Shea Tuberty, Gary Walker, Mike Mayfield, Chris Thaxton.

Absent:

Garbrielle Katz, Jana Carp, Mike Windelspecht, Robert Creed, Jeff Colby, Wendy Patoprtsy, George Santucci.

New documents available:

- These meeting minutes (from May 29):
http://pimlico.phys.appstate.edu/WRPC/WRPC_MM_May292007.pdf
- The recommendation document outline (updated from our May 29 comments):
<http://pimlico.phys.appstate.edu/WRPC/outline.doc>

Priority comments.

1. Please access, read, and review the ASU Design & Construction Guidelines:

<http://www.busaf.appstate.edu/pp/manual.html>

Send me your comments by June 11 (2 days prior to our next meeting). Keep in mind that we are looking to make suggested modifications to minimize water resources impacts. We can work on the detailed wording later – look at areas that we should focus on and make general comments in this pass. Note that this document will not be “edited” from its existing state, but addenda will be applied to include any changes that we recommend.

2. We briefly discussed the remediation strategy again – **Mike M.** mentioned the idea of “dynamic equilibrium” (thanks Mike for the Kandolf reference). This was just a reaffirmation that our “vision” is that the stream is to be rehabilitated (we hope) to a state which will naturally vary over time – the challenges, once the stream is in this state, include:
 - Continually apply pressure against the tendency for the stream to degrade due to urbanization
 - Develop a bio-assessment strategy and bounds of acceptable bio-diversity, populations, and nutrient cycling – call it an “action level index” – below which we know degradation is resuming. (these are my words – let’s discuss).

3. Proto-demo site at Varsity Gym. **Mike W., Patrick B., and Chris T.** met with Ray Williams – we decided on a demo site plan that will include two adjacent sections – one control section and one test section. The Physical Plant will (has) mow(ed) both sections to provide us with a common initial condition. The sampling will begin June 1. **Patrick B.** is getting the signage together and will get the posts with ropes installed soon.
4. Some of us met with Trout Unlimited – the primary result was the discovery that a fantastic resource has moved into our region – Julie Elmore, executive director of the Blue Ridge RC&D. Julie brings enthusiasm, experience and knowledge, and will be a valued asset to the area. I’ve asked Julie to join us at our next meeting – she plans to be there.
5. We made slight changes to the recommendation outline (see link above) and began to assign sections to committee members to work on.
 - **Mike M.** will try to get the climate data for Boone – the question was over what time period is the existing climate data based on? He also mentioned that he will contact Chris Miller (TOB) to get info concerning the “hydrological design requirements”.
 - We stress that economical impacts will directly affect land owners via property value.
 - We will fold specific the bulleted list under “design implementation” within the “Policy recommendations” section
 - We will include a link to institutional strategies.
 - We will state the benefits of being more proactive about regulatory compliance.
 - We will include assistantships (from each discipline) into time and effort required.

The assigned work is as follows:

- **Chris T.** will paste together the main document and focus on the Site Description, baseline physical data, and the remediation strategy
- **Gary W.** will provide plant assessment info (June/July time frame)
- We still need others to step up and provide other initial bio-assessment data and/or verbage – any takers?
- **Jana C.** – we need a summary of the observations from your groups/students. Do you have existing documents from which you can pull together a planning-related initial assessment?
- **Kristan C.** has provided initial verbage on economic and regulatory benefits (thanks Kristan!)

We will continue assigning sections in the next meeting.