

MINUTES
Powell River and Tributaries IP
Agricultural Working Group Meeting- Appalachia

WHEN: May 16, 2017; 6:00-8:00pm

WHERE: Town of Appalachia Council Chambers (508 West Main Street)

ATTENDEES:

- Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
 - Martha Chapman – TMDL Coordinator – SW Regional Office
 - Stephanie Kreps – NPS Coordinator – SW Regional Office
- Frank Kibler- LENOWISCO Planning District
- Adam Hooper- citizen

Meeting purpose: To discuss the agricultural aspects and ways to reduce the sediment and bacteria impairment in the Powell watershed in Wise County; Engage the public in the development of the Implementation Plan (IP) (also known as a Water Quality Improvement Plan or Clean Up Plan).

Meeting goal: Collect information from agricultural stakeholders to inform the components of the Implementation Plan: landuse changes, best management practices, partnerships, potential funding sources, outreach/education; timeline and future plans that may contribute to IP goals.

Stephanie Kreps (DEQ) gave a brief introduction and set the context of the meeting. Handouts were provided and can be found on the DEQ website: <http://bit.do/DEQPowell-ImplementationPlanProgress>.

Questions discussed:

Most of the questions on the agenda were not discussed because the participants are not directly involved in agriculture. An alternative meeting date (May 24, 10-11am, LPSWCD office) was arranged with representatives from the Lonesome Pine Soil and Water Conservation District and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) since they did not attend the meeting.

The following was discussed at the meeting:

- 1) Land cover has changed with a reduction in AML acres and increase in cropland.
- 2) **Estimate of wildlife:** There is a need to add bear to the wildlife estimate since there seem to be an increased number in the county (especially on Black Mountain/Black Creek). Otherwise, the wildlife estimates seem reasonable.
- 3) **Best management practices:** Most farmers don't want their livestock in the streams because they get sick more often.
- 4) **Partnerships:** Frank suggested getting in touch with contacts he has at Coalfield Beef Cattle Association and the Wise-Dickenson County Farm Bureau.
- 5) **Outreach/Education:** What is the best way to reach out to farmers in the county:
 - a. Online sources not as affective since internet not available everywhere

- b. Big Stone Gap and Norton farmer's market
 - c. Kentucky-Virginia District Fair
 - d. Weekly paper in Big Stone Gap (The Post), The Coalfield Progress (Wise and Dickenson County, most popular), Kingsport Times (more for Lee County), Powell Valley News (Lee County)
 - e. Feed store on old 23 in Big Stone Gap
 - f. High Knob Chapter of the Virginia Master Naturalists
 - g. Southern Appalachia Mountain Stewards (SAMS) newsletter
 - h. The Clinch Coalition
 - i. Appalachian Voices newspaper
- 6) **Timeline:** A 10 year timeline is realistic for agriculture. One participant said 10 years wouldn't be long enough for industrial or residential BMPs.
- 7) **Future plans:** Need to talk with Town of Appalachia Town Manager and LENOWISCO PDC on details of the Powell River Trail being developed between Appalachia and Norton—streambank stabilization needed? There is also a new report, "LENOWISCO Regional Agricultural Development Strategic Plan" done by Virginia Tech Office of Economic Development that may provide additional information for the IP.
- 8) **Funding:** More for residential/town areas (not sure if water and sewer), but the [Coalfield Water Development Fund \(CWDF\)](#) may be an option.
- 9) **Citizen monitoring:** SAMS and Appalachian Voices will know if there is any citizen monitoring being done on the Powell.

Residential issues discussed with LENOWISCO:

- New sewer lines in Roda and Osaka almost complete and accessing most (if not all) residents (within the Callahan Creek watershed)
- These new lines will connect to an existing sewer line at Andover to Big Stone Gap Waste Water Treatment Plan