



ALABAMA CLEAN WATER PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

Fall 2001

REPORT FROM THE ALABAMA CWP COORDINATOR AND ALABAMA WATER WATCH ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Hello CWP Stakeholders and Water Watchers – I hope all you water watchers are enjoying your monitoring activities. . .what a wonderful excuse to spend time on the waters of Alabama, especially during the beautiful fall season we are now experiencing!

If you haven't noticed, AWW is very much in demand around the state, with new opportunities arising daily offering trainers and monitoring groups a chance to get involved and make a difference. Many of you have been involved in river festivals, stream and lake clean-ups and annual meetings – **I am constantly amazed at the things that you accomplish!**

The AWW Association has recently received grants from the both the Wiregrass and Coosa Valley Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Councils. These projects, modeled after a successful AWWA two-year project with the Tennessee Valley RC&D Council, will support AWW training activities in the Council areas, providing reimbursement of trainer's expenses and monitoring equipment. More importantly, the projects will link AWW monitors with Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Earth Team and Envirothon activities in these watersheds, providing additional benefits to all involved. To learn more about being an Earth Team Volunteer or student group participation in Envirothon activities, call your county NRCS office (in the "blue pages" of your phone book).

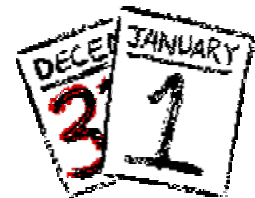
Many of you (and your groups) are very involved in Clean Water Partnership (CWP) activities in your watersheds. You may not be aware that the AWW Association has been involved in and supported the project since 1998, feeling that local AWW monitors and watershed protection groups would benefit greatly from a watershed approach like the CWP.

The AWWA Board knows that you've got the expertise and the energy to get the job done, though many groups lack the financial resources to carry out their "wish list". Through the CWP, partnerships are forming in your watersheds that can provide those much needed financial resources to you, so that your voice will be heard and you can initiate local projects that will really make a difference in water quality. There has been some confusion by my wearing the hats of both AWWA Executive Director and CWP Coordinator. It is the hope of the AWWA Board of Directors that local watershed efforts will be strengthened through the CWP process, benefiting you in your work, strengthening your monitoring efforts and providing your watershed groups with things that AWW cannot. If you ever have comments as to how we can do things better, either "AWW things" or "CWP things", please don't hesitate to let me know!

I'd like to close by thanking each of you for all you do. Alabama is truly a better place due to the hard work of AWW volunteers and partners across the state, working to do things differently and make things better.

Keep up the great work and have a happy holiday season and a successful New year!

Allison Newell



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Alabama Clean Water Partnership Calendar of Events

Alabama Clean Water Partnership Advisory Committee

Quarterly CWP Advisory Committee Meeting
January 24, 2002, 8:30 - noon
Alabama Nonpoint Source/Waterquest Conference
Winfrey Hotel ~ Birmingham, AL
Contact: Jim Moore, ADEM OEO, (334) 394-4359

Alabama CWP Statewide Sub-Committees

Education, Technical, and Financial Committees meet following the quarterly ACWP Advisory Committee Meeting,
December 6, 2001

ADEM Environmental Building, Montgomery, AL
Finance Committee: Will not meet
Education Committee: 10:00 a.m. – noon
Technical Committee: 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Alabama CWP Basin Group Activities

Alabama-Tombigbee River Basins

Steering Committee Quarterly Meeting
Next Meeting: **January 24, 2002, 8:30 - noon**
AL Nonpoint Source/Waterquest Conference
Winfrey Hotel ~ Birmingham, AL
Contact: Dawn Howard (334) 271-1444

Black Warrior River Basin

Steering Committee Monthly Meeting
Next Meeting: **January 24, 2002, 8:30 - noon**
AL Nonpoint Source/Waterquest Conference
Winfrey Hotel ~ Birmingham, AL
Upper, Middle and Lower Sub-Basin Groups Meeting
Monthly
Contact: Paul Kennedy (205) 251-8139

Cahaba River Basin

Steering Committee Meetings Held Monthly
Next Meeting: **January 24, 2002, 8:30 - noon**
AL Nonpoint Source/Waterquest Conference
Winfrey Hotel ~ Birmingham, AL
Sub-Basin Groups Organized and Meeting
Contact: Suzanne Davidson (205) 251-8139

Chattahoochee-Chipola River Basins

Steering Committee Currently Being Organized
Contact: Allison Newell (334) 514-8326
Next Meeting: **January 24, 2002, 8:30 - noon**
AL Nonpoint Source/Waterquest Conference
Winfrey Hotel ~ Birmingham, AL

Choctawhatchee-Pea-Yellow River Basins

Steering Committee Currently Being Organized
Contact: Allison Newell (334) 514-8326
Next Meeting: **January 24, 2002, 8:30 - noon**
AL Nonpoint Source/Waterquest Conference
Winfrey Hotel ~ Birmingham, AL

Coastal River Basins

Steering Committee Meeting Held Monthly
Sub-Basin Groups Organized and Meeting
Next Meeting: **January 24, 2002, 8:30 - noon**
AL Nonpoint Source/Waterquest Conference
Winfrey Hotel ~ Birmingham, AL
Contact: Eve Brantley (334) 438-5690

Conecuh-Sepulga River Basins

Next Meeting: **January 24, 2002, 8:30 - noon**
AL Nonpoint Source/Waterquest Conference
Winfrey Hotel ~ Birmingham, AL
Contact: Janet Wofford (334) 222-3271

Coosa River Basin

Steering Committee Meetings Held Quarterly
Next Meeting: **January 24, 2002, 8:30 - noon**
AL Nonpoint Source/Waterquest Conference
Winfrey Hotel ~ Birmingham, AL
Sub-basin Groups Organized and Meeting
Contact: Sabra Sutton (334) 271-1444

Tallapoosa River Basin

Steering Committee Meetings Held Quarterly
Next Meeting: **January 24, 2002, 8:30 - noon**
AL Nonpoint Source/Waterquest Conference
Winfrey Hotel ~ Birmingham, AL
Sub-Basin Groups Organized and Meeting
Contact: John Ricketts (334) 271-1444

Tennessee River Basin

Steering Committee Meetings Held Quarterly
Next Meeting: **January 24, 2002, 8:30 - noon**
AL Nonpoint Source/Waterquest Conference
Winfrey Hotel ~ Birmingham, AL
Sub-Basin Groups Organized and Meeting
Contact: Vicky Mitchell (256) 353-6146 x2

Additional information about the Alabama CWP and CWP contacts can be accessed at the ADEM website. At the ADEM main page click first on Watershed Management and then on Clean Water Partnerships.

SECOND DAY OF 2002 ALABAMA NPS CONFERENCE AND WATERQUEST TO FOCUS ON CWP's

The 2002 Alabama Nonpoint Source Conference and Waterquest will be held January 24-25 at the Winfrey in Birmingham as was the case for the 2001 conference. A detailed agenda is provided below. As you read you will note that the Clean Water Partnerships are the focus of attention for the second day of the NPS/Waterquest conference. This is a reflection of the fact that all lasting watershed improvements usually take place only when there is a strong local interest in change. This is no different than politics, security, education or a whole host of other topics of interest to people. While it may be possible to help set the tone at the national, regional or state level, the actual progress of a lasting nature happens at the local level because stakeholders want it to happen and make the decision to work together to achieve agreed upon results.

Since it is so critical to develop the lasting stakeholder partnerships at the basin and sub-basin level it is not only appropriate but also essential to focus significant attention and energy upon the Alabama Clean Water Partnerships.

Please make plans to join many of those in the state and from your area in these efforts by attending the 2002 NPS and Waterquest Conference. The conference agenda is provided below. Conference information is available from: Jim Moore, Office of Education and Outreach, ADEM. (334)-394-4359.

Day 1 – NPS Agenda

7:00-8:00	Speakers Breakfast
8:00-8:15	Welcome and Program Introduction
8:15-8:40	EPA Region IV Report and Alabama Current Status National Status and Current Alabama 319 Program Reviews
8:40-9:15	Program Task Force Updates Onsite Wastewater, Alabama Water Watch, Urban, Agriculture, Erosion and Sediment Control, Forestry
9:15-9:30	Break
9:30-10:00	TMDLs
10:10:45	Alabama Clean Water Partnership Success Stories
10:45-11:30	Interfacing Agricultural and Urban Issues Planning, Water Monitoring, Land Use Changes, 303(d) list/Urban Changes
11:30-12:00	State Program Implementation Grant Applications, Phase II Urban Stormwater Program, Phase II Stormwater Construction Program
12:00-1:30	Luncheon: Speaker to be Announced
1:30-2:15	Watershed Based Plans EPA Guidelines and Examples, NRCS Approach, Hoover on the Cahaba
2:15-2:30	Break
2:30-3:15	Basin Assessments Coastal Plains, Alabama, Coosa, Tallapoosa, Tombigbee, Alabama
3:15-3:45	Choccolocco Watershed Project
3:45-4:00	Break
4:00-5:00	Summary: A Spirit of Cooperation NPS & BCA combined discussion of PS/NPS impacts and why we must work cooperatively to achieve water quality goals while growing.
5:00-7:00	Evening Reception

Day 2 - Combined

7:00-8:30	Breakfast Session
8:30-8:45	Clean Water Basin Partnership Update
8:45-10:00	Break Out Sessions of Each Basin Clean Water Partnership Alabama Tombigbee, Black Warrior River, Cahaba River, Coastal Plains/Chattahoochee, Coosa River, Mobile Escatawpa, Tallapoosa, Tennessee

Neely Henry Lake Assoc. Begins Monitoring! Assistance Offered to Monitors on the Coosa Through Coosa Valley RC&D Council Grant

Thirteen new water quality monitors received Alabama Water Watch (AWW) Basic Water Quality Monitoring certification at a workshop hosted by the Neely Henry Lake Association and the Gadsden Water Board on Saturday, November 3. Jason Burcham (Russellville – Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation District) and Allison Newell (Alabama Water Watch Association) were the AWW trainers conducting the workshop. Participants included Ken Swafford, Bill Thrasher, Connie Swafford, Jack Blackburn, Connie Thrasher, Fred DeJong, Barb DeJong, Marvin Fowler, Jim Brannon, Ken Spraggins, and Hap Bryant, all of the Neely Henry Lake Association, as well as Wendell Darnell (Marshall County Retired Senior Volunteer Program) and Tom Cochran (Logan Martin Lake Protection Association). Jack Rutledge and Jack Davis of the Gadsden Water Board also participated in the day's events.

In addition to providing refreshments, lunch and the meeting facility for the November 3 AWW training, the Gadsden Water Board, partners in the Coosa River Basin Clean Water Partnership, has offered to provide Water Watch monitors and local watershed groups located in the Coosa basin (from below the Weiss Lake dam to the Logan Martin Dam) additional testing equipment, watershed mapping and other technical resources (including the use of testing facilities of the Gadsden Water Board for additional tests that monitors might be interested in running). Ken Spraggins, in charge of Lakeshore Surveillance of Neely Henry Lake for the Alabama Power Company, offered to work with monitors to obtain the GIS location of test sites chosen for monitoring. The data generated by citizen monitors through this partnership will be a significant component of Gadsden's Phase II Stormwater Program, helping them meet their permit requirements of citizen involvement and education and outreach.

A grant recently provided to the AWW Association by the Coosa Valley Resource Conservation and Development Council supported trainer's expenses for the training, with participants being provided information regarding how they can become NRCS Earth Team volunteers. **This promises to be an exciting component of the Coosa River Basin Clean Water Partnership, bringing together the Gadsden Water Board, Neely Henry Lake Association (and other watershed groups), Alabama Water Watch (Program and Association) and NRCS initiatives in order to protect and restore the aquatic ecosystem of the Coosa River Basin.** For more information on how your local group can become involved, contact Jack Rutledge at the Gadsden Water Board at (256) 543-2884 or e-mail (jrutledge@gadsdenwater.com).

Monitoring Site Selection Can Maximize Utility of Data and Assist Provided to ADEM

If your CWP and its stakeholder partners are initiating a new monitoring effort your site selection can be important to maximizing the utility of your data.

There are many stream segments where there are known or suspected water quality impairments for which additional data can help to clarify the situation or document water quality improvements due to installation of new treatment processes (point sources) or new best management practices (stormwater and other nonpoint source runoff sources).

Therefore, if you are starting up an Alabama Water Watch (AWW) or other monitoring effort or expanding an existing monitoring effort please consider doing the following:

- Check the AWW website and determine if there are 303d listed impaired waters in the area that you will be monitoring (the AWW URL for the 303d list is - <http://alabamawaterwatch.org>) or e-mail or call Lynn Sisk (ls@adem.state.al.us or phone 334-271-7826) for a paper list for your monitoring area
- Check with the Alabama Water Watch Program Office to determine if the site that you would choose to monitor on the 303d water body segment is being monitored at the present time or call the office at 1-888-844-4785 if you do not have internet access
- Monitor the site regularly and send the data to AWW

Clean Vessel Act Program Funding

Clean Vessel Act Program Funding for marina pumpouts is still available. At this time ADEM is still sending out applications to interested marinas.

A marina can be funded up to 75% if it has not had one funded in the last 5 years, is willing to guarantee maintenance of the system for at least five years, and pledge to charge no more than \$5 per pumpout and allow public access to use the facility. If ADEM gets more applications than they have dollars to fund, they will prioritize the projects.

If anyone has knowledge of a marina that may have interest in applying, please have them call Blake Roper at 1-800-533-2336 and ADEM will mail them an application.

Thanks for your help.

Blake Roper
Alabama Dept of Environmental Management