



## Hinkston Creek Watershed Stakeholders Meeting Minutes

November 23, 2020, 10 AM-11:30AM

I. Introductions/Attendees:

**Al Botts** (City of Mt. Sterling), **Amy Sohner** (BGGGS),  
**Andrea Lacy** (Bourbon Co Joint Planning  
Commission), **Barry Tanning** (LRWW), **Brian Rauf**  
(FOSC/LRWW), **Buddy Wilson** (Montgomery Co  
HD), **Curtis Rosser** (NRCS), **Edward Robert**  
(Resident), **Emily Anderson** (NRCS), **Kristi Morris**  
(WEDCO), **Lindsie Nicholas** (BGGGS), **Lorrain Smoot**  
(City of Millersburg), **Larry George** (LRWW),  
**Mahtaab Bagherzadeh** (KDOW), **Marie Halpin**  
(LRWW/FOSC), **Marium Van Meter** (FOSC/LRWW),  
**Pattie Stivender** (BGGGS), **Rick Fletcher** (Mt. Sterling  
Water & Sewer), **Steve Hamilton** (Nicholas  
County), **Valerie Tipton** (Bourbon Co CD)



II. Hinkston Creek Watershed Improvement Program Update (Lindsie Nicholas)

- a. 8 Septic Care workshops held in Bourbon, Montgomery, and Nicholas Co between 2018-2020 with a total of 200 attendees and 164 applications for the Septic Pumpout and Repair Program
- b. Total of 61 pumpouts and 55 septic repair/replacements approved in the Hinkston Creek watersheds between 2018-2020
- c. 3 Saving Our Streambanks workshops help in the watershed with one completed riparian buffer project at the Millersburg Linville Community Park (500LF planted)
- d. Connecting Community and Water site live and available as an online learning tool for connecting families, students, and communities to our local waterways  
<https://bggreensource.org/watershed-improvement/> (click logo to access)
- e. Water Quality Student Packets (Get to Know Your H2O) available for students in the watershed, looking to partner with teachers for accompanying virtual lessons
- f. Hinkston Creek Watershed Coloring Page available on the site to download and print
- g. Septic Care Workshops and pumpout and repair program applications planned for late winter/spring 2021
- h. Saving Our Streambanks workshops and riparian buffer mini grant applications also planned for late winter/ early spring 2021
- i. Working with CD/NRCS/Extension Offices to conduct Farm Tours with a videographer to highlight the hard work local farmers are putting into conservation efforts
- j. Looking for additional farms in the watershed interested in participating
- k. Water Quality Mini Grant Program rolling out in 2021/22 as seed money for stakeholder led water quality projects in the watershed (5 x \$5,000 projects w/ 20% match)

- III. Licking River Basin Updates (Mahtaab Bagherzadeh)
  - a. Contact Mahtaab if you have information you would like to include in the Licking River Basin Monthly newsletter - [mahtaab.bagherzadeh@ky.gov](mailto:mahtaab.bagherzadeh@ky.gov)
  - b. 319(h) Nonpoint Source Grant proposal deadline: December 4<sup>th</sup>
  - c. Work group forming to seek funding for an EPA Farmer to Farmer Grant in Hinkston
  - d. Grant aims to improve water quality and habitat with farmer-led and farmer-focused programs focusing on knowledge transfer
  - e. LRWW/ KWRRRI working on a Nutrient Pilot Study in Mt. Sterling along Hinkston – sampling monthly since August 2020
  - f. Barth Johnson cleaned 184 tires from the Licking River (127 tires from the Hinkston Creek watershed alone!)
  
- IV. Licking River Watershed Watch Update (Marie Halpin)
  - a. LRWW Annual Conference projected for Jan/Feb 2021 (Virtual)
  - b. 5 sites in Hinkston Creek watershed sampled by volunteer samplers
  - c. 2020 Sampling in July and September
  - d. High E. coli @ Site 1405 (North of Mt. Sterling) in July and September adjacent to a cattle farm, needs further investigation
  
- V. State Cost-Share Updates (Valerie Tipton)
  - a. KY State Cost Share Program provides financial assistance to ag producers to install ag BMPs designed to protect natural resources and oftentimes improve farming operations as a result of their installation
  - b. State cost-share requires a farm# from FAS and an updated KY Ag Water Quality Plan
  - c. Stocking rates above a certain level result in an animal feeding operation designation which requires a Nutrient Management Plan to be eligible for state cost-share funding – this is a costly plan (can use state cost-share to help develop the plan)
  - d. Local Conservation Districts are the front line for the program – contact your local office for assistance
  - e. Eligible BMPs listed in the KY Soil & Water Quality State Cost Share Practice Handbook
  - f. Four BMP categories include Livestock: Animal Feeding Operation, Livestock: Pastureland, Cropland, Forestland
  
- VI. Mt. Sterling Water & Sewer Plant Improvements Update (Rick Fletcher)
  - a. Mt. Sterling WWTP along Hinkston Creek currently at 80% design capacity
  - b. Current capacity is 3 MGD, upgrades would increase the capacity to 6 MGD
  - c. Planned upgrades projected to start construction in 2021, \$7-10 million in upgrades
  - d. Increased capacity will help the plant serve new development in Mt. Sterling including new industrial parks and subdivisions
  - e. Current KIA loan for planning and design will transfer to a construction loan
  - f. Plant currently overloaded on organics, upgrades will increase the plant's peaking factor to help with this
  - g. Upgrades to pumping capacity, solids removal, screens, and clarifiers are also included and will extend the life of the WWTP to 2040
  - h. Virtual Public Meeting on December 9, 2020 @7PM to discuss upgrades, contact Rick Fletcher at [r.fletcher@mswatersewer.com](mailto:r.fletcher@mswatersewer.com) for Zoom meeting details

- VII. Nicholas County Dead Animal Disposal Update (Judge Steve Hamilton)
- a. Nicholas and Bourbon Co looked at options for a regional dead animal disposal (composting) facility as private options are very limited in the area
  - b. Partnered with Steve Higgins with UK and toured the Franklin Co facility
  - c. Old quarry site in Hinkston Creek Watershed being considered
  - d. Water Quality Plan required for the facility
  - e. Stakeholder group consisting of Conservation District, UK Extension Service, and County governments met to discuss plans
  - f. Group has concerns about a regional facility vs. Nicholas Co facility
  - g. Contact Judge Hamilton if you are interested in more information on this effort and the stakeholder group at [Judgeex@gx.net](mailto:Judgeex@gx.net)
- VIII. Bourbon Co Joint Planning Commission Updates (Andrea Lacy)
- a. Bourbon Co in the midst of an 18-month planning process for their comprehensive plan update titled "Envision 2040"
  - b. Natural resources are a top priority for the community
  - c. Agriculture & Environment working group met in the fall and winter of 2019 and set water quality objectives among others under their goals for the community
  - d. The Planning Commission has prioritized the development of a watershed-based plan for a portion of the Stoner Creek watershed
  - e. Andrea is working with KDOW and FOSC to pursue funding and guidance
  - f. Contact Andrea to get involved in the planning process at [alacy@paris.ky.gov](mailto:alacy@paris.ky.gov)
- IX. Open Discussion
- a. Breakout Sessions started to work on the Compass™ Message Box activity for:
    - Encouraging Streamside Buffers
    - Generating new interest in waterways and related projects
    - Increasing Watershed Watch participation
  - b. Draft Message Boxes from these sessions are included in the minutes for reference
- X. **Next Stakeholder Meeting TBD – April 2021**
- a. Meeting minutes, presentations, recordings, and upcoming meeting dates will be posted on the Hinkston Creek Watershed site: <https://bggreensource.org/hinkston-creek-watershed-group/>

<b>Topic: Encouraging Streamside Buffers</b>		
<b>Compass™ Message Box</b>		
<b>Target Audience:</b>	Landowners with streams on or adjacent to their properties, farm owners, people with cropland, public property and parks, city reservoirs and lakes, schools	
Who is impacted by this? Who can change this? Who cares about this?		
<b>Problems?</b>		
What specific dimension of the issue are you addressing? Are you focused on stormwater, toxics, ... ?		
<p>1. Property owners protective of land 2. Misconception with mowing to the edge and visual appeal for streams 3. A lack of riparian buffers along streams is causing unstable streams and decreased water quality from bacteria, urban and ag stormwater runoff, excess nutrients, etc. 4. A divide between the landowner and their water - Loss of connectedness 5. Lack of understanding of need for plant diversity in buffer zone</p>		
<b>Benefits?</b>	<b>Issue</b>	<b>So What?</b>
Who does this help and how? What improves in the short-term? Long-term?	Broad terms. What keywords would you search to find your topic online? (i.e. clean water, fishable and swimmable, flooding, etc.	What does your audience value? How does it impact them or something they care about?
1.Landowner regains a connection to the water 2.Improved water quality 3. Increased herd health and better livestock management 4.Increased interaction with water 5.Increased habitat long-term and increased ecosystem diversity	Clean water, protecting streambanks, erosion, flooding, plants, riparian buffers	1.They value their property usually, decreased impacts from floods 2.Farmer cares about his crop or livestock, better farm management 3.They may care about the water being safe, increased water quality 4.Watershed plan says this is the most important thing to be done 5.WQ and ecological benefits of buffers
<b>Solutions?</b>		
What can be done to address the problem? Or what are you doing to address it? Audience specific.		
<p>1. Bigger push towards facilitating and completing AG WQ Plan with more access to help completing plans, 2. More guidance needed on HOW to do it and properly maintain long-term, 3. Less bureaucratic barriers to implementation, 4. Making materials and guidance more easily accessible to audience, 5. Provide more financial resources to encourage implementation</p>		

<b>Topic: Generating new interest in waterways and related projects</b>		
<b>Compass™ Message Box</b>		
<b>Target Audience:</b>	Youth, students, Art Walk Poster participants, civic organizations (churches, Lions Club, Rotary), Agriculture (cattleman's association), FFA	
Who is impacted by this? Who can change this? Who cares about this?		
<b>Problems?</b>		
What specific dimension of the issue are you addressing? Are you focused on stormwater, toxics, ... ?		
Cultural hinderances (no appreciation or concern), perceived cost barrier, lots of competition with other groups/interests, varied knowledge of awareness (though increased awareness since this program started)		
<b>Benefits?</b>	<b>Issue</b>	<b>So What?</b>
Who does this help and how? What improves in the short-term? Long-term?	Broad terms. What keywords would you search to find your topic online? (i.e. clean water, fishable and swimmable, flooding, etc.	What does your audience value? How does it impact them or something they care about?
1. More support for management practices, helps everyone in community, including farmers, homeowners, and local flora and fauna, 2. Better livestock health, 3. Cheaper water treatment costs downstream, 4. There is always someone downstream, recreation, fisherman, hunters	water quality, clean water, water recreation, water usage, kayaking	1. Stewardship and reputation, self awareness of environmental stewardship, and take pride in that 2. No one wants to be a polluter 3. Turning on tap and drinking clean water 4. Recreation downstream, fishing downstream
<b>Solutions?</b>		
What can be done to address the problem? Or what are you doing to address it? Audience specific.		
More farm bill money for Ag BMPs, easier process to apply for assistance, embrace low impact development and start requiring it, making natural resource solutions for stormwater management a priority		

<b>Topic: Increasing Watershed Watch participation, volunteer samplers</b>		
<b>Compass™ Message Box</b>		
<b>Target Audience:</b>	All citizens are impacted by water quality impairments; farmers; motivated citizens; younger samplers; outdoor recreation groups	
Who is impacted by this? Who can change this? Who cares about this?		
<b>Problems?</b>		
What specific dimension of the issue are you addressing? Are you focused on stormwater, toxics, ... ?		
<p>Harnessing community interest; aging samplers (LRWW samplers are primarily of retirement age)</p>		
<b>Benefits?</b>	<b>Issue</b>	<b>So What?</b>
Who does this help and how? What improves in the short-term? Long-term?	Broad terms. What keywords would you search to find your topic online? (i.e. clean water, fishable and swimmable, flooding, etc.)	What does your audience value? How does it impact them or something they care about?
More comprehensive water quality data (much needed in KY)	Lack of water quality data; impaired waters	Clean water is important for a successful farming operation (livestock and crop health); increased interest in outdoor recreation since pandemic (evidenced by limited supplies from high demand)
<b>Solutions?</b>		
What can be done to address the problem? Or what are you doing to address it? Audience specific.		
<p>Goal: Make citizens aware of the importance of clean water and our collective role in tracking water quality conditions. Actions: engaging with outdoor recreation groups (Fly fishing groups, kayakers, etc.); connecting with local news outlets to gain community-wide traction; revamp social media presence and online resources</p>		

# HINKSTON CREEK WATERSHED MAP BMP IMPLEMENTATION

