



## Dix River Watershed Stakeholder Meeting Minutes

January 28, 2020, 3:00PM-4:00PM

### I. Introductions/Attendees:

**Duane Campbell** (Boyle Co), **Randall Carrier** (Lincoln Co HD), **Brittany Elkins** (Boyle Co HD), **David McGrade** (Centre College), **Malissa McAlister** (KWRRI/KRWW), **Preston Miles** (CREEC), **Josh Morgan** (City of Danville), **Lindsie Nicholas** (BGGs), **Bill Payne** (LCSD), **John Scarpa** (NRCS), **Tim and Margo Smith** (City of Hustonville), **Jane Vanhook** (KRWW/Lincoln Co Public Library), **Brett Werner** (Centre College/CREEC)



### II. Watershed Improvement Program Updates

- a. Saving our Streambanks Virtual Workshop Series March 9th-25th, 2021; schedule and registration up on the website: <https://bggreensource.org/riparian-buffers/>
- b. Get to Know Your H2O student packets available, contact [lindsie@bggreensource.org](mailto:lindsie@bggreensource.org)
- c. 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)
- d. Septic Care workshops and grants Summer 2021
- e. Water Quality Mini Grant Program rolling out in 2021/2022 as seed money for stakeholder led water quality projects in the watershed
  - i. Open to the entire Dix River Watershed
  - ii. 5 x \$5,000 projects w/ 20% match

### III. Compass™ Message Box activity

- a. Topics:
  - i. Encouraging streamside buffers
  - ii. Generating new interest in waterways and related projects
  - iii. Increasing Watershed Watch participation
- b. Completed Message Box activities attached

### IV. Half-life message activity and discussion notes attached

### V. Next Stakeholder Meeting TBD – May 2021

- a. Discussion topics: problem areas, partnerships, and potential projects
- b. Meeting minutes, presentations, recordings, and upcoming meeting dates posted on the Dix River site: <https://bggreensource.org/dix-river-watershed-group/>

Topic: Encouraging Streamside Buffers - Dix River Group		
Compass™ Message Box		
<b>Target Audience:</b> Who is impacted by this? Who can change this? Who cares about this?	Landowners with streams on or adjacent to their properties, current and future business owners, community members that use streams for recreational use, farmers/livestock operations	
Problems?		
What specific dimension of the issue are you addressing? Are you focused on stormwater, toxics, ... ?		
1.Lack of streamside buffers along streams 2.Access to volunteers or people willing to help maintain a buffer 3.Property owners protective of land and fear loss of cropland due to buffer strips 4.Farmers not wanting to lose access to water for cattle and having to pay for city water 5.Decreased water quality and connectedness to streams		
Benefits?	Issue	So What?
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.Increased interaction with water 2.Regaining safe and aesthetically pleasing access to streams for recreation and enjoyment 3.Improved water quality 4.Increase herd health and better livestock management 5.Habitat improvement long-term	Clean water, riparian buffers, erosion, plants, protecting streambanks	1.Streambank stabilization can prevent loss of cropland/ farmland 2.Improving water quality connects people to the water 3.Decreased impacts from floods 4.Better farm management-rotational grazing, etc. 5.Community drawn to aesthetically pleasing plantings
Solutions?		
What can be done to address the problem? Or what are you doing to address it? Audience specific.		
1.Add a requirement for a buffer zone as a part of new development 2.Provide more funding to help encourage streamside buffers 3.Engage in simple conversations and community discussions 4.Increase availability of guidance on How-to install and properly maintain 5.Focus on erosion and land loss 6.Bigger push towards facilitating and completing AG WQ Plan with more access to help completing plans and less bureaucratic barriers to implementation		

<b>Topic: Generating new interest in waterways and related projects - Dix River Group</b>		
<b>Compass™ Message Box</b>		
<b>Target Audience:</b>	People that use the waterways for recreational use, young adults, students, anyone that utilizes drinking water (western Lincoln County, all of Boyle, etc.); Polluting Dix River --> polluting our water source; City	
Who is impacted by this? Who can change this? Who cares about this?	sanitary sewer systems; septic tanks/systems owners; farmers	
<b>Problems?</b>		
What specific dimension of the issue are you addressing? Are you focused on stormwater, toxics, ... ?		
1.Huge litter problem in our waterways 2.Illegal trash dumps (pamper trees) 3.Sedimentation & siltation (erosion) 4.Septic tanks are out of sight so not considered 5.No appreciation or concern for waterways or varied knowledge or awareness		
<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.Improve source water for drinking water in Danville and beyond 2.Improving the stream water itself through cleanups helps clean the source water 3.Cleaner waterways for community members that recreate in the streams	pamper trees; local clean-up; septic care; water quality; environmental; watershed	1.Improved recreation (fishing, kayaking, etc.) 2.Aesthetic improvements and community building 3.Self awareness and taking pride in water stewardship
<b>Solutions?</b>		
What can be done to address the problem? Or what are you doing to address it? Audience specific.		
1.Earth Day events / activities for water clean-up 2.Education & awareness to all ages 3.Agricultural conservation --> encouraging practices 4.Stewardship campaign 5.Making natural solutions and LID for stormwater management a priority/requirement		

<b>Topic: Increasing Watershed Watch participation, volunteer samplers - Dix River Group</b>		
<b>Compass™ Message Box</b>		
<b>Target Audience:</b>	Local residents and officials, especially those along waterways are impacted by water quality impairments;	
Who is impacted by this? Who can change this? Who cares about this?	Residents who care about local water health, Watershed Watch organizers, younger samplers, outdoor recreation groups can help make a change	
<b>Problems?</b>		
What specific dimension of the issue are you addressing? Are you focused on stormwater, toxics, ... ?		
1. Recruitment and retention of samplers 2. Build awareness and community interest in participation.		
<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. Can have direct benefits in improved water quality through additional citizen sampler engagement 2. Results can be used to justify measures to improve water quality and community desirability 3. Short term - heightened awareness 4. Long term - continued engagement	citizen sampling, citizen science, public participation	1. Healthy community 2. Attractive landscape 3. Clean water 4. Safe drinking water 5. Inclusive access to waterways and waterbodies for recreational use and enjoyment
<b>Solutions?</b>		
What can be done to address the problem? Or what are you doing to address it? Audience specific.		
1. Create a profile of those who have sampled and left, asking the reason for leaving? 2. Identify creek-side landowners for targeted mailings and promotions 3. Engage with outdoor recreation groups (boaters, fishing groups, kayakers, etc.) 4. Revamp social media and online presence 5. Connect with local news outlets		

## **Half-Life Your Message Box Activity Summary**

Dix River Watershed Stakeholder Group

January 28, 2021

### **Increasing Watershed Watch Participation (Malissa, Josh, Brett, Randall)**

1. 60 sec

Watershed Watch was created over 20 years ago but a lot of sampling participation in the Dix River has since dropped off. We need to ask ourselves "Why have people left as well as how to improve retention?". We must also increase the participation of Watershed Watch and help educate the public on water quality in general. This is important for safe recreation and drinking water. Those that would be most interested are most likely creek-side landowners, and we need to target them for promotion. Family involvement is also important to consider.

2. 30 sec

We need more citizen science sampling participation. We must seek out additional stakeholders. Looking for people with land along the creek or rivers in the area is a good place to start. Some questions we must answer are "What do interested groups have in common?" and "Who started sampling and has not continued?". Overall, we want to improve water quality for the people and the habitat.

3. 15 sec

There are 2 primary goals of Watershed Watch: awareness and retention. Questions we must ask are "Who is interested?" and "Who is impacted, who lives along the creek, and who recreates there?".

4. 8sec

We want better water quality and more participation in Watershed Watch. Participation with Watershed Watch must target and engage interested stakeholders.

### **Encouraging Streamside Buffers (Lindsie, Margo, John, Duane)**

1. 60sec

The audience applies to anyone that lives along a stream. More specifically to people that have property along it. It's important they know how to establish buffers and why, educate farmers on the benefit of buffers vs. lost cropland and alternative water sources for cattle. We need to push the benefits, such as preventing land loss to erosion. A possible solution is to make the buffer zone a requirement. We need to make additional funding resources available and known.

2. 30sec

More community conversations on the benefits of streamside buffers and what grants are available for these projects. Understanding zoning requirements and exploring new requirements for buffers in each

community for new development. Generally, people need to know that these grants and conservation programs are available.

3. 15sec

We must get more stakeholders involved in community and private projects. Grants need to be clear and attainable. Provide additional resources for grant applications and Ag programs.

4. 8sec

We need to better communicate the benefits of streamside buffers and help people understand why they are important and how they can do it.

### **Generating New Interest in Waterways (David, Bill, Jane, Preston)**

1. 60sec

We use the waterways in a wide variety of ways. Dix River runs through and connects many counties in the region. To generate interest, it is important to communicate how everything is connected, such as the importance of our drinking water sources and sanitary sewer system needs. We need to address the huge problem with litter and septic system care that affects our waterways.

2. 30sec

We have an opportunity to engage landowners specifically. It is important to make everyone aware that we share the watershed and the drinking water it provides. The waterways also have aesthetic values and are used for enjoyment and recreation.

3. 15sec

Water quality is important. We must recognize the role that septic systems, sanitary sewer systems, etc. have on our waterways. Recognizing the recreation and aesthetic benefits, and ways that they can be inhibited, are important when generating new interest.

4. 8sec

Everyone must recognize we are all affected by water pollution because we share the same waterways. We must also help everyone recognize the benefits: drinking water source, recreation, & aesthetic.