Currys Fork Watershed Roundtable Meeting Notes

September 24, 2009
John Black Community Center

On September 24, 2009, ninety-one concerned citizens of Curry's Fork gathered to discuss their concerns and goals for the watershed. The meeting opened with an introductory presentation informing residents of the partnership between the Oldham County Fiscal Court and the EPA and the grant to write a watershed plan to address water quality issues in the watershed.

A brief description of the watershed was provided. Curry's Fork Watershed has four sub-watersheds: North Curry's Fork, South Curry's Fork, Curry's Fork and Asher's Run that drains into Floyd's Fork. The total budget to study Curry's Fork and write a watershed plan and implement priority actions is $1.6 million dollars.

The Clean Water Act set goals for the country's waters to be fishable and swimmable. The Kentucky Division of Water determined that a four mile stream segment in Currys Fork is impaired. Developing a watershed plan will improve the likelihood of successful water quality improvement, minimize duplication, increase collaboration with county agencies and improve the likelihood of securing future funding resources.

The Curry's Fork watershed plan will lay out strategies for managing water quality and provide a framework to implement priority issues. To date, the project has collected water quality data and orchestrated technical stakeholder meetings in order to inventory both existing problems and programs (solutions) already underway in the watershed. In the next few months the water quality data will be analyzed and a water quality report will be authored. The project will result in not only a comprehensive watershed plan, but also includes on-the-ground work. Implementation plans are in the works for a stream restoration project. The University of Louisville has designed a stream restoration project for 3,700 feet of South Curry's Fork off Moody Lane.

Valuable community input was gathered on why Currys Fork is important along with concerns for the watershed and future goals. The ninety-one participants were divided into 13 groups to answer three specific questions. Each table reported back to the group with highlights of the group's discussion.

Question 1: How and why is the Curry's Fork watershed important to you?

- Table 1
  - We live there!
- Table 3
  - Natural resources are important to all generations
- Table 4
  - Live there
  - Contribute to the health of other water ways
  - Increases quality of life
- Table 5 & 6
  - Runoff over and under
  - Flooding Conditions
  - Impacts on Land
- Table 2
  - Live in watershed
  - Clean recreation areas
  - Good place for wildlife habitat
- Table 7
  - Health of community
  - Property values go down due to flooding
  - Quality of life
- Table 8
  - Recreation for kids
  - Produce farming
  - Water shortages
  - Wildlife/habitat
- Table 9
  - Flooding and debris
  - Aesthetic value
  - Potential health issues/smells
  - Wildlife support
- Table 10
  - Take care of limited water
  - Important to take care of for wildlife and people
- Table 11
  - Ditto
- Table 12
  - Kids play in it, on property
  - No more tax increase
  - Flooding into street

- Table 13
  - Source of drinking water
  - Flooding homes
  - Mosquitoes
  - Property erosion
- Table 15
  - Walking in water, don't want to get sick
- Table 16
  - Live on creek
  - General well being of ecosystem
  - Rural character of the area
  - Wildlife/Recreation

Question 2: What are the problems in Curry's Fork watershed?

- Table 1
  - Floating debris Large items
  - Flooding
  - Soil Erosion-Sedimentation
- Table 2
  - Under capacity treatment plants
  - Wildlife so don't eat in garden nice safe habitat
  - Enforcement
- Table 3
  - Check septic on regular basis
- Table 4
  - Stormwater from I71
  - Fertilizer over use
  - Package sanitary treatment plants
- Table 5
  - Pollutants and pathogens
  - Construction management
  - Wildlife
- Table 6
  - Pollution, chemical and biological
  - Help in neighborhood cleaning
- Table 7
  - Flooding/runoff debris in yard
  - Erosion in yard-west moody
  - Water Quality Sewer Effluent
- Table 8
  - Inducing of flooding damming
  - Construction issues
  - New stormwater management plan
- Table 9
  - Bacteria in water
  - Modification of stream bed
  - Silt/ erosion
  - Stream subject to dumping
- Table 10
  - Uncontrolled runoff from construction
  - Erosion control on sloping properties
  - Faulty septic tanks
- Table 11
  - Failing septic systems
- Table 12
  - Flooding Flooding Flooding
  - Too much money on this project
  - Building without evaluating environmental consequences
- Table 13
  - Clogged streams
  - Flooding/erosion
  - Pollution
- Table 14/15
  - Could not carry a heavy rain
  - Too much clear cut/dev
  - Poor stormwater
  - Improve treatment plant
- Table 16
  - Runoff flooding
  - Uncontrolled development
  - More flood plain
  - Package Treatment Plants

Question 3: What are your goals for Currys Fork watershed?

- Table 1
  - Better water quality for Currys Fork
- Table 2
  - Economical clean up that works
  - Disease free water
  - Polluters pay for misuse
- Table 3
  - Enjoy the peace of nature
- Table 4
  - Clean it up for our family now and in the future
  - Control any future damage and improve the forks over all health
- Table 5
  - Meet Water Quality Standards
  - Education- care of water/safety
  - Recreation development
- Table 6
  - Funds used efficient-not like government
- Table 7
  - Back in it beds, no more flooding
  - Creek cleaned up roots
  - Recreation, kids
  - Health and safety of people who live there
- Table 8
  - Education
  - Fix Sewer plant capacity
  - Flood control
  - End good old boys system
- Table 9
  - Improve Water Quality
  - Reduction in flooding
  - Bring back to natural
  - Locate and addressing pollution
- Table 10
  - Special tax monitored curry's fork benefits
  - Return streambed to natural flow
  - In expensive maintenance controls
- Table 11
  - Countywide sewers
  - Very little agriculture, watch where it is coming from
- Table 12
  - Likes table 8 answers
  - Freely to recreate
  - Integrity for funds
- Table 13
  - Restore ecosystem
  - Public education
  - Drainage system
- Table 14/15
  - Clean up water
  - More public access
- Table 16
  - Cleaner water
  - Proper structure
  - Limit development in flood plain

In summary, the roundtable discussion reported on the importance of the watershed, concerns of the watershed and goals for the watershed. Curry's Fork watershed is important because they live there. The major concerns with the watershed are flooding, erosion, bacteria, development pressures, taxes and fiscally responsible use of funds. Goals for the watershed are to improve water quality, education, and locate sources of pollution. There was a wide array of viewpoints and neighborhoods represented. In addition to the summary responses provided above, each individual response will be compiled for incorporation into the watershed plan. The water quality data will be analyzed this fall and in the spring of 2010 water quality will be discussed. The community input gathered will be incorporated into the watershed based plan.