

## **Outline for Dry Creek Roundtable Report**

### I. Executive Summary

### II. Introduction

- A. Background Information
- B. Roundtable Agenda
- C. How Roundtable Information Will be Utilized

### III. Responses from Roundtable

### IV. Conclusion

- A. Impacts of the Roundtable on the Planning Process and the Community
- B. Roundtable Participant Questionnaire Results

### V. Appendices

- A. Map of Watershed
- B. Roundtable Agenda
- C. Roundtable Questionnaires and Results

## **I. Executive Summary**

The Dry Creek Watershed-based Plan Roundtables were held on February 5 and 9, 2008 at the Clearfield Elementary School in Clearfield, Kentucky (Rowan County). The two roundtables attracted 25 people, nine of those being first-time participants in the project.

A tributary of Triplett Creek, the Dry Creek watershed is a 7500 acre area located just southeast of Morehead. Dry Creek is listed as impaired for aquatic life in the Kentucky Division of Water's 2006 Integrated Report. To address point and non-point source pollution in Dry Creek, Morehead State University and the Kentucky Waterways Alliance are working in partnership, with community input, to create a watershed-based plan.

The roundtables were held with the intent of drawing more stakeholders into the watershed planning process, increasing the public visibility, educating the public on water quality issues in the Dry Creek watershed, and to gain stakeholders' input for the planning process.

Several roundtable participants volunteered to serve on the Watershed Planning Team, and several others indicated interest in becoming trained volunteers to conduct water quality testing in Dry Creek. At the roundtables, participants were informed about issues facing the watershed and, thanks to publicity and good attendance, public visibility was enhanced by the event.

The overall project to develop a watershed-based plan is funded in part by a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under §319(h) of the Clean Water Act through the Kentucky Division of Water to the Kentucky Waterways Alliance (*Grant # C9994861-04*).

The Dry Creek Watershed Planning Team will continue to work to develop the plan through early 2010. Another roundtable is planned for 2009 after a draft watershed-based plan has been completed and is ready to present to the public.

## **II. Introduction**

### **A. Background Information**

A tributary of Triplett Creek, the Dry Creek watershed is a 7500 acre area located just southeast of Morehead. Dry Creek is listed as impaired for aquatic life in the 2006 Integrated Report. The Dry Creek watershed is mainly forested with housing developments concentrated at the mouth of the creek. To address pollution in Dry Creek, Morehead State University and the Kentucky Waterways Alliance are working together, with community input, to create a watershed-based plan. The roundtables were held to draw more stakeholders into the watershed planning process, increase the public visibility, educate the public on issues facing the Dry Creek watershed, and to gain stakeholders' input for the planning process.

### **B. Roundtable Agenda**

The Dry Creek Watershed Planning Team chose to hold two roundtables in order to involve a greater number of stakeholders. The first roundtable was held on the evening of Tuesday, February 5, 2008. The second roundtable was held the following Saturday morning, February 9. Both roundtables followed the same agenda, outlined below.

As participants arrived at the event, they were asked to register and to fill out a "Pre-Roundtable Assessment" to garner prior knowledge about the discussion topics planned for the roundtable. (Following the event, each participant was asked to complete a "Post-Roundtable Assessment" to determine how much they learned at the event.)

After registration, April Haight, the Facilitator for the Dry Creek Watershed Planning Team, welcomed the group and led group introductions. Several members of the Watershed Planning Team presented on the project. Katie Holmes from the Kentucky Waterways Alliance presented background on watersheds and the watershed-based planning process. Christi McMichael introduced information on land cover and land use in the Dry Creek watershed, and the affect this has on water quality. April Haight covered the results of habitat assessments performed in the Dry Creek watershed and presented research on nutrient levels in the watershed. Steve Reid explained sediment and erosions issues in the watershed. Finally, Geoff Garner told the group about bacteria in Dry Creek.

Following the presentations, Tom Carew led the group in a moderated discussion of the following questions:

- How do you use the creek?
- How would you like to use the creek?
- How do you use the watershed?
- Why is the watershed important to you?
- What are the problems in the watershed?
- What are your goals for the watershed?

### **C. How Roundtable Information Will be Utilized**

The Dry Creek Watershed Planning Team is in the beginning stages of working on a watershed-based plan for the Dry Creek watershed. At its next meeting, the team will consider the input from roundtable participants, and will decide which problems and goals should be incorporated into the scope of the plan.

All comments from participants in the roundtable have been included in this report to provide an accurate representation of the discussion that occurred. Some comments may not be appropriate to incorporate into the plan at this time, but all feedback will be reviewed by the team.

### **III. Responses from Roundtable**

Participants at both of the roundtables were asked the following questions:

- How do you use the creek?
- How would you like to use the creek?
- How do you use the watershed?
- Why is the watershed important to you?
- What are the problems in the watershed?
- What are your goals for the watershed?

The following were the participants' responses:

#### **How do you use the creek?**

1. Children play in the creek (or aren't allowed to because it is too dirty)
2. Kayaking at high flows
3. Cleaning out trash
4. Fishing
5. Get bait from creek
6. Gravel Mining

#### **How would you like to use the creek?**

1. Fishing (safely)
2. Swimming hole
3. Kayaking (too "dirty" now)
4. Safely play in the creek
5. Drink out of the creek
6. Better fish habitat
7. More wildlife
8. Educational purposes – students could catch critters, etc.
9. Play area for kids

#### **How do you use the watershed/what do you see happening to the watershed in the future?**

1. 1-2 dozen cattle in the watershed
2. More residential/rental construction has come in/will be coming
3. Expanded sewer has been requested
4. More trailer parks have been developed
5. Increased logging – 300 acres of National Forest land is about to be logged
6. No official hiking trails in Dry Creek
7. Agriculture
8. Residential
9. Vegetable gardens

### **Why is the watershed important to you?**

1. Feeds into Triplett Creek – lots of people fish there and some paddle there
2. Flooding concerns
3. Health and well-being of environment and the people who use it
4. Importance of water as a resource in general
5. Property being lost to bank erosion

### **What are the problems in the watershed (both on land and in the creek)?**

1. Flooding
2. Infill of floodplain and floodway/illegal building in floodplain
3. Flat land is hard to find in Dry Creek (that is not in the floodplain)
4. Erosion around roadways (and no guardrails) (Could get transportation department involved in the project)
5. Property Loss into the creek due to erosion
6. How to attract interest in BMPs? (Resentment from the Daniel Boone Forest taking land from Rowan Co. residents) Incentives- put \$ in their pockets!
7. Channelization
8. Bridges lead to more erosion (seen some improvement with new bridges)
9. No ordinances
10. Gravel mining
11. Trash in creek
12. Low diversity of minnows (indicator of other problems)
13. Creek is better than it was in the 80s and 90s, but there is a long way to go
14. Large algal blooms
15. Sewers not available throughout watershed
16. Increased paving increases erosion, which increases flooding – needs better management
17. Farmers are concerned about having to implement BMPs
18. Floodplain management is a concern
19. Home septic systems over flowing resulting in bad odor

### **What are your goals for the watershed?**

1. Opportunity to have local official be trained on good planning and zoning ordinances.
2. Get the tourism department involved in project – have creek clean ups and increase tourism.
3. Hopes plan is successful and that it will expand to Christy Creek next.
4. Create more stable creek banks.
5. Expand sewer infrastructure.

## **IV. Conclusion**

### **A. Impacts of the Roundtable on the Community and the Planning Process**

Publicity for the roundtables reached many watershed residents. Public service announcements ran on a local radio station, WMKY, for the weeks leading up to the roundtables, and flyers advertising the roundtables were posted at public places throughout the Dry Creek watershed. The local newspaper, *The Morehead News* ran notices about the roundtables. Preceding the second roundtable, Watershed Planning Team members went door-to-door in the watershed to talk to residents about the roundtable and encourage public participation. Many area residents said that they had seen the notices in the newspaper, and that they were aware of the roundtable.

The roundtables drew additional residents from the Dry Creek watershed and the surrounding area to be a part of the process. Additionally, some members of potential partner agencies, such as The Nature Conservancy and Morehead Public Utilities, attended the roundtables, and have expressed interest in the project. The Watershed Planning Team will benefit from the added knowledge of the watershed that these residents and possible partner agencies bring to the table.

Through discussions held at the roundtable, the Watershed Planning Team learned about additional issues to add to the plan, and about potential programs that could be helpful to the watershed-based plan.

### **B. Roundtable Participant Survey Results**

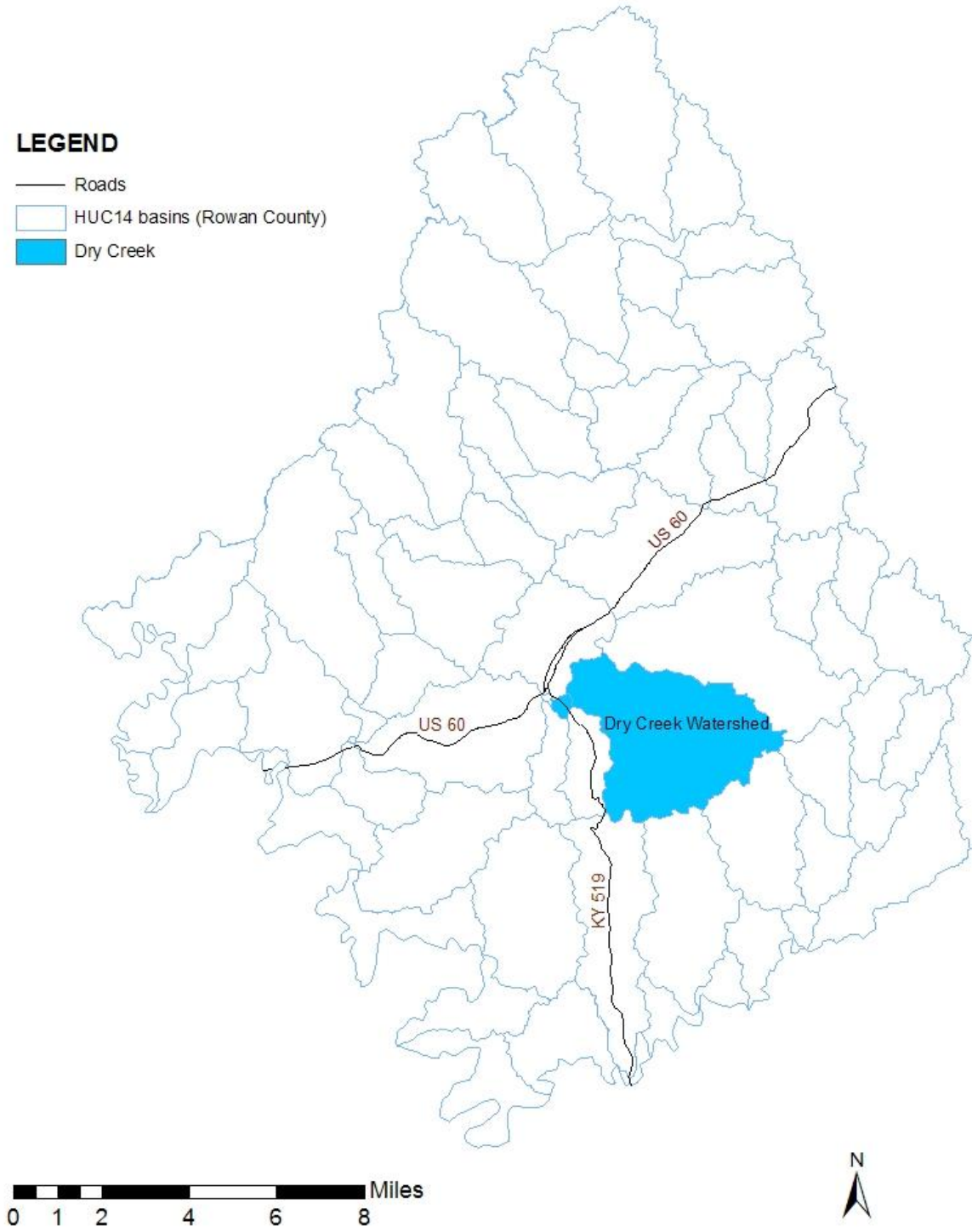
As participants arrived at the event, they were asked to register and to fill out a “Pre-Roundtable Questionnaire” to garner prior knowledge about the discussion topics planned for the roundtable. Following the event, each participant was asked to complete a “Post-Roundtable Questionnaire” to determine how much they learned at the event. These questionnaires were identified with numbers, not names, so that people would feel comfortable answering truthfully. The roundtable questionnaires and results are attached to this report as Appendix C.

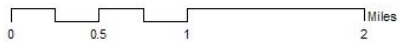
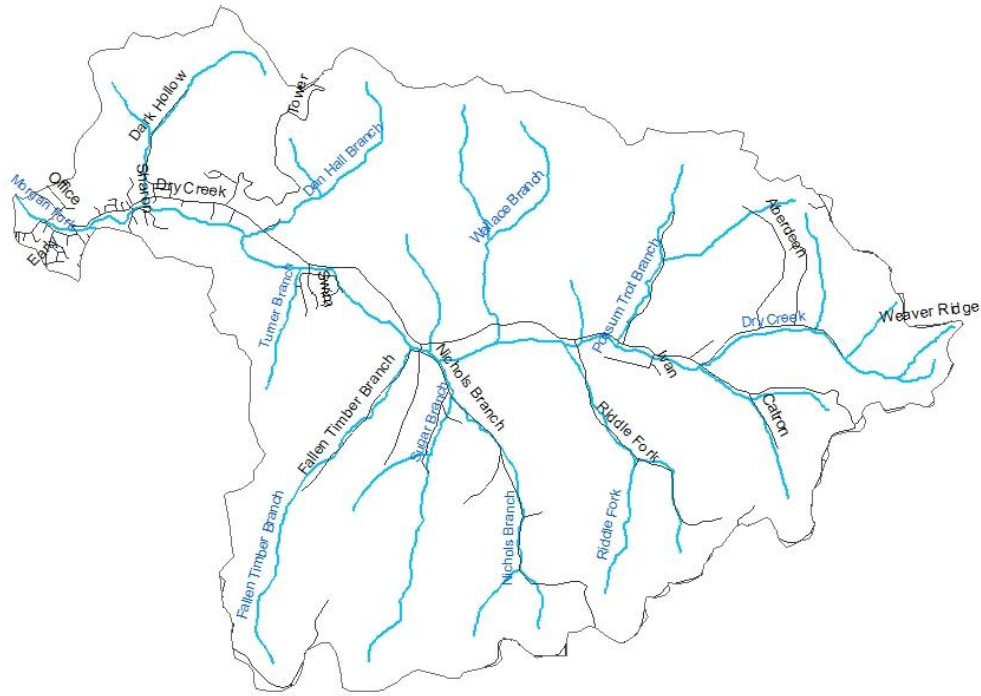
Unfortunately, only two roundtable participants turned in both the pre-roundtable and post-roundtable questionnaires. Both of their post-roundtable questionnaires showed that these participants had expanded their understanding of watershed issues during the roundtable. Both participants indicated that prior to the roundtable they had not heard of a watershed-based plan and did not have a good understanding about what defines a watershed. In their post-roundtable assessments, these two participants both indicated that they had a better understanding of “the process involved in the development of a watershed-based plan” than before the roundtable. They also indicated they felt they could now successfully define the term “watershed.” Though these results aren’t statistically significant for the entire group, they do indicate that the roundtable accomplished its educational goals among a few participants. The Watershed Planning Team has discussed more systematic ways to ensure that more surveys are completed at future roundtables.

# Appendix A: Maps of Watershed

## LEGEND

- Roads
- HUC14 basins (Rowan County)
- Dry Creek





**Legend**

- Boundary
- Roads
- Streams



Appendix C: Roundtable Questionnaires and Results

Number   1  

**Pre-roundtable Questionnaire**  
Dry Creek Watershed-based Plan

1. Had you ever heard of a Watershed-based plan before this meeting? Yes No
2. Do you have a good understanding of what a watershed is? Yes No
3. Name two pollutants in the Dry Creek.
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Do you know the difference between non-point and point source pollutant?  
Yes No

*This project is funded in part by a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under 319(h) of the Clean Water Act through the Kentucky Division of Water to the Kentucky Waterways Alliance (Grant # C9994861-04).*

Number   1  

**Post-roundtable Questionnaire**  
Dry Creek Watershed-based Plan

1. Do you feel that you have more of an understanding of the process involved in the development of a watershed-based plan than before this meeting? Yes No
2. Could you explain to someone what a watershed is? Yes No
3. Name two problems caused by pollution in Dry Creek.
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
4. List two possible sources of non-point source pollution in the Dry Creek Watershed.
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_

Results from Questionnaires:

<b>Pre-roundtable Questionnaire</b>	<b>Respondent 1</b>	<b>Respondent 2</b>	<b>Respondent 3</b>	<b>Respondent 4</b>	<b>Respondent 5</b>	<b>Respondent 6</b>	<b>Respondent 7</b>
Had you heard of a Watershed-based plan before this meeting?	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	
Do you have a good understanding of what a watershed is?	No	No	Between yes and no	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Name two pollutants in Dry Creek.	Septic	Septic	E. Coli	Human waste E. Coli	Sediment	Sewer	
	Trash	Trash	Fecal Coliform	Non-biodegradable pollutants (mercury)	Fecal Coliform	Trash - junk	
Do you know the difference between non-point and point source pollution?	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	

