

Open Comment Sessions - Citizen Input Workshops

Blount County Water Quality Planning Process - April 15 to July 2, 2002

Middle settlements School

A lot of people throw trash – there needs to be litter laws – possibly with a fee for trash pickup.

Houseboats are a problem with dumping of septic waste in the lake.

Where is the funding going to come from for any water quality plans?

How strict are the regulations going to be? Will strict regulations impact development?

Development should pay for its own water quality measures.

Animals in streams is a problem.

The Airport construction has impact on Lackey Creek.

Trees should be preserved in developments.

Natural habitat provision or preservation should be encouraged.

Grey water discharge should be addressed in new housing.

Louisville City Hall

Growth leads to pollution. Then why encourage more growth? Why recruit for industrial development?

There is a choice between natural and accelerated growth – we do not need to encourage unnatural growth.

Need to back off of industrial development incentives and activities.

Should look at method to tax imperviousness.

How do we work with Corps of Engineers and TDEC?

How much will a water quality plan cost (how much to implement). Where will the money come from?

We cannot do nothing.

Alcoa Company is still putting PCP into the Little River.

Need to look into septic field regulations.

Farm erosion is still an important issue – related to food – need education and leadership.

Need to encourage people to use car less – need more sidewalks.

Encourage reuse of downtown since it is already developed (as opposed to spreading development farther into the county).

Maryville City Hall

What about naturally impervious soils? Have they been considered in any studies?

Removal of natural vegetation can lead to greater soil imperviousness.

Need to look at incentives for grandfathered development.

Need to look at how to address both storm water control and water quality.

Need to look at working across government boundaries.

Litter is a problem.

Pellissippi Parkway will have an impact on the Little River – loss of farmland and fast subdivision growth.

Need incentives to keep farms.

Need to look at TMDL priorities.

Need limits on the use of agricultural land for development.

Concern expressed for ecosystem management for the Little River.

Need to look at flooding then and now – 20 to 25 years back.

There needs to be no impact development – e.g. limits to phosphorous, nitrogen etc.

Need to look at alternate pavements.

Need a system for enforcing Phase II Storm Water program.

Need to check on dumps and septic fields along stream banks.

Need to look at ground water quality also.

Eagleton School

There is a need for long range planning.

All boils down to the dollar (funding).

Limits of budget in state will limit what we can do.

More development will mean more runoff.

Does the county have a clean-up plan for after floods?

There is a litter problem.

There is a drainage problem in Eagleton area.

Need education of people on litter.

Garbage trucks need to take care of trash blown off trucks.

There is a problem with garbage kept on property (junked premises)

What about a county sewer system?

Alcoa High School

Look at a regulation checklist to assess present regulations.

Look at reducing imperviousness.

What is needed in funding and personnel for study and enforcement?

What can you do voluntarily?

Industrial promotion leads to water quality problems. We need to promote only the growth that we can handle.

Population explosion leads to water quality problems.

Need to counter Chamber of Commerce arguments that growth is good.

Need conservation of water use, e.g., through codes and ordinance changes.

Encourage natural water quality treatments.

John Sevier School

The State has training on storm water management – the county should not reinvent the wheel but should use existing training opportunities.

Who will enforce any water quality measures?

Look to Knoxville Phase I Storm Water program experience in making the county plan.

Look at the solid waste system in the county.

Need a regular facility for hazardous waste.

Pellissippi Parkway will lead to water quality problems – need environmental impact statement.

Need to encourage reclamation of impervious surface – incentives or fee based on amount of impervious surface.

Encourage use of existing vacant buildings (as opposed to building new impervious surfaces).

Highway litter is a problem.

Need grade (slope) restrictions on logging.

There is also an air quality relationship to water quality (surface pollution deposited from the air becomes storm water pollution).

Fairview School

Where will money to fund water quality measures coming from?

If you give government an inch, they will take it all – there is no need for more government control over water quality – need to know if it is already so bad that controls are needed.

People do not care about water quality.

Some measures will be difficult to implement – e.g. litter control.

Need to widen roads we already have and not build new roads like the Pellissippi Parkway.

There is no balance of development in the county.

Need to certify developers in storm water controls.

There is no need to address agriculture.

What is the capacity of drinking water sources in relation to new developments?

Chilhowee View Community Center

Household hazardous waste days are good.

Need information on the impact of mining on water quality.

A plan for sewer in the Little River watershed is needed.

Need monitoring of water quality impacts.

University of Tennessee at old Gamble farm – can it be treated differently?

Discussion of concentrated animal feed operations (CAFO).

Need better education on runoff from subdivision yards.

Need detention alternatives that are system wide and not just development specific.

Need more information from water treatment plants on problems they have.

Montvale School

Cattle have been here a long time – there are probably fewer cattle now than in the past – the problem is not cows, it is mainly people and developers.

Some places require green spaces in developments.

Need education of children on water quality especially so they can influence their parents.

Need to look at clear cutting – especially in the process of development.

If septic fields are a problem, when will county have sewer?

Have water in creeks checked (monitored) more often – e.g. with students.

Pray for less heavy rains.

Townsend Visitor Center

Involve citizens in studies of water quality (305(b)).

Need education of citizens.

There will be a tradeoff in the Townsend area between water quality gains from sewer and water quality threats from more development.

Got to have public sewer to take care of water quality.

Do not need sewer.

(very divergent opinions on the issue of sewer in the Townsend area)

Oakview Community Center

Flouride in water is a problem – also need to talk about what we are purposefully putting into our drinking water.

There is something in the water supply that causes pink growths (in one household).

Manure has been in water for a long time without undue harm.

Dick Evey wants a fair shake for his land on the river – and for all people.

Walland School

Poor construction practices is the biggest problem.

Erosion of stream banks is a problem with development.

There is a problem with wells (not just surface water runoff).

Logging is a problem.

Is the county considering the impact of new development on existing roads and bridges to new developments? (particular to a proposed development in the area)

Need to protect those already there in an area of development, and also protect those that will buy into a new development.

Any activity causing erosion should be controlled.

Pellissippi Parkway will not be good for the county.

There is too much unused and underused impervious surface in the county – e.g. in malls.

Do things so that they (development) will leave trees.

Cluster development and leave open space.

Rockford School

Need more education on proper maintenance of septic fields.

Karst geology (sink holes) is not being addressed in county in relation to ground water.

Need to look at alternatives to regulations, and limit government intrusion.

Can the county require/expect an environmental impact statement on all major road projects?

There is a fear of big bureaucracy if you agree with general mom and apple pie statements and goals.

Porter School

What about state budget constraints? (how will it affect what we can do)

Pellissippi Parkway needs an environmental impact statement.

Pellissippi Parkway will lead to pollution.

Little River needs to be protected.

How can you take care of fast growth?

Is there a capacity constraint to growth?

Should county recruit industry?

There was a concern about subdivisions on or near the Little River, particularly allowing building close to the river.

Lanier School

Why did we not do something in the past? (to protect water quality)

Who checks and maintains the Lanier School septic/sewer system.

Need more accurate mapping for water studies – e.g. more accurate and detailed topo maps since the ones available are not accurate.

Seymour Citizen National Bank

Need to look at development for impact on water quality – need to look at how and where development is going.

Need to look at consequence (impact) of development on neighboring land.

Need to fit development into rural parts of the county – preserve rural areas.

Need to provide incentives to preserve farmland.

Soil Conservation Service needs to get involved in the planning process, e.g. for proper design and maintenance of detention ponds and other erosion control measures.

Development can kill the golden goose (can ruin what we have now that so many people want).

Green space needs to be preserved – locally in Seymour also.

Multiple water suppliers is wasteful and inefficient.

Can Blount County get convenience centers (especially in Seymour area) – also need some system of garbage control and recycling.

Need to check on (inspect regularly) on how developers are building.

Need to charge fees for any expensed to county for inspections and water quality control measures.

Look to other communities for good examples of implementation.

No more county taxes – put it (any expenses) on developers – impact fee.

Big Springs Community Center.

Septic systems are a concern – especially failures.

Septic tanks installed are generally too small.

What about a county sewer system – are we behind in planning for such a system?

Protecting ground water is also a concern.

More humans and development leads to reduced water flow and less aquatic life.

Need to address problem of long term erosion control in the land development process – subdivision development and building on separate lots.

There is nothing wrong with development if it is tied to appropriate infrastructure and development practices.

What about building codes and construction inspection?

There may be trade-offs between the desire to preserve vegetation along stream banks and the need to allow free flow of water to protect from flooding.

Happy Valley Community Center

What types of coordination is there between counties and states on water quality?

Townsend area growth is a concern (for water quality in Little River).

What about cost and budget allocations (especially with tight state budget).

There are existing problems in the area with failing septic systems and straight pipes into streams.

The relation between septic system approval and electric hookup is a failure (electric company is not following rules).

There is a relation between development and flooding problems.

Carpenters School

Has Pellissippi Parkway been considered in studying water quality in the county?

How can agriculture be addressed since there is pollution from agriculture use?

Cooperation with cities is questionable and may not be desirable – county should take care of its own.

Where is the funding coming from?

Allowing creeks to grow up can lead to flooding problems.

Planned elementary school should take care of its own water runoff.

County should take care of its own water quality effects too (in its own activities).

Friendsville School

Should look beyond livestock in streams – to the impact of development on rural areas and competition of development with farming.

Building new roads will lead to development and compete with preserving rural life.

Can state fine itself for violations (of water quality regulations)?

Are there plans for providing public sewer to future development?

Need household hazardous waste disposal opportunities on a regular basis.

People moving here can bring their own ideas that change the area to what they were getting away from.

Need to look closely at economics of sewer system – especially on fixed income households, and need to consider who will pay.

You cannot hit all issues (of water quality) at once – you need priorities and consideration of who pays for it.

Do not so restrict rural land to the point that people cannot hold onto the land.

Heritage High School

Is water capacity (for drinking water sources) a problem?

How can we protect streams that are presently of high quality – do not let them deteriorate.

What about ground water?

There is more harmful chemical runoff from developed areas than from farms.

Development of marginal land (not suited for such development such as steeply sloping land) is a cause of pollution.

Overdevelopment is a problem.

Need to clearly define what is overdevelopment and what is water quality.

May need to recognize limits to growth.

Need education on what is proper development.

Need to consider how much is possible and how much is practical – also consider cost.

We can control how much development (the amount and pace of development).

Need to preserve open space – provide tax incentives for preserving open space.

William Blount High School

Should consider planting (stabilization) along stream banks – especially in Townsend area.

Funds for water quality activities are available in the new Farm Bill. Administration overhead can also be funded.

Need to keep animals out of water.

Can something be done about Pistol Creek (since it is already so impacted)?

Look at what Hamblen County did in their water quality ordinance.

Need more stream cleanup days county-wide.