



Activity Update

As life and work has adapted in 2020, we hope that RRWQG stakeholders are safe and fared well during extraordinary circumstances. The Reedy River Water Quality Group (RRWQG) Executive Committee and committee co-chairs have held their regular calls, as have many of the committees, and the facilitators would like to bring all stakeholders and committee members up to date with activities and let you know what is ahead.

Committee updates follow.

Best Management Practices (BMP) Committee and Economic Impact Committee

The BMP and the Economic Impact Committees finished their joint task to evaluate the costs and benefits of proposed stream buffer protections for Greenville County. The BMP Committee set the stage for the financial analysis by completing three tasks:

- 1) conduct a literature search related to reduced nutrients levels as a result of best management practices;
- 2) complete a map assessment to determine where the proposed stream buffer would apply and how much of the land within the proposed buffer was already covered by other existing regulations; and,
- 3) both committees selected categories for case studies (proposed preliminary platted developments, existing developments, and hypothetical raw parcels) and agreed on eight case studies to evaluate.

The two committees also identified factors to analyze for comparative cost and benefit value, such as water quality, home value, and flood protection value. The Fact Sheet for Riparian Buffers is published on the RRWQG web site:

http://cleanreedy.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/ReedyRiver_FactSheet_102119.pdf

The most significant estimated costs in the study were related to lost economic activity associated with development, primarily due to reduced lot yield resulting from the combination of minimum lot size requirements and larger, undisturbed riparian buffers. In response, the Economic Impact Committee prepared a statement to minimize those losses through proposed County zoning changes which is also available on the RRWQG website:

<http://cleanreedy.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Zoning-to-Protect-Riparian-Buffers.pdf> .

Greenville County will include buffer requirements in the new UDO (Unified Development Ordinance) which is under development in the County's Planning Department.

The Brushy Creek Stream Stabilization Project, a project of Greenville Country in partnership with ReWa and the City of Greenville, served as a pilot project to demonstrate a variety of different types of BMP materials/products for ease of installation, cost and durability.

Modeling Committee

The Modeling Committee is tasked with creating a model that will help the Group understand relative nutrient contributions within the watershed and evaluate different scenarios of nutrient loading designed to protect water quality. To this end, the committee has concluded the processes of gathering data, setting quality procedures, determining model calibration goals, and performing the initial model set up. The next phase of the process is to calibrate the model using data collected by the Monitoring Committee. The hydraulic portion of the model is now calibrated, and the committee is now working on calibrating the water quality components of the model. When completed there will be some certainty in the impact of the nutrient sources, and the model can be used to run alternative scenarios of changes to best management practices and its influence on water quality.

Monitoring Committee

The committee completed the collection of monitoring data needed for the water quality model and continues data collection throughout the watershed including Boyd's Millpond and the Reedy River arm of Lake Greenwood.

At the end of August the monitoring committee responded to the presence of algae in sporadic locations within Boyd's Millpond, taking samples for laboratory analysis prior to the Labor Day holiday, coordinating a drone flight over the lake, and collaborating with the Public Outreach Committee to publish social media posts about the algae. Members of the Committee notified key stakeholders and collaborated with DHEC regarding water quality conditions. The Facebook posts informed the public of testing activities and status and noted that while the green algae was not toxic, lake residents should exercise caution with water contact.

Public Outreach Committee

The committee continued its outreach to the public on social media to:

- educate and to promote best management practices,
- challenge the public to interact using prizes,
- highlight and promote stakeholder messaging/events and
- keep the public informed of the Reedy's water quality.

The Facebook page is steadily growing due to consistent messaging and the website has been kept current with the latest Group accomplishments.

The fall/winter holiday education campaign addressed protecting the Reedy from overflows due to clogged sewer lines. Clogged sewer lines cause sewage backups that erupt out of manholes where stormwater can then carry that waste to the nearest stream. The theme of the campaign was to prevent fats, oil, and grease (FOG) from being dumped in the sink and entering the drain. As part of this campaign, the committee provided free grease cans—very popular—at a local turkey giveaway event. In addition, a set of creative vintage 60's graphics for grease disposal during holiday meal preparation was shared through print and digital media, as well as on social media. (Pictures of the three holiday campaign pieces are shown in the Appendix).

The committee members created a strategic plan in mid-February in order to set future themes and related activities and devise a budget that would support the messages.

To reinforce the best management practices campaign from 2019, the committee is designing social media ads for soil testing, riparian buffers, and car washing responsibly. These simple eye-catching graphics give

- 1) an action,
- 2) the term “Make a difference” and then
- 3) #CleanReedy.

For instance, car washing on pervious surfaces (or at a car wash that catches wash water) is: Wash responsibly. Make a difference. #CleanReedy. (See the appendix for the 6 examples for the car washing social media graphics). These graphics were designed intentionally so that stakeholders could share on any social media platform including Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

The committee is also conducting an awareness and perception survey to measure the effectiveness of the public outreach campaign and its effect on behavior. The survey will be conducted in fourth quarter 2020 and will be repeated in a year to gauge increase in visibility of the messages.

Allocation Committee

The executive committee has established the allocation committee that will allot the allowable nutrients in the Reedy River. The allocation process started in April with a presentation to the executive committee of the factors and decisions that comprise the process and is expected to end in Spring 2021 with recommendations that allocate the allowable nutrient load among the sources. The process will include eight workshops that will, for example, establish equity principles, evaluate alternative scenarios of source loading and best management practices, and model scenario results to determine compliance.

Committees expected to participate in the allocation process are BMP, Economic Impact, and Modeling. The Public Outreach Committee will develop a strategy for communication of the process and the ultimate plan.

Schedule

The 5R restoration plan is targeted to finish in late Spring 2021 for submittal to DHEC, but any Covid-19 resurgence makes the schedule uncertain.

Please direct any questions and comments to the facilitation team.

Tom Gallo, tomgallo@wqr-inc.com
Sandra Ralston, sandraraalston@wqr-inc.com
WQR, Inc.

APPENDIX –PUBLIC OUTREACH CAMPAIGNS

Fats, Oils and Grease Holiday Campaigns:



Take it from BETTY SUE...
if you want a delectable gravy,
be sure to pour all that fat into
your pan (and not your drain).

Baste, bake, repeat! Sound familiar this time of year?
Before gathering 'round the table with the family for the holidays, learn how to protect sewer lines from cooking fats, oils and grease at CleanReedy.org

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Stuff your STOCKINGS...

NOT your kitchen drain!

Take the PLEDGE to protect your
pipes and get a chance to WIN

a PRIZE !



Gee, DAD, glad Santa remembered
you this year. I was sure you'd
be on the naughty list after
clogging the kitchen drain.

Stuff your stockings... not your kitchen drain!

Give your family the gift of knowledge this year by learning
how to protect sewer lines from cooking fats, oils and
grease at CleanReedy.org.

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Current Action Reinforcement Social Media Campaign for Car Washing:



Future sets of 6 will be created for Soil Testing and Riparian Buffers.