

INTRODUCTION

Good afternoon. Thank you for coming today. My name is Deborah Carpenter and I am the Director of Planning for Garrett County. We're here today to conduct the first of two public meetings about the North Glade Run stormwater assessment project. Let me start by sharing the background that led to the advent of this project.

In the fall of 2013 an effort was undertaken to create a Deep Creek Watershed Management Plan. This Plan established goals, objectives and strategies surrounding topics such as accountability, agency coordination, public engagement, water quality issues, impacts of growth and lake levels. One of the concerns raised by the citizens was stormwater. As the group investigated this issue it was determined that legacy stormwater is the biggest contributor to stormwater issues in the watershed. Older developments often have problems that the county has difficulty fixing due to private property concerns and lack of right-of-way. As a result one of the 13 goals established in the Plan is:

Manage stormwater infrastructure to decrease pollution from both existing and proposed development to ensure healthy watershed conditions.

The Plan recommends taking these initial steps to address stormwater issues: (1) identify the areas of highest concern, (2) assess options for addressing those concerns and (3) conduct a pilot project to improve management of stormwater. The long-term approach is to systematically assess and address stormwater issues on a subwatershed scale. Objective #1 of the stormwater goal states:

Develop an incremental plan to identify existing stormwater problems at a subwatershed level and create an action plan for addressing issues and educating residents on best management practices.

The strategies to accomplish this are:

- 1) Ranking of subwatersheds – This is complete. The watersheds were ranked by:
 - a. Reviewing the current total development within each watershed
 - b. Determining how many developments occurred prior to stormwater regulation requirements
 - c. Determining how many developments were built under current stormwater regulation
 - d. Compiling the known locations of issues based on staff knowledge and citizen complaints

The ranking determined the following priority ranking for stormwater assessment:

1. North Glade Run
 2. Green Glade Run
 3. Roman Nose Hill
 4. Hoop Pole Run
 5. Marsh Run
 6. Cherry Creek Cove
 7. Upper Deep Creek
 8. Lower Deep Creek
 9. Thayerville
 10. Pawn Run
 11. Shingle Camp Hollow
 12. Red Run
 13. Meadow Mountain Run
 14. Blakeslee
 15. Cherry Creek
 16. Bee Tree Hollow
 17. Smith Run
 18. Meadow Mountain
- 2) Strategy # 2 states 'Conduct an on-site survey of the highest ranking subwatershed to determine the stormwater issues and their source. This is where we're at now. The county has hired a contractor (A. Morton Thomas & Associates) to conduct a stormwater assessment in the highest ranking subwatershed, North Glade Run, with the goal of determining where stormwater issues exist and what their source is.

Once those issues are identified the next step is to formulate remediation strategies, which AMT has been contracted to do as well. The implementation of these strategies will probably involve varied partners – private homeowners, HOAs, County or State agencies, for example. Those partners need to coordinate an effective implementation plan and determine what funding sources might be needed to alleviate the problem. After the assessment is complete, AMT has been tasked with evaluating the effectiveness of the model used, and with documenting the methodology so it can be repeated in other subwatersheds.

It is important to note that this effort is being conducted in full partnership and with the cooperation of various entities including DNR, SHA, the Soil Conservation District, the County Roads Department, the County Permits Department – specifically Stormwater and Sediment & Erosion Control, and the University of Maryland Extension Office. Of particular note is the DNR stream corridor assessment which is being conducted this spring in the southern half of the watershed. They will be walking streams only and looking for any degradation of the stream bed that may lead to abnormal sediment deposit in the lake. They will be walking the streams in North Glade Run subwatershed first in order for that information to be incorporated into our assessment.

The University of Maryland Extension is helping us with strategy #5 under the Stormwater goal from the Plan which states **“Work with citizens in the subwatershed to educate land owners on stormwater best management practices that can be established on their land. Promote a stormwater best management practice incentive program.”** UMD will present an educational session at both public meetings. The first will be on the importance of stormwater management and the second will present specific strategies homeowners can implement on their properties.

So how do you engage in this process? Today, we welcome your comments, but prefer them in writing to ensure that your intent is not misinterpreted. Forms are available in the back. We also encourage you to visit the two maps (they are exactly the same) and mark locations where you have witnessed erosion or stormwater problems. In addition, I will be attempting to send monthly or bi-monthly email project updates to those on the email list that is being compiled. If you want to be included in that email list please let us know. In addition, the website (<http://www.garrettcounty.org/planning-land-development/forms/north-glade-run-stormwater-assessment>) will be updated regularly and the comment form on there will remain available for citizens to submit comments throughout the project. The presentations from today will be posted next week.

Today’s agenda is on the screen. We will begin with the educational presentation from UMD, followed by a presentation on the History of Stormwater Regulations, a presentation by AMT detailing the assessment process and closing with a Question and Answer session and opportunity for public input.

Our technical team is here to answer any questions you may have. They include:

Stu Robinson and Greg Fox from A. Morton Thomas & Associates
Jim Torrington, Director of the Garrett County Department of Permits and Inspections
Reggie Breeding, Garrett County Stormwater Management Engineer
Randy Storey, Garrett County Soil Technician
David Ritchie, Project Engineer, Garrett County Engineering Department
Willie Lantz, Extension Educator, University of MD Extension