

West Virginia Watershed Assessment Pilot Project
Monongahela End User/Stakeholder Workshop
April 3, 2012

Participants:

Charlie Vannatta, Triad Energy
Paul Richter, Buckhannon River Watershed Association
Tom Bond, Guardians of the West Fork
Kathleen Tyner, West Virginia Rivers Coalition
Herbert Andrick, NRCS
Jessica Yeager, Potesta
Karri Rogers, Potesta
Holly Hildreth, Morgantown Utility Board
Amanda Pitzer, Friends of the Cheat
Duane Nichols, CLEAR
Robert Vagnetti, US DOE/FOC/TNC
Leslie Hopkinson, WVU Civil & Environmental Engineering
Greg Gies, EPA
Mark Wozniak, USACE
Dennis Stottlemeyer, DEP
Ashley Petraglia, USACE
Kevin Ryan, Friends of the Cheat
Frank Jernejcic, DNR
Keith Fisher, TNC
Ruth Thornton, TNC
Mysti Downing, TNC
Diane Packett, TNC

Q: Question

C: Comment

A: Answer

Part I: Ruth Thornton 3:08 – 3:46

Project introduction

Q (Bond?): DEP has some sort of stream quality ranking system; how does this fit in? Are you trying to improve upon their work with more info and more detail? A: We use their stream quality data, add other data to describe condition of watershed.

Description of indices & metrics

Q (Pitzer): Any differentiation between coal seams? Surface & underground, active sites & non-active?
In Cheat, see a big difference between coal seams. A: Didn't look at different coal seams, underground & surface highly correlated.

Q (Jernejcic): Consider contaminant levels in fish? DNR & DEP have this data.

Consolidated analysis

Q (Bond?): Any reason we're only looking at Marcellus shale? Utica will require the same water use

Presentation of results

Q: Are catchments HUCs also or were they defined a different way?

Part II: Mysti Downing 3:46-4:35

Q (Nichols): Where is Mon River on map?

Potential use scenarios: Streams/Riparian.

Q (Tyner): Will people be able to download data layer for their own use?

Q (Tyner): Can users upload data? How often will data be refreshed? A: No, DEP will update data, but analysis may be done by TNC once every 5 years or so.

Q: If uploading data is worthwhile, would we want QC information? A: Not the intent for users to upload.

Q (Vagnetti): Are analytical algorithms built into the product so that as the data is updated the results are automatically recalculated, or is analysis done offline? A: Depending on how people use it, DEP might make certain components automated.

Q: Can user do what-if scenario, change index weight, see what attributes are most important for each catchment or watersheds? A: We would like to. . .

C (Vagnetti): Need in the future more citizen science and ability to upload data so that save money and get community buy-in.

C (Nichols): I can see an alternative color analysis based on poor-very good thresholds.

Q (Ryan): Considered some kind of sensitivity analysis? Are all data available in all catchments, or are missing data leading to red colors? A: We have accounted for data absence with null values, but in wetland cases the numbers can be low

Streams restoration, Wetlands, Uplands

Q: What's an example of classified data? A: rare species occurrences from DNR, Public Water Supply Data (PWS)

Q: Why is PWS classified? A: Because of homeland security issues

Web mapping tool examples

C: Importance in planning water use: projections for MS wells data from DEP database. Permit data. A: We have DEP & GES data for wells and permits, wells updated pretty quickly.

C (Tyner): FrackTracker tool (University of Pittsburgh originally) updated quickly, users upload data.

C: For projecting water use, need to know where water being pulled from

C (Nichols): DEP has tool for water withdrawal.

[discussion of availability & quality of water withdrawal data]

C (Tyner & others): Good to have all the data together.

Q (Nichols): What does "Overall" mean? Do the metrics and indices have weights? Is there a table of weights?

Q (Ryan): Will people be able to print or publish the map they have created by adding various layers? PDF button, options to change format like font.

Ruth: You would want ability to download public data? Nods all around.

Ruth: Are you interested in seeing indices or metrics? (Ryan): would like to see stream condition indices.

C: Would be good for user to know what metric is driving the overall quality of the watershed.

Q: Would this be browser independent?

C: I like words better than icons

C: I like seeing the side menu with icons and explanation.

Keith: One goal is to help people with dollars to spend on mitigation, protection, restoration, prioritize projects

C (Jernejcic): This will be good so that information is out there. Often try to find information, and there are rumors someone knows but can't find it.

C (Nichols): There are regions of Mon where legacy coal mining still impacts streams. Need to put that into the whole picture. Don't want to give impression that we're doing something for these streams. Don't need to do the model to know that area is bad. Running the model doesn't do anything for the streams. A: Keith: the intent of the model is only to give users information about the quality of the

watershed, it is up to the users to decide on appropriate strategies and target sites for restoration and protection activities.

C (Pitzer): Just because a subshed is red doesn't mean that isn't worth restoration. Each area and situation is specific. If EPA gets my proposal, pulls up map and sees red, they will say it isn't worth it. A (Keith): We're not trying to infer what your question is, just a suite of information for you to use to ask and answer questions.

C/Q (Kevin Ryan): Future funding for when the tool is available, re: troubleshooting, data updating. Demos are nice, but I don't know if a tool works until I try it and find things I want to change. I see the big issue as updating of data because often these things go online and then are out of date. The measure of success for this pilot project should be someone using the tool successfully to make changes to watershed, not to say you've published a web tool.