

Huisman, John

From: Mike Schlegel [mschlegel@tjcog.org]
Sent: Monday, August 16, 2010 4:13 PM
To: Huisman, John
Cc: Gannon, Rich; hsaunders@tjcog.org; 'Sarah Bruce'; 'Paul Black'; dariail@tjcog.org; 'Kirby Bowers'; ereckhow@durhamcountync.gov; julie.robison@townofcary.org; thomas.crowder@ci.raleigh.nc.us
Subject: Falls Lake NMS comments from TJCOG

John, it was good to see you and Rich at TJCOG on July 29th for the joint TJCOG Water Resources Advisory Committee and TJCOG Smart Growth Committee meeting. The meeting topic was Transfer of Development Rights (TDRs) and Nutrient Reduction. It was very well attended, with over 65 people in attendance.

There was a clear interest in continuing to investigate if and how TDRs might be developed as a tool for local governments in the region to guide the pattern of development while protecting water quality. An outcome of that meeting is a taskforce that is being organized to further investigate TDRs as a tool to protect water quality. And recently, the TJCOG Mayors and Chairs Committee continued their discussion in support of TDRs.

I have been asked to forward a comment for consideration in the Falls Lake Nutrient Management Strategy. During our recent meeting on TDRs and nutrient reduction, there was interest in pursuing TDRs as a management tool and there was interest in seeing the Fall Lake NMS allow TDRs and other forest land preservation as creditable activities.

One example of the nutrient reduction value of forest preservation is described herein. During the discussion of TDRs and nutrient reduction, it was pointed out that in the process of determining the nutrient reduction goals for the Falls Lake Watershed, forests were eliminated as a reducible source and the load reductions were distributed to other land uses. In the Falls Lake NMS, nutrient loading from forests is estimated to be 1.7 lbs N/ac, whereas the loading target for new development is 2.2 lbs N/ac. It was further discussed, then, that protecting forests would thereby create 0.5 lbs N/ac net reduction compared to new development thresholds.

As such, TJCOG requests that DWQ and the EMC consider forest land preservation and TDRs as creditable activities in the Falls Lake NMS. These management activities could provide a mechanism to generate nutrient credits for use or trade.

I commend all your heard work on the NMS. I really appreciate the opportunity to work with you through the Falls Lake Stakeholder Project and for your willingness to work cooperatively with TJCOG and stakeholders. I look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,
Michael B. Schlegel
Water Resources Program Manager
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