

MINUTES: Healthy Carolinians of Macon County – Environmental Quality Task Force

DATE: July 22, 2010

PLACE: Coweeta Lab

TIME: 9:00 AM – 12:00 N

ATTENDEES: Rhonda Blanton, Trevor Dalton, Abigail James, Matt Mason, Colin McCandless, Kathy McGaha, Teresa Murray, Barry Patterson, Derek Roland, Al Slagle, Wayne Swank, Jimmy Villiard and Sharon Willard

GUEST: Jim Vose

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION	FOLLOW-UP
Welcome and Introductions	Wayne Swank welcomed everyone to today’s tour of Coweeta Lab. Mr. Swank asked everyone to introduce themselves and tell what organization they represented.		
Introduction of Jim Vose	<p>Wayne Swank next introduced Jim Vose. Mr. Vose is the Principal Investigator at Coweeta Lab and was hired by Mr. Swank when he was in that position.</p> <p>Mr. Vose thanked everyone for attending today’s tour and welcomed everyone back in the future to further visit any of the several accessible experimental sites at Coweeta Lab.</p> <p>Mr. Vose explained that Coweeta Lab fell under the jurisdiction of the USDA Forest Service. Mr. Vose also explained that many university graduate students do research at Coweeta Lab, particularly from the University of Georgia.</p>		
Brief History and Examples of Work being Conducted at Coweeta Lab	<p>Wayne Swank gave the group a brief history of the lab and also talked of different people that had worked there throughout the years. Mr. Swank explained that in 1918 the Forest Service bought this area of the Coweeta Valley and later designated it as part of the Nantahala National Forest.</p> <p>Mr. Swank stated that in 1934 the Forest Service set aside the 5,400 acre site as the Coweeta Experimental Forest. Mr. Swank explained that the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) built the original laboratory buildings, climatic stations, stream measurement devices and many of the roads.</p>		

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	<p>Mr. Swank then briefly reviewed some of the projects that have been undertaken at Coweeta Lab. Mr. Swank said many studies have been conducted on measuring and recording data on rainfall, evaporation, streamflow and other watershed issues.</p>		
Tour of Coweeta Lab	<p>Wayne Swank next led the committee members on a brief tour of the facility. The first stop was at a stream weir, which measures stream flow. Mr. Swank stated that there are more than 15 stream weirs currently in the Coweeta basin.</p> <p>Mr. Swank explained that streamflow data has been collected from the weirs since the 1930's, using automatic recorders that continuously monitor the height of the water in the weirs. Mr. Swank said the weirs were constructed so precisely, that streamflow can be calculated throughout the year, in all weather conditions.</p> <p>Mr. Swank next took the group to the Coweeta base climate station. Mr. Swank explained that the lab measures different climate aspects including temperature, rainfall, wind speed and direction, humidity, solar radiation, air quality and evaporation at different elevations.</p> <p>Mr. Swank lastly took the group to the stream weir at Ball Creek. Mr. Swank said this was one of the biggest weirs at Coweeta Lab and it had also been built in the 1930's by the CCC.</p> <p>The task force members and invited guests thanked Mr. Swank for leading the tour and explaining the experiments that have been and are currently being conducted at Coweeta Lab.</p>		

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TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION	FOLLOW-UP
Next Meeting Date	The next meeting date of the Environmental Quality Task Force will be held on Friday, September 17 th , from 8:30 AM – 10:00 AM in the Clinical Meeting Room at the Health and Human Services Building.		