

**National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
Project Phase Reporting Form**

**Fill in all shaded areas*

Project Name and Number: Model Approach to Watershed Planning (VA) (2006-0100-001)

Phase Number: # 2

Project Phase Scope of Work: *(from Grant Agreement)*

- Develop pilot program for stream and pond vegetative buffers.
- Produce pond management brochure
- Conduct workshops for land owners.
- Conduct site visits to candidate properties.
- Recruit, coordinate, and train volunteers

Phase Budget:

Category	Approved Budget NFWF Funds <i>(from Grant Agreement)</i>	Actual Expenses NFWF Funds
Salaries & Benefits	\$0.00	-0-
Equipment**	\$0.00	-0-
Other	\$10,000.00	\$9,977.32

Total Phase	\$10,000.00	\$9,977.32
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**Equipment only includes tangible nonexpendable personal property having a useful life of more than one year and an acquisition cost of \$5,000 or more per unit.

Matching Contributions Required for the Phase: \$25,000.00 *(from Grant Agreement)*

Matching Contributions Expended for the Phase: \$30,000.00

Describe All Expenses: *(Use additional space if necessary.)*

Printing and Supplies: 1,956.65

Web Site: \$460.90

Project Director: \$1,000

Accounting and Booking: \$1,060.00

Tech. Outreach/Farmers: \$5,179.77

Volunteer Coordinator: \$320.00

Phase Accomplishments: *(Briefly describe the accomplishments for this Phase of the Project. Use additional space if necessary.)*

With CSWCD staff, engage Major Agricultural Land Owners.

Work with at least 15 land owners resulted in 250 acres of agricultural land treated in this work.

Develop pilot program for stream and pond vegetative buffers.

The Pilot Program consists of the development of a residential buffer evaluation form, workshops and outreach to landowners, site visits to candidate properties, and the recruitment and training of volunteers to work on the pilot program. Descriptions of specific activities in each of these areas are summarized in other sections of this Report.

Produce pond management brochure.

The pond management brochure is reconsidered in the following way. The Town of Washington has a highly visible pond, owned by the Town, and that pond is highly compromised from a water quality and ecological standpoint. Our current plan is to restore that pond to a healthful condition in partnership with the Town, and to use it as an educational site and demonstration of how to manage a pond. We have met several times with representatives of the Town Council, have done preliminary site visits, and are preparing to restore the pond during Phase 3 of this project. Educational brochures will be prepared in conjunction with this restoration.

Conduct workshops for land owners and contractors.

The Culpeper Soil & Water Conservation District held a series of three half-day workshops for contractors and registered land disturbers on subjects related to Erosion & Sedimentation Control, construction and maintenance of gravel roads, and stormwater management.

RappFLOW sponsored a three-hour homeowners workshop held on March 29, 2008, to teach how to assess the health and safety of home and grounds, including stormwater management.

Several workshops and learning activities were held at the Thornton River on Clean Streams Day on April 12, 2008 to teach about riparian buffer plantings, rain gardens, erosion & sedimentation control, stream habitat, and macroinvertebrate sampling.

Raise funds for vegetative plantings.

In December 2007 and January 2008 we raised \$3,000 from private donors to help pay for trees and shrubs. In addition, three volunteers contributed river birch, perennials, and shrubs as in-kind contribution.

Conduct site visits to candidate properties.

We trained volunteers and conducted site assessments on 11 separate landowner sites. These included seven commercial and four residential use sites. We also did a preliminary assessment of the Town of Washington pond site. We developed a GIS database to track landowners, sites, and status of the work for each site. (See attachment x).

- For one of the commercial sites, both the site itself and the landowner objectives allowed for a full buffer vegetation restoration project, the Old Schoolhouse buffer restoration. This site is serving as a training ground for volunteers as well as public outreach and education site.
- For three of the commercial sites, the site itself does allow for improvement in the buffer vegetation. Negotiations are in process to see exactly what changes in land management practices the landowners will agree to under what conditions.
- For three of the commercial sites, neither the site itself nor the landowner objectives will allow for any improvement or restoration of vegetative buffers or changes in the land use.
- One of the four residential sites is ideally buffered and the landowner is fully supportive of maintaining the land in that condition.
- One of the residential sites would benefit from additional vegetation in the buffer area, and negotiations are underway with the landowner.
- The other two residential sites would benefit from additional vegetation and the landowners do not want to change the land management practices.

Based on these results, we estimate that approximately one-third of sites to be assessed will result in decisions to improve the buffer vegetation to at least some extent. One type of residential site that has not yet been evaluated is the larger suburban-type residential property of 5 – 10 acres. We expect that landowners on these sites may be more interested in changing land management practices than are those in the smaller town lots.

Recruit, coordinate and train volunteers.

In 2007 and through March 30, 2008, over 100 volunteers have contributed over 6500 hours to this work. Recruiting is done through personal networking, articles in local newspapers and online discussion groups, the RappFLOW web site, regular monthly meetings, and through partner organizations. Coordination of volunteers is accomplished through the efforts of team leaders and the coordinator of volunteers. Four types of training have been and continue to be provided:

- 1) Technical training for team leaders and project leaders is provided by the Culpeper Soil & Water Conservation District. This has included training in assessing riparian buffers, stormwater management practices, erosion and sediment control, low-impact development, and stream monitoring.
- 2) Scientific and regulatory training and education for RappFLOW core team members and other leaders in the community. This has been accomplished through participation in work groups for reviewing and drafting ordinances, such as the sludge ordinance, stormwater management ordinance, zoning and subdivision ordinances; and through our Water Quality Advisory Committee to the local Board of Supervisors.
- 3) Technical training in geospatial analysis and mapping of watersheds for high school students. This has been accomplished through the local public high school, teacher Ron Vickers, and RappFLOW leader Beverly Hunter. Approximately twenty students were trained in 2007-2008. They conducted analyses of zoning and of soils erodability and prepared maps for landowners seeking protection of their streams. Three have served or will serve this summer as GIS interns for RappFLOW.
- 4) Training in Best Management Practices for citizen volunteers. These are typically field experiences in which volunteers are trained and supervised in such activities as removing invasive species, planting trees and shrubs, assessing buffer vegetation and other land management practices. (See also Dissemination section below.)

Additional accomplishments

Stormwater Ordinance.

On January 7, 2008 the Rappahannock County Board of Supervisors voted to adopt the proposed Stormwater Management Ordinance and associated changes to the Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances. RappFLOW volunteers worked with the County government, the Culpeper Soil & Water Conservation District, and a stormwater expert contractor throughout 2007 to develop the draft ordinances and educate the public concerning these ordinances and the importance of stormwater management in our county.

Stream Buffer Overlay District

The stream buffer overlay district incorporated into the zoning and subdivision ordinance on January 7, 2008, will protect from development a buffer of 100 feet from all streams in the commercial and residential zones of the county. **This includes 460.743 acres of stream buffer area protected from future development.** RappFLOW volunteers provided valuable assistance to the Rappahannock County government in the review and drafting of this ordinance.

Dissemination and Outreach

We have disseminated results of our learning and research to the general public, targeted landowners, and county leaders through the following actions:

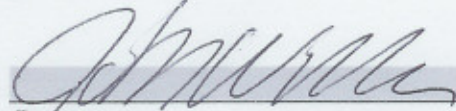
1. Articles in local newspaper. At least eight articles plus weekly Upcoming Events notices have addressed such topics as stream buffer vegetation, stormwater management, stormwater ordinance, homeowners workshop, Clean Streams Days.
2. News and reports posted on www.rappflow.org
3. Regular public monthly meetings, the third Thursday of every month.
4. Water Quality Advisory Committee to the Board of Supervisors, including representatives of the Board of Supervisors, Planning Commission, County Administrator, Health Department, Agricultural Extension Agent, Farmland Preservation program, RappFLOW. This Committee serves to disseminate information among these leaders on such topics as TMDL, water supply, stormwater management, drought data, erosion & sedimentation control.

5. Individual consultations with landowners concerning stream buffer vegetation and related best management practices.
6. Building a library of handout materials and reference documents on stream buffer protection and restoration, homeowner best practices, low impact development, and other topics.
7. Major public outreach events, including the Clean Streams exhibits and related lectures at the February 9, 2008 Wildlife Habitat Open House. An estimated 300 persons attended this event.
8. April 12, 2008 Clean Streams Day public event sponsored by the County, CSWCD, VA Department of Conservation & Recreation, and RappFLOW. An estimated 150 persons attended this event. RappFLOW conducted Independent surveys of attendees's views of what they learned and the results are very positive. The majority of attendees responded that they learned a lot about protecting our streams and want to learn more. One outcome of the surveys is that financial incentives will help, and overall individuals are willing to pay about \$500/year of their own money to protect their streams.

I hereby certify that the Phase described above has been completed and that the above information is accurate and complete.

County of Rappahannock

Approved:


Signature

Date: 5-13-08

John W. McCarthy, County Administrator
Print name and title

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Note: Forms sent by e-mail must come from an e-mail address authorized in the Grant Agreement or an amendment to the Grant Agreement.