2008

Water and the Future of Your Community: Introductory Slideshow (April 30, 2008 Meeting)

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Water & The Future of Your Community

Taunton River Watershed Study

April 30, 2008
Horsley Witten Group

Water & the Future of Your Community

Major Tributaries:
Matfield, Town, Mill (Canoe), Threemile, Nemasket, and Assonet Rivers

43 Communities
462 Square Miles
21-foot elevation drop along Taunton River mainstem
Tidally influenced for 18 miles up from Mount Hope Bay

Water withdrawals: 353 sources at 148 facilities
Wastewater discharges: 20 large surface discharges, 22 large groundwater discharges

2 ACECs and one new nomination

Major Tributaries:
Matfield, Town, Mill (Canoe), Threemile, Nemasket, and Assonet Rivers
Today’s Agenda

I. Taunton River Watershed Study (15 min.)

II. Water Budget Analysis (30 min)

III. Overview of Habitat/Buffer Analysis (10 min)

IV. Overview of Smart Growth Tools (40 min)

V. Group “Smart Growth” Exercises (50 min)

VI. Wrap-Up/ Closing Remarks (15 min)
Co-Sponsors
Thank you!

- Town of Easton
- Natural Resources Trust of Easton
- Canoe River Aquifer Advisory Committee
- Brockton Conservation Commission
- Taunton River Watershed Alliance
Taunton River Watershed Study

Overview

- Funded through a legislative earmark
- Managed by Bridgewater State College
- Steering Committee:
  - Bridgewater State College’s Watershed Access Lab
  - MA State Agencies: MA DCR, MA DEP, MA EOEEA
  - The Nature Conservancy
  - Regional Planning Agencies: SRPEDD, OCPC
- Schedule: March 2007 - August 2008
Taunton River Watershed Study
Goal

To restore and maintain
a hydrologically and biologically connected
and integrated watershed system
that will sustain healthy humans and wildlife.
Two Phases to the Study

- **Phase 1 - Data Gathering/ Preliminary Analysis**
  - Gather information and data for a study of the Taunton River Watershed,
  - Perform preliminary analyses,
  - Public education and outreach, and
  - Begin to develop a long-term vision and strategy for the sustainable management of the Taunton River Watershed

- **Phase 2 - Develop a Watershed Management Action Plan (Future)**
Key Focus Areas:

- Water Budget
  - Stormwater
  - Wastewater
  - Drinking Water Supply

- Smart Growth and LID

- Habitat Impacts
Top 5 Watershed Concerns

1. Education/training for municipal staff, boards and commissions
2. Public education/outreach on environmental issues
3. Protection of habitat, wetlands, open space
4. The extent of inappropriate development
5. Quantity of flow and availability of critical habitat in rivers, streams, lakes
Phase 1 Final Report

Completion Target: August 2008

I. Introduction

II. Data Collection Efforts

III. Public Outreach Efforts

IV. Subwatershed Analyses
   - Water Budget Analysis
   - Ecological/Buffer Analysis

V. Smart Growth Case Study: Easton

VI. Preliminary Recommendations

VII. Work Plan Outline for Phase 2