

## **Loudoun Watershed Watch Strategic Plan: 2003-2004**

### **Organization:**

Loudoun Watershed Watch (LWW) is a consortium of citizen groups, local and state authorities, and individuals concerned with the quality and health of Loudoun County streams. Member groups include: Audubon Naturalist Society, Canaan Valley Institute, Goose Creek Association, Goose Creek Scenic River Advisory Board, Izaak Walton League, Leesburg Environmental Advisory Commission, Loudoun Environmental Indicators Project, Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy, North Fork Goose Creek Committee, and the Piedmont Environmental Council. Governmental partners include: Loudoun County Building and Development, Loudoun County Sanitation Authority, and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality.

LWW is directed by an executive committee, and is organized into three committees: (1) Education and Outreach; (2) Protocol, Data and Research; and (3) Stream Monitoring Program Design. Volunteers provide organizational administration and program implementation. Grant funds are used for projects and activities as needed and available.

### **Vision:**

LWW shares a common vision with citizens across the nation: clean and safe water, and healthy aquatic ecosystems. For citizens in Loudoun, this means a county distinguished for its cool meandering streams with wide, forested riparian buffers flowing through woodlots, farms, residential communities, and parks with streamside trails.

### **Mission:**

LWW's mission is to protect the water resources of Loudoun County through a synergy between citizens, private groups, county, and State agencies. In order to achieve this mission, LWW promotes: (1) environmental stewardship, (2) countywide stream monitoring, (3) watershed management planning, and (4) water quality and stream habitat protection and restoration.

### **Guiding Principles:**

- Water is a vital community natural resource that must be protected for both human and environmental purposes. Clean, safe water is essential for drinking, recreation, and aquatic life.
- Surface and ground water quality and quantity are inter-related.
- Effective water resource protection is best achieved through proactive watershed management planning. A wide variety of management tools and techniques can be used to protect and restore water resources.
- Water quality and stream habitat protection is impossible without citizen and grassroots participation.
- Cooperative and collaborative partnerships between citizens and County, Regional and State agencies are the most effective way to accomplish LWW's mission and enhance each individual effort.

## **Strategic Plan for 2003-2004:**

LWW has adopted the following specific objectives and projects to be implemented in 2003- 2004. The strategic plan is the product of: (1) a preliminary planning session at the 12/17/02 LWW monthly meeting, (2) a planning session and workgroup analysis at the LWW Strategic Planning Go-Away on 1/17/03 at the Rust Sanctuary, Leesburg, VA; and (3) a final planning session at the 1/29/03 LWW monthly meeting.

### **I. Executive Committee:**

**Objective 1 – Provide organizational structure, plans, and funding; and develop relationships necessary to accomplish organizational goals and objectives.**

**Projects:**

- Update the LWW cooperative agreement, as needed, to reflect current organization, goals, and objectives.
- Apply for grant funds as appropriate to accomplish organizational objectives.
- Develop a formal relationship with WRTAC and solicit their input in LWW's planning and program development.
- Maintain a formal relationship with Loudoun's Environmental and Historic Resources Program.

### **II. Protocols, Data and Research:**

**Objective 2 – Utilize stream monitoring data to protect and enhance water resources.**

**Projects:**

- Compile 2002 stream monitoring data.
- Analyze monitoring data and TMDL findings, and prepare summary report for public.
- Establish monitoring data on LWW website for public use.
- Review studies and projects impacting upon the quality and health of Loudoun streams, and develop educational materials, study projects, and advocacy positions as appropriate.
- Work with member groups and state authorities to adopt monitoring protocols for bacteriological, stream flow, transparency, and chemical sampling.
- Expand the "Watershed Profiles" for each watershed to include a prioritized list of needs.

### **III. Stream Monitoring Program Design**

**Objective 3 – Develop a countywide stream monitoring plan consistent with state protocols, and state and local needs.**

**Projects:**

- Consult with DEQ, DCR, and Loudoun Health Dept, Sanitation Authority, and Environmental Staff in Building and Development to identify countywide water quality and stream habitat data needs.
- Prepare a draft countywide monitoring plan that includes probabilistic, trend, and special study monitoring sites.
- Organize a two-day workshop to design a comprehensive stream monitoring plan for Loudoun County.
- Prepare a countywide Stream Monitoring Design Plan following EPA/DEQ guidelines.
- Present the monitoring plan to WRTAC for endorsement.

**IV. Education and Outreach:****Objective 4 – Build constituencies for environmental stewardship, watershed planning, and water quality protection.****Projects:**

- Support the creation of a citizen's advisory committee on water resources.
- Prepare a list of key LWW members to participate in county advisory committees and statewide organizations to build collaboration.
- Sponsor two watershed events/programs to help establish new "Friends of ..." groups.

**Objective 5 – Education the public, local government, and others about the County's stewardship, watershed planning, and water quality and stream habitat needs.****Projects:**

- Make a formal presentation to the BOS regarding State of Streams report and water resource needs.
- Make a formal presentation to the WRTAC regarding State of Streams report and water resource needs.
- Develop a directory of individuals and organizations with expertise on various water resource related issues and programs.
- Prepare a summary report of LWW accomplishments and goals for public distribution.
- Prepare a summary report of 2002 stream monitoring and TMDL study findings.
- Develop a dynamic LWW website.
- Organize a 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Loudoun Water Quality Day / Family Stream Day.
- Provide summary notes of LWW meetings, and make presentations on issues and activities at those member group meetings and partner organization meetings that have not been represented at LWW meetings.

**Workplan for 2003-2004:****I. Executive Committee:**

<b>Objective 1 – Provide organizational structure, plans, and funding; and develop relationships necessary to accomplish organizational goals and objectives.</b>		
<b>Projects</b>	<b>Lead Person</b>	<b>Target Date</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update the LWW cooperative agreement to reflect current organization, goals, and objectives.</li> </ul>	Fred Fox, Eileen Levandoski	6/1/03
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Apply for grant funds as appropriate to accomplish organizational objectives.</li> </ul>	Eileen Levandoski, Fred Fox	As needed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a formal relationship with the Loudoun Water Resources Technical Advisory Committee</li> </ul>	Linda Erbs, Gem Bingol	6/1/03
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain a formal relationship with the Loudoun Environmental and Historic Resources Program</li> </ul>	Gem Bingol, Darrell Schwalm	As needed

**II. Protocols, Data and Research:**

<b>Objective 1 – To utilize stream monitoring data to protect and enhance water resources.</b>		
<b>Project</b>	<b>Lead Person</b>	<b>Target Date</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Compile 2002 stream monitoring data.</li> </ul>	Darrell Schwalm, Linda Erbs, David Ward	4/1/03
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analyze monitoring data and TMDL findings, and prepare summary report for public.</li> </ul>	Darrell Schwalm, Linda Erbs Stella Koch/Gem Bingol—editorial help	6/1/03
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish monitoring data on LWW website for public</li> </ul>	Darrell Schwalm, Linda Erbs, Larry Stipak	4/1/03
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review studies and projects impacting upon the quality and health of Loudoun streams, and develop educational materials, study projects, and advocacy positions as appropriate.</li> </ul>	Darrell Schwalm, Fred Fox, Otto Gutenson	As needed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with member groups and state authorities to adopt monitoring protocols for bacteriological, stream flow, transparency, and chemical sampling.</li> </ul>	Darrell Schwalm	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expand the “Watershed Profiles” for each watershed to include a prioritized list of needs.</li> </ul>	Darrell Schwalm, Linda Erbs	6/1/04

**III. Education and Outreach:**

<b>Objective 1 – Build constituencies for environmental stewardship, watershed planning, and water quality protection.</b>		
<b>Project</b>	<b>Lead Person</b>	<b>Target Date</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the creation of a citizen’s advisory committee on water resources.</li> </ul>	Gem Bingol, Stella Koch, Linda Erbs, Mark Mozsak	12/1/03
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prepare a list of key LWW members to participate in county advisory committees and statewide organizations to build collaboration.</li> </ul>	Stella Koch, Gem Bingol	4/1/03
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sponsor two watershed events/programs to help establish new “Friends of ...” groups.</li> </ul>	Cliff Fairweather, Eileen Levandoski, Gem Bingol	12/1/03

<b>Objective 2 – Education the public, local government, and others about the County’s stewardship, watershed planning, and water quality and stream habitat needs.</b>		
<b>Projects</b>	<b>Lead Person</b>	<b>Target Date</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Make a formal presentation to the BOS regarding State of Streams report and water resource needs.</li> </ul>	Darrell Schwalm	2/18/03
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Make a formal presentation to the WRTAC regarding State of Streams report and water resource needs.</li> </ul>	Darrell Schwalm, Gem Bingol, Fred Fox	3/12/03
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a directory of individuals and organizations with expertise on various water resource related issues and programs.</li> </ul>	Stella Koch, Gem Bingol	4/1/03
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prepare a summary report of LWW accomplishments and goals for public distribution.</li> </ul>	Fred Fox	4/1/03
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prepare a summary report of 2002 stream monitoring and TMDL study findings.</li> </ul>	Darrell Schwalm, Gem Bingol, Stella Koch	6/1/03
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a dynamic LWW website</li> </ul>	Eileen Levandoski, CVI	6/1/03
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organize a 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Loudoun Water Quality Day/ Family Stream Day.</li> </ul>	Gem Bingol, Eileen Levandoski, Pat McIlvaine, Ken Lowery	10/15/03
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide summary notes of meetings, and make presentations on issues and activities at those member group meetings and partner organization meetings that have not been represented at LWW meetings.</li> </ul>	Executive Board	On-going

#### **IV. Stream Monitoring Program Design**

<b>Objective 1 – Develop a countywide stream monitoring plan consistent with state protocols, and state and local needs.</b>		
<b>Project</b>	<b>Lead Person</b>	<b>Target Date</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consult with DEQ, DCR, and Loudoun Health Dept, Sanitation Authority, and Environmental Staff in Building and Development to identify countywide water quality and stream habitat data needs.</li> </ul>	Linda Erbs, Phil Daley	3/30/03
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prepare a draft countywide monitoring plan that includes probabilistic, trend, and special study monitoring sites.</li> </ul>	Otto Gutenson, David Ward	3/30/03
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organize a two-day workshop to design a comprehensive stream monitoring plan for Loudoun County.</li> </ul>	Gem Bingol, Linda Erbs, Otto Gutenson, CVI	5/9-10/03
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prepare a countywide Stream Monitoring Design Plan following EPA/DEQ guidelines.</li> </ul>	Darrell Schwalm, Otto Gutenson	8/1/03
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Present the monitoring plan to WRTAC for endorsement.</li> </ul>	Otto Gutenson	9/03