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Cane Run Watershed Council - An adventure in watershed involvement

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Abstract:

Watershed councils can serve as an open forum for discussion, bringing together diverse parties to identify and address watershed issues. These watershed advisory and action teams can positively impact a watershed project by generating interest at the local level and providing expertise and energy for specific issues. The Cane Run watershed assessment and restoration project has included the development of a watershed council. The council formed in December 2007 with the goal of facilitating community input and involvement in the Cane Run watershed. Members of the council include local officials, state and federal government representatives, private business representatives, non-profit organizations, and watershed residents. Activities have included a stream walk with city council members, a community clean-up, and coordination with the Friends of Cane Run for contaminant-specific roundtable discussions. Facilitating a watershed council requires respect of diverse opinions, patience, and encouragement of progress for the group. Throw in a cast of characters, a novice facilitator, and an impaired watershed and watch the fun unfold.

Impact Statement:

The Cane Run Watershed Council has coordinated a stream walk with city council members, a community clean-up event, and roundtable discussions. These events have involved about 100 people, and are working toward the reduction of water pollutants to restore an impaired stream. The council has leveraged partnerships and funding from the Friends of Cane Run and Lexmark International, Inc., as well as partnerships from private consulting firms, citizens, and state and local officials. Development and continued facilitation of the council has exemplified the importance of partnerships and community buy-in for watershed project success.

Category: Watershed Assessment and Restoration

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