



Waccamaw Water Quality Data Conference

Wednesday, January 20th, 2016

9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Coastal Carolina University, Burroughs & Chapin Center for Marine and Wetland Studies, Room 100
(In the Atlantic Center on CCU's East Campus)

- 08:30 AM Breakfast
- 09:00 AM *Welcome and Introductions*
Emma Gerald Boyer, Waccamaw Riverkeeper® Program
- 09:20 AM *Updates from Horry County, Georgetown County & City of Conway*
Dave Fuss (Horry County) – *Freshwater Mussels on the Waccamaw and Pee Dee*, Tracy Jones (Georgetown County), Kevin Chestnut (City of Conway)
Representatives from the local agencies responsible for stormwater management will discuss their programs and how the citizen scientists associated with the Waccamaw Volunteer Monitoring Program are helping them to meet their regulatory requirements for protecting water quality.
- 09:40 AM *Water Availability and Use to Meet Competing Societal and Ecological Needs*
Chad Wagner, USGS South Atlantic Water Science Center
To effectively manage water supplies to meet societal and ecological uses, water-resource managers will need estimates of how potential changes in population growth, land-use, and climate will impact aquifer water levels and the frequency, duration, and magnitude of streamflow and salinity intrusion near water-supply intakes. The approaches and new techniques developed as part of this proposed Carolinas Focus Area Study can be transferred to other rapidly growing coastal metropolitan areas that are either currently dealing with similar water availability conflicts or will be in the near future.
- 10:10 AM Break and Open Discussion
- 10:20 AM *SC DHEC Water Quality Monitoring in the Waccamaw*
Amy Bennett, Pee Dee Watershed Manager, SC DHEC
Water quality monitoring data helps us understand why certain conditions exist in a body of water and how that water's quality may be improved. DHEC monitors surface waters to ensure they are meeting water quality standards, identify locations in need of extra attention, determine long-term trends, provide background data for other programs, etc. An overview of ambient water quality monitoring, data usage and 319 grants will be discussed.
- 10:50 AM *Using the Online Database to Visualize Spatial & Temporal Water Quality Trends*
Dr. Susan Libes, Director – Waccamaw Watershed Academy, Coastal Carolina University
Since 2006, community volunteers have been monitoring water quality in the Waccamaw River. The data generated has been used in local decision making and has been recognized as an important data set for state and federal agencies involved in water quality protections. These data are publicly available, hosted on Coastal Carolina University's public website (bccmws.coastal.edu/volunteermonitoring), where users can use the built in functionality to visualize spatial and temporal trends. These data and the data website will be discussed along with the fall 2015 flooding and continued high water levels on the Waccamaw.
- 11:30 AM *Riverkeeper Update*
Emma Gerald Boyer, Waccamaw Riverkeeper® Program
Featuring a highlight on Benthic Macroinvertebrate surveys on the Waccamaw River
By Jack Galloway, WR WQ Volunteer
- 12:00 PM Conference Closing

