

Hinkson Creek CAM Science Team
Notes of the December 11, 2012 meeting

Team Members Present: Bob Angelo, Paul Blanchard, Joe Engeln, John Holmes, Jason Hubbard, Robb Jacobson, Dave Michaelson, Dan Obrecht, Barry Poulton

The Team discussed the current proposals for habitat assessment. They are scheduled to go before the stakeholder committee on Thursday for recommendation to the three local partners. The Forum Nature Area proposal may also be ready to be presented then. There is some concern that no funding source could be found for the assessment in the timeframe considered by the science team. Joe will participate in a conference call tomorrow to discuss this. Joe and Jason also informed the team that DNR is discussing a more general habitat assessment methodology for the state. Craig Paukert (Fish and Wildlife Coop Unit) would likely lead that effort and coordination between the two groups doing assessments would be beneficial.

The team discussed possibly doing the field component of the habitat assessment without the GIS component, but this was rejected because it would significantly compromise the ability to meet the goals of the habitat assessment and additional field work, with additional expense, would be needed. The field component would have to be conducted in the summer, unless graduate students or professionals were to do the work. Either of these options would likely add substantially to the cost. Thus, the process would be delayed for a year or become significantly more expensive if the funding cannot be resolved in a timely manner.

The team then discussed the next steps. The following ideas were suggested: Identifying information gaps; identifying gaps in our understanding of the Hinkson system; considering modeling needs; and understanding the full list of possible actions that was created by the action team. The following plan for the next few months was suggested, pending approval by the action team.

In January, February and March, the science team and action team would hold joint meetings on the third Friday of each month from 3-5 PM. Before the January meeting, Tom Wellman agreed to organize the list of possible actions into groups of similar projects and to share that with the science and action teams. The January meeting would focus on understanding these proposals, their potential impact on the Hinkson Creek watershed, potential ways to consider these actions in the context of the conceptual model that has been created, and an idea of the likelihood that these projects could be replicated elsewhere in the watershed.

After that meeting, science team members would be invited to submit a list of some of the gaps remaining for information, modeling and understanding. Joe agreed to compile these and distribute prior to the February meeting. These would form the basis for discussion at the February meeting.

The team was informed of the proposed work by Lynn Hooper, one of Jason Hubbard's students, who plans to study E. coli and stream and sediment dynamics in the watershed. She hopes to begin sampling this coming fall at the 11 DNR and 5 Hubbard sites along Hinkson Creek. Barry

also pointed out that the Fisheries Coop Unit at MU is considering a fish study in the watershed. This would complement the on-going macroinvertebrate studies and Jason Hubbart's work.