

June 7, 2005 Workshop –Goals, Objectives, Agenda

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT in FORESTLANDS:

Subdivision Planning/Design to Protect Forest Ecosystems and Water Quality in the Mountains of Virginia

Phase II Goals:

- 1) *recommend tools and techniques that will enable developers to implement conservation-based designs in or near forested areas with minimum disturbance to forests, streams, and watersheds;*
- 2) *host a regional workshop where we can discuss project findings with stakeholders/opinion leaders;*
- 3) *prepare model ordinance provisions for developing in forested contexts.*

Objective of the Workshop:

Learn what stakeholders think about the prospect for sustainable forestland development.

Workshop Outline

Welcome: Will forestland development add to or detract from the quality of life of our area?

Joe Powers - Montgomery County Planning Director

Population Growth in the NRV between 1990-2000 (pop. in 2000):

Floyd County – 16% (13,874); Montgomery County – 13.1% (83,629);

Pulaski County – 1.8% (35,127); Giles County – 1.3% (16,657)

Introduction: The Goal of **Sustainable Development in Forestlands:** retain intact forestland areas while meeting short & long term development needs (economic & quality of life) – Lee Skabelund

Facilitated Discussion of Issues & Opportunities: Dave Rundgren & Diane Zahm

3 questions will be discussed in 2-person groups; ideas will be recorded (one per note card), organized into similar categories, prioritized by voting, and the most important issues briefly summarized.

Q1: What are the key issues, obstacles, and challenges related to clustering residential development to retain intact forestland?

Q2: How do we change development patterns; what is it going to take to make clustering happen?
How do we overcome the barriers during the planning/design/development process?

Q3: What are the critical longer-term management issues that will need to be addressed to retain intact forestland for its timber, non-timber, and ecological values? What must be done to successfully conserve productive and healthy forests over the very long term?

Next Steps & Summary Thoughts: Lee Skabelund & Diane Zham

We plan to use your ideas to develop draft ordinance provisions, which can then be discussed, refined, and used/adopted by local communities and governments...

Workshop Audience (Stakeholders/Opinion Leaders): local planners, designers, engineers, surveyors, developers, homebuilders, real-estate professionals, and county administrators and zoning officials.

Project Team:

Virginia Tech

Lee R. Skabelund, Sr. Researcher – (Project Administration/Team Leader/Researcher/Designer)

Professor Jesse Richardson (Legal Expert for Ordinance Provision Development)

Professor Diane Zahm (Planning Expert for Ordinance Provision Development)

Pam Daniel & Abigail Convery (Research/Planning/Preparation of Products)

Partners

Joe Powers & Meghan Dorsett (Montgomery County Planning & Zoning)

Craig Whittaker (Giles County Planning & Zoning)

Donald Chance (Planning Consultant & Owner of Confluence Services)

David Rundgren (Director, New River Valley Planning District Commission)

Beth Obenshain (Executive Director, New River Land Trust)

Britt Boucher (Professional Forester & President of Foresters Incorporated)

Gary Boring (USDA-NRCS, New River-Highlands Resource Conservation & Development)

Steve Bodtke (Managing Broker, Long & Foster Real Estate, Inc.- Blacksburg)