

# Dan River Recovery Project



## Priority Issues

- Water Quality
- Outdoor Recreation Economy
- Ecosystem & Wildlife
- Public Education
- Remediation

## Education Strategies

Target: Community Groups, Public, Schools & Nonprofits

- Provide public education program related to how the spill affects their daily lives now – and how it will continue to affect their lives in the future (3 months).
- Provide regional presentations to civic groups, church groups and other interested groups about remaining coal ash ponds in the region (6 months).
- Develop Coal Ash Speakers Bureau of experts and researchers to provide public with science-based information about threats and long-term impact of coal ash on human health and wildlife.
- Develop marketing sources to educate public about the process of remediation and the legislative process (ongoing).
- Provide schools & nonprofits with an environmental program related to pollution, coal ash and other threats to their waterways, and specific actions they can take to reduce those threats (ongoing).

Activities to Date:

- Municipality presentations: Caswell County Commissioners, Kerr-Tar COG, Person County (5/8/14)
- Public/Civic Groups/Other presentations: Rotary Clubs (Danville {2}, Martinsville, Greensboro, Winston-Salem), Eden Public Meeting, Farmers Forum, Funders Forum, WPPDC, Sierra Club, 3 local schools, Wake Forest University students, others
- Celebrate the Dan event – legislative and info sharing public event (March 22)
- Speakers Bureau – list of consultants completed

- Coal Ash & Spill Brochure (what it is, what has been done, what is being done, what you can do) to be printed by May 1.
- Threats to Our Watershed Curriculum is currently being edited to include activities about coal ash. This curriculum will support standard of learning objectives.
- Coal Ash web page launched on DRBA site (<http://www.danriver.org/dan-river-coal-ash-spill-135>) and updated daily.
- Rockingham Community College River of Coal event scheduled for June, 2014

**Needs:**

- Brochure printing funds (\$3,000)
- Municipality & civic group outreach for presentations
- School curriculum printing, activity supply funds (\$5,000)
- Funds for regional Girl Scout patch program (Water Heros) to teach girls about water quality and conservation (\$5,000)
- RCC River of Coal Event funds (\$1,000)

## **Recreation Strategies**

Target: Tourism, Municipal and Citizen/Nonprofit Agencies

- Bring partners together to develop a regional message and leverage resources (6 months).
- Continue to promote outdoor recreation through DRBA events and outings (ongoing).
- Highlight paddling opportunities throughout the region (ongoing).
- Continue to assist partners in MHC, Stokes, Halifax/Mecklenberg, Philpott & Danville in developing blue trails (12 months).

Activities to date:

- Eden, Halifax, Mecklenberg, all Kerr-Tar municipalities, Caswell – passed or passing resolution
- All media communication and public presentations/events by DRBA include promotion of Dan River regional outdoor recreational opportunities
- Paddle trip on Bannister (April) and Smith (May)
- Continued work with partners on blue trails
- Celebrate the Dan event – also promoted regional outdoor recreational opportunities (March 22)
- Participating in Earth Day events (Halifax, VMNH, Philpott)

**Needs:**

- Funds for regional promotion/advertisement of outdoor recreational opportunities (\$50,000)
- Blue trail funds for Danville (\$9,000) and Stokes (\$4,000) – others have been funded
- Funds for tourism professional event – food/location – to discuss leveraging of resources and best practices for regional promotion (\$500)
- Funds to launch APP for outdoor recreational opportunities in the region (\$4,000)

## Stewardship Strategies

Target: Agricultural Partners (3 months)

- Help facilitate the development of resource/fact sheets for farmers, small businesses, other affected groups for best practices/information sharing (ongoing).
- Continue to connect affected groups with experts as appropriate (ongoing).

Activities to date:

- Farmers Forum (March 10) gathered media, county ag professionals, consultants and farmers. Result of meeting was recently published: NC State [Assessment of Trace-Element Impacts on Agricultural Use of Water from the Dan River Following the Eden Coal Ash Spill](#)
- Working one-on-one with farmers in affected area to help connect them with well testing, water testing and riparian buffer enhancements
- Working with 3 farmers who are allowing DRBA to do macro-testing on their property along the Dan (Eden, Danville, Caswell)

### Needs:

- Funds to provide written brochure for farmers about their options and best practices (\$1,000)

Target: Ecosystem & Wildlife

- Continue to work with environmental partners on assessing negative impact of spill (ongoing).
- Launch independent water quality monitoring program in Rockingham, Danville, Pittsylvania, Caswell, Halifax, (ongoing). Include macro-invertebrate, sediment and other appropriate testing at sites where human and wildlife will be most affected (dams, irrigation intake, fishing holes, etc.)
- Continue to work with partners to strategically press for remediation of the Dan River site (and all sites) by Duke Energy through legislative relations, media, public engagement and, if necessary, litigation.
  - Ash in river is removed and transported away from waterways and safely contained
  - Remaining coal ash at Duke Energy Dan River site is removed and transported away from waterways and safely contained
  - All coal ash ponds located near waterways in the Dan River watershed are removed and transported away from waterways and safely contained



Activities to date:

- First leaf packs and Dendrite testing completed (12 sites) – partnership with Ferrum University students for analysis
- Several sediment/metals testing completed – partnership with Meritech Labs
- 5 Macro testing volunteers recruited
- Final testing sites along 70-mile stretch of Dan identified for macros completed
- Testing sites for sediment, surface water in process and partnership with DEQ and NCDENR
- Weekly meetings/conversations with Duke Energy, EPA, DEQ ongoing
- DEQ water monitoring partnership completed
- NCDENR water monitoring partnership in discussion
- Providing EPA and Duke Energy with viable sites for coal removal
- Assisting Duke Energy with alternate river access sites from May – July
- DRBA Coal Ash Task Force recruited and working on implementation and funding of Recovery Plan
- Intervention action in partnership with SELC
- Bio Assessments (completed April 20, 2014) and (scheduled May 18, 2014) then one will be scheduled for Summer, two in Fall/Winter
- Assisting Duke and other government agencies with long-term plan

**Needs:**

- Funds for independent water quality monitoring, first year macro (\$120,000), first year heavy metals & surface water (\$8,000)
- Funds for volunteer recruitment (\$5,000)

## **Estimated Total Annual Budget**

**Education**

Events & Meetings \$10,000  
Environmental Education Curriculum & Materials \$10,000

**Recreation**

Marketing Materials \$30,000  
Advertising & Promotion \$50,000

**Stewardship**

Macro Testing Supplies & Analysis \$120,000 (\$400/25 sites/12 months)  
Heavy Metals Testing & Analysis \$8,000 (\$200/10 sites/4 times per year)  
Volunteer Recruitment & Promotion \$5,000

Total \$232,000