

Meeting Notes – Federal & State Partners Workgroup

DATE	May 31, 2012
PURPOSE	Project Update and Next Steps
FROM	Linda Giltz, Land-of-Sky Regional Council (convener)
ATTENDEES	Ross Young, Madison Extension Steve Duckett, Buncombe Extension Angie Chandler, Blue Ridge Heritage Area Karen Smith, NC Dept of Commerce, Division of Community Planning Jay Swain, NC DOT, Division Engineer Anne Keller, EPA, Atlanta regional office Laurie Stradley, NC Center for Health and Wellness Kendrick Weeks, NC Wildlife Resources Commission Olivia Collier, ARC Libby Smith, ARC Judy Francis, NC Dept of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Kenny Wilson, NC DOT, Division 13 Julie Hunkins, NC DOT Unwanna Dabney, FHWA Lisa Riegel, NC DENR

After introductions, Linda provided a brief update on the recently held [Community Meetings](#). She described the open house format and displays for each “station” or topic area and mentioned that all these materials are or will very soon be on the project website. Each station had at least one interactive activity, to gather input and comments. The public was very engaged at the meetings and we collected a lot of input. The attendance was good, except it was very light at the Haywood meeting (only 12 people) – 65-70 attended the Transylvania and Buncombe meetings; 35-40 attended the Madison and Henderson meetings. A summary of all the input will be available soon on the website and Carrie will send out a notification when it is posted.

Anne Keller commented that the meeting layout and format was good and is a good model for others to use. We got a number of comments from attendees that they appreciated all the information and how it was presented.

Linda mentioned that staff would be working over the next month to: get more businesses involved; reach out to groups that didn’t attend the meetings (lower income residents, rural residents, non-English-speaking



residents, non-White residents); and promote the use of the [Community Road Trip](#) (portable/interactive meeting). Carrie is preparing a mini-grant application to solicit people/organizations who will take the Road Trip meetings out to various groups over the next month or so. Steve Duckett mentioned that he and his staff could help promote this to the Community Clubs in Buncombe and possibly help facilitate the meetings. We could ask the extension offices to encourage community leaders to lead or convene community meetings, and assist with facilitation if possible.

Attendees expressed appreciation for these conference call updates.

Upcoming Project Activities/Events:

June 11, 9-12 noon – Steering Committee meeting

July 10, 10-2 (approx.) – Work Group meeting for all work group members

August 14, 10-12 – Steering Committee meeting

October – next round of Community Meetings

Next Federal and State Partners conference call: the group requested a Doodle poll to determine the next date and time. It will be either towards the end of July or after the August Steering Committee meeting.