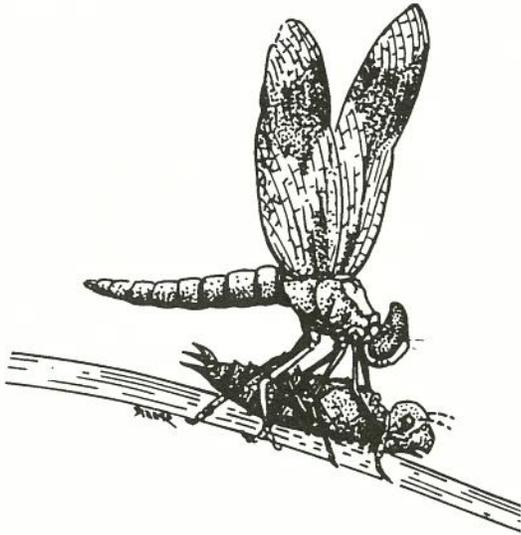

IMPLEMENTATION

Completing a management plan for a river corridor is a complex process. This is due to the variety of resources found in, and supported by, the riverine environment. As evidenced by this river corridor plan, critical riverine resources range from economic resources to significant wildlife habitat.

However, in many respects the easiest part of a corridor plan process is constructing the management plan. Completing a community-based plan is a significant accomplishment, but the true success is found in the ability to implement the management recommendations contained in a management plan. Implementation of the recommendations is the most important part of this planning process. Long-term efforts will be required from a variety of individuals and organizations.

The Catawba River Corridor Plan contains almost 200 management recommendations. Obviously, not all of these recommendations can be implemented at once. Also, different resources and cooperative efforts will be required to implement the recommendations. Money will be required to realize many of the recommendations, particularly those relating to parks, greenways, or educational efforts. Implementing other recommendations will require political decision making. Many



IN THE EVERLASTING INTERACTION between the Catawba River and humanity, there exists a relationship that, like all relationships, involves privilege and responsibility. For those of us who are landowners on the Catawba watershed, there is a special element of privilege, for we are entrusted with the actual ownership of land that joins the river in a unique “marriage.” We enjoy the closeness of everyday exchange with the river. From our own land, we can cast a fishing line, launch a boat, build a pier, or observe the myriad of wildlife lured by the Catawba River.

With that special element of privilege, comes an extra measure of responsibility for proper stewardship. If we are to do our part in maintaining and/or improving the quality of the

of the recommendations can be implemented by people and organizations such as landowners, river users, or governmental entities who simply decide that the recommendations provide the proper way to manage the river.

Establishing Implementation Priorities

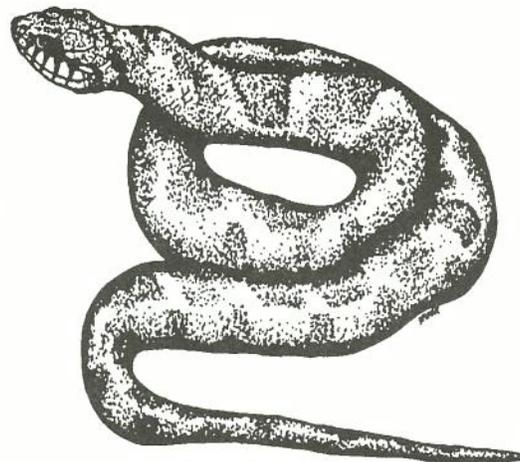
Currently the Implementation Committee consists of each of the chairs of the various river resource or issue committees plus other community leaders. It is co-chaired by Lindsay Pettus and Murray White. This committee will work with the task force over the coming months to establish priorities among the recommendations and then facilitate activities to implement the most important recommendations.

This committee must make a long-term commitment to work on the provisions of the Catawba River Corridor Plan. They must seek creative and inclusive strategies that will result in the full implementation of the Catawba Plan.

A plan is a process and dynamic. In order to make the type of commitment necessary to focus attention on the plan and the needs of the river over the long-term, the Implementation Committee must evolve into a permanent committee. Regardless of the course of action required to realize the needed action, one common element in the implementation process is the need for a permanent Catawba River Task Force.

river, we must accept the challenge to educate ourselves and others about the negative impact our daily actions might create, especially in terms of adding to the river's nonpoint-source pollution.

We must learn and implement practices needed to prevent erosion, siltation, and runoff. Household and/or lawn chemicals and pesticides must be limited and controlled. Landowners should be leaders in the battle against litter and for recycling. Because of our proximity to the river, we are prime candidates to assist with voluntary monitoring projects. We need to join or, if necessary, form voluntary citizens' groups which will keep us informed of problems and progress in terms of the health of the river. Such groups can also provide a means by



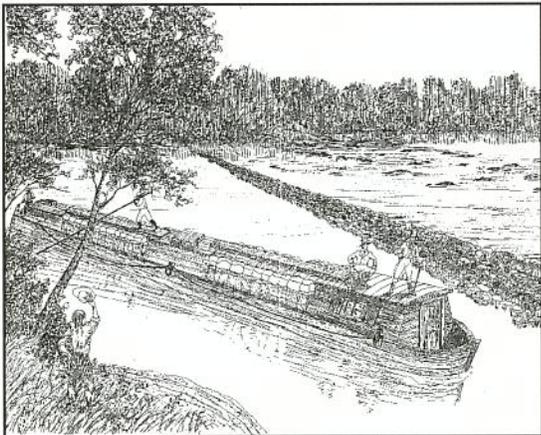
Creating A Permanent Task Force

The key to implementing the Catawba River Corridor Plan is to form a permanent constituency committee to prioritize the numerous recommendations of the plan and then seek the necessary resources to put them in place. The first step is to establish the task force.

One proposed method to accomplish this is to have each of the three county councils, Chester, Lancaster, and York, to jointly create a permanent Catawba River Task Force and make appointments from each of the three counties to the task force. These appointments could be for set terms such as three-year rotating appointments. Other regular or ex-officio task force members could come from resource agencies at the local, state, or federal level to contribute technical expertise to the task force.

Much can be accomplished toward the implementation of the Catawba River Corridor Plan with the establishment of a permanent task force with a modest budget supported by, and reporting to, the county councils. This would also encourage work on several of the recommendations that call for multicounty or regional solutions to river management issues.

A modest budget from the counties could help the task force communicate with landowners and interested citizens through a Catawba River newsletter, let the task force sponsor river management workshops or field trips, and publish educational brochures, to name only a few examples.



which we can have a voice in encouraging policy makers to implement and enforce regulations that reflect a proper balance of river use and protection.

The body of this report lists numerous specific recommendations to official agencies, developers, industrial users, and individuals who enjoy or benefit from the river for an assortment of uses. We all must work together to seek and provide for others education which reflects a clear understanding of the Catawba watershed and the people who interact with it. We must strive for a proper mixture of focus, balance, and discovery. Wise landowners will respect the privilege/responsibility relationship that exists between them and the river, and they will help others to see that their relationship with the river is also one of privilege and responsibility. If we don't, we all stand to lose, and perhaps it is the landowners who stand to lose the most.

Diana Daughtridge

Conclusion

The process that resulted in the Catawba River Corridor Plan was community based and inclusive. This resulted in a river management plan, which is based in local values and provides direction for future decision making. The planning process to date has affected permanent change by bringing people with diverse views together to set common goals for river management. As important as this plan is, the next steps are far more important.

To achieve true success, we must manage the river and river corridor on the principles contained in the plan. In other words, to make the efforts of the numerous individuals who created this plan worthwhile, we must implement its provisions. However, as much as possible the implementation efforts should utilize education, outreach, and a broad-based involvement strategy as did the planning process.

Implementation is more complex and more difficult than creating the plan. This is true for a variety of reasons. Implementation may require some individuals to do things differently or it may require significant funding. Neither changing behavior nor finding money are simple endeavors. However, if the activities associated with implementing the recommendations are based in education and not regulation, if implementation efforts are cooperatively based and inclusive, and if the decision-making process is open, we will be able to finish what we have started along this valuable stretch of the Catawba River.

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Appendix

Catawba River Corridor Emergency Response Plan

Purpose:

To establish standards for the efficient response to emergencies in and adjacent to the Catawba River from the Wylie Hydro Station to the S.C. Highway 9 bridge, known as the Catawba River Corridor.

Scope:

The Catawba River Corridor is subject to being the location of numerous emergencies. The remote nature of the river corridor, the outdoor activities conducted, and the ever changing river conditions complicate all emergency responses.

The Catawba River from the Wylie Hydro Station to S.C. 9 is a 31.7-mile section of the river with limited access. The characteristics of the river change from flatwater to Class III white water in some locations, depending on the water flow from the dam.

***Section A - Lake Wylie Dam to U.S. 21**

York County East and West Bank

This section, 3.6 miles, begins at either of two access points below the Lake Wylie Dam in York County.

The put-in on the north side of the river is at the Fort Mill Access Area off Dam Road, 3.1 miles west of I-77 between Rock Hill and Charlotte. On the south side, drive 3.2 miles north on India Hook Road from S.C. 161 to the river.

Section B - U.S. 21 to S.C. 5

York County East Bank to Sugar Creek West Bank

Lancaster County East Bank South of Sugar Creek

Below U.S. 21, there are some Class 1 rapids. The Catawba Indian Reservation is about 10 miles down river on this 14.8-mile section, along the right (east) bank.

Be aware that the river can rise unexpectedly when Duke Power Company releases water through the Lake Wylie Dam. The river is studded with rocks, ledges and shoals. Large releases can produce strong currents and dangerous conditions around the rocks.

The S.C. 5 bridge is the next access point. There are take-outs on each side. The first, on the right (west) side, is above the bridge. A dirt road leads to S.C. 5. The other, on the left (east) side, is below the bridge. A dirt road and a trail lead from the river to S.C. 5.

Section C - S.C. 5 to Landsford Canal State Park

York County West Bank North of Greene Creek
Chester County West Bank South of Greene Creek
Lancaster County East Bank

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Landsford Canal State Park is 3.9 miles away on the right side.

After an island splits the river into two channels, the park is on the right side. The park's low banks provide an easy access.

Section D - Landsford Canal State Park to S.C. 9

Lancaster East Bank
Chester West Bank

These Class I rapids may approach Class II or III in high water.

Several more islands dot the river downstream in this 7.4-mile section.

This section concludes at the S.C. 9 bridge, where the backwater of Fishing Creek Lake begins. The access is at the concrete ramp underneath the bridge.

General Information

Corridor: Lake Wylie Dam to S.C. 9

Length: 31.7 miles

Topographic Maps: Catawba, Catawba Northeast, Charlotte, Clover, Fort Lawn, Lancaster, Rock Hill East, Van Wyck

County Maps: Chester, Lancaster, York

Average Flow: 4,554 cubic feet per second or 122.6 million gallons per hour

Wylie Dam Discharge: Gates closed 80 cubic feet per second

Gates open 11,340 cubic feet per second

Flood Stage: Not established

Gradient: 80 feet or 2.5 feet per mile

Difficulty: Fast flatwater; class I, II, possible II, in high water at Landsford Canal

Hazards: Swift currents, turbulence created by releases from the Lake Wylie Dam, shoals at Landsford Canal State Park.

Definitions:

Law Enforcement Activities - Situations that arise which require the intervention of a police agency to mitigate the situation. Law enforcement activities are those that could result in criminal charges and/or investigations or information concerning emergency situations.

Emergency Preparedness - The county agency with the responsibility of coordinating all emergency planning, response and recovery operations (Regulation 58-1 S.C. Code of Law, York County Code of Law Section 6).

Rescue Squad - Civil emergency forces or volunteer departments organized in each county to respond to emergencies, free trapped persons, search for missing persons, and perform activities not assigned to other county departments.

Operations:

The Emergency Preparedness Agency with jurisdiction or their designee will be responsible for the coordination of response activities (depending on the County Emergency Operations Plan and Standard Operating Procedures). If the emergency, search, etc., expands to another county, both counties will coordinate the response units from their counties. The overall responsibility will rest with the county where the majority of the activity is taking place. The coordinator has the responsibility of keeping the responders, other counties, and law enforcement abreast of all activities associated with the situation.

Notification:

Upon receiving a call, the receiving agency will obtain as much information as possible. A law enforcement officer will be dispatched and the appropriate Emergency Preparedness office notified. The situation will dictate the nature of the response, number of persons and equipment needed to respond and the area. Adjoining counties should be notified as soon as possible if they could be involved in the emergency.

Communications:

Radio communications will be conducted on the frequencies assigned to the counties for these purposes. Close coordination is essential to the passing of information to responders on various radio systems and channels. The ideal situation is a common radio frequency shared by all response groups.

Missing Persons:

In all situations involving missing persons the law enforcement agency with jurisdiction will be the primary point of contact with the reporting parties. Information obtained by law enforcement will be utilized by Emergency Preparedness to establish search areas and types of search.

Foul play must be considered in missing person situations. Any and all evidence, located persons, or items must be secured until law enforcement can evaluate it.

Hazardous Materials:

HazMat situations require the swift and immediate response of many organizations to contain the situation and lessen the impact on the river, the environment, persons in the affected areas, and the responders. The Department of Health and Environmental Control and the S.C. Wildlife Division must be involved in all HazMat situations. The ultimate responsibility for the cleanup will reside with the persons(s) responsible for the discharge.

Training:

The fluctuating river levels can change the river to class II or III white water in a short period of time. To insure the safety of all persons involved in the emergency, all persons who will be in our program on the river must complete an approved swift water rescue course.

Mutual Aid:

Each of the three counties has mutual-aid agreements signed by the county councils of the three counties. This agreement allows emergency forces of one county to assist the other counties as long as the requested counties do not deplete the resources necessary to handle emergencies in their respective counties. The Emergency Preparedness Director of each county makes the determination whether to send/withhold mutual aid.

When assisting another county, the county sending the assistance will operate under the control of the requesting county just as if they were a response unit of that county.

*Excerpts from Paddling South Carolina, Palmetto Byways Press

