



Upper Guyandotte Watershed Association met in Rhodell last week. Experts were on hand to discuss how communities could work together to reduce the amount of raw sewage being dumped in the river.

Watershed Association Meeting A Success

Over 50 people attended the meeting of the Upper Guyandotte Watershed Association in Rhodell last Tuesday night. A panel of experts was on hand to discuss how communities within the Upper Guyandotte River watershed could work together to reduce the amount of raw sewage being dumped in the river. Panel speakers represented organizations that have worked on successful sewage treatment projects in their own communities or offer programs that provide technical assistance or funding to communities to initiate sewage projects.

WVU Small Flows Clearinghouse, WV Rural Community Assistance Program, and the Canaan Valley Institute are all groups that provide free technical assistance to small communities in assessment and planning for sewage treatment projects. They have been very successful on similar projects in McDowell County. Andrew Lake and Ed Winant, Morgan-

town, represented Small Flows and Dave Clark, Thomas, was present from CVI. Cliff Pannell (RCAP, Bluefield) also stressed the importance of education and widespread community support in working on sewage projects. Mark Ehrnschwender (Plateau Action Network, Fayette County) is also involved in a grassroots effort. His organization has designed an on-site treatment system for a community of about 60 homes in Winona. John Fredericks (enforcement agent of WV DEP) discussed enforcement of state regulations that involve water pollution and solid waste. Randy Campbell (US Army Corps of Engineers, Huntington) discussed a Corps funding program for infrastructure projects and a possible statewide watershed assessment project that they are undertaking. Norm Kirkham (Region 1 Planning and Development Council, Princeton) emphasized that the key is to find solutions that are affordable for the local governments and their

citizens. He believes that a conventional sewer system is too expensive for most of Wyoming County and that a modified cluster system will be judged most effective.

Senator Russ Weeks discussed the need to use the AML's \$1.4B fund that has been collected for just these types of issues. The implementation of this money is awaiting the fate of the Cuban-Rahall bill in Congress. Other government officials in attendance were; Paul Gonzalez, a representative from Congressman Rahall's office, Senator Billy Wayne Bailey and Wyoming County Commissioner Harold Hayden.

The next meeting of UGWA will be Aug 2 at 7:00PM at the Mullens Opportunity Center. Anyone who wants to get involved in cleaning up the streams of the Upper Guyandotte is encouraged to attend. Your opinion matters. Please call Kelly Jo at 294-6188 for more information.