

Serving
The Dogwood City of Mullens
And All Of Wyoming County

The Mullens Advocate

Since 1913 - The Voice of Wyoming County

"The Most Thoroughly Read Newspaper Circulating Within The County"

Wednesday, August 10, 2005

UGWA Targets Wastewater Pollution

The Upper Guyandotte Watershed Association is working on a study to assess discharges of untreated household wastewater into our rivers and streams. Preliminary results of the study show that approximately 2,200 homes (67% of the total) in the Upper Guyandotte river watershed do not have adequate wastewater treatment.

A watershed is a basin-like landform defined by ridgelines. Our watershed includes all of the land area over which surface water flows to reach the Upper Guyandotte River. The study, therefore, looks at all the communities in southern Raleigh County and eastern Wyoming County.

It is a serious problem when over 2,000 homes are discharging raw sewage into the river. Pollution from one community affects everyone who lives downstream. This type of pollution can carry dangerous diseases and is a serious human

health concern. Both the federal Clean Water Act and West Virginia state laws require that the rivers be cleaned up in order to ensure safety in their use for fishing, swimming, and as a drinking water source.

The goal of the UGWA wastewater project is to identify affordable methods to treat wastewater in local communities, eliminate sources of raw sewage, and improve the quality of life in our watershed. Everyone deserves to have clean water. UGWA welcomes any and all local input and participation in the project and expects the study to be completed by the end of the year. We will be working throughout the summer and fall to provide opportunities for public input. Look for UGWA tables, flyers and public meetings.

The financial support of the following organizations has been crucial to the development of the study: Wyoming County Commission, Canaan

Valley Institute, WV Department of Environmental Protection, Mountain Resource Conservation and Development Council, and the Rural Appalachian Improvement League. Thank you for your support!

Many other partners are also assisting with the project: Wyoming County Health Department, Raleigh County Commission, Beckley-Raleigh County Health Department, Crab Orchard MacArthur Public Service District, City of Mullens, Wyoming County Board of Education, West Virginia Conservation Agency, Southern Conservation District, WV Ministry of Advocacy and Work Camps, Upper Guyandotte Chapter Trout Unlimited, West Virginia Bureau for Public Health and the Virginia Department of Health. For more information call 294-6188 or visit our website at www.ugwawv.org. UGWA meets the second Monday of each month at 7 pm at the MOC.