



May 28, 2013

Bennett L. Bearden, J.D., LL.M., J.S.D.
Special Counsel on Water Law and Policy
Office of the State Geologist
Geological Survey of Alabama
P.O. Box 20276
Tuscaloosa, AL 35402-0276

Subject: Additional Comments on Enhanced Comprehensive Water Management Plan

Dear Mr. Bearden:

Logan Martin Lake Protection Association appreciates the extension of the deadline to make comments on Alabama's statewide comprehensive water management plan. We are taking this opportunity to add a further comment to those that LMLPA submitted on October 30, 2012. LMLPA encourages the inclusion and support of Alabama Water Watch (AWW) based at Auburn University in Alabama's comprehensive plan. AWW trains citizen volunteers all over Alabama to perform EPA approved chemical and bacteriological testing, maintains a publicly accessible statewide data base of all data collected, and provides technical assistance to the citizen volunteers. The emphasis is on education, local stewardship, and long term monitoring. Though many assume that ADEM monitors the quality of all waterbodies in Alabama, such is not the case. For some Alabama streams, there is no water quality monitoring at all; other streams are fortunate enough to have AWW citizen volunteers performing basic chemistry monitoring or spot bacteriological monitoring for E. coli.

LMLPA's AWW monitors collect monthly basic chemistry data on four otherwise unmonitored streams. This data can be used to support a change in use classification when warranted or as an alert that something out of the ordinary is happening on the stream, as occurred over the fall and winter on one of our Blue Eye Creek sites. LMLPA's monthly basic chemistry data on its Logan Martin sites can be a valuable supplement to ADEM's five year basin rotation monitoring plan. Several of LMLPA's AWW sites have been monitored since 1996.

LMLPA's AWW bacteriological monitors alerted the City of Pell City in the summer of 2012 that our "first alert" testing showed high E. coli counts in the city's recently opened swimming beach. As a result, the city closed the beach, performed dye testing of restroom facilities, had a flock of Canada geese removed by the USDA in 2013, and reopened the beach and began city monitoring for E. coli in 2013.

None of the aforementioned citizen monitoring would have been possible without the training and technical assistance of Alabama Water Watch. Thus, LMLPA strongly urges the inclusion and support of Alabama Water Watch and its citizen monitors as part of Alabama's comprehensive water management plan.

Sincerely,



Mike Riley
President
Logan Martin Lake Protection Association

Cc: Governor Bentley
AWW