



Community Forums in Priority Watersheds

Protecting the water quality of local creeks and rivers isn't a task completed overnight and then done with forever. It requires continued participation and oversight from the people living, working, recreating or owning property in a community.

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Go to the People

10 watersheds

Engage people who live, work, play, etc. in the communities making up the priority watersheds. People who aren't likely to come to this meeting.

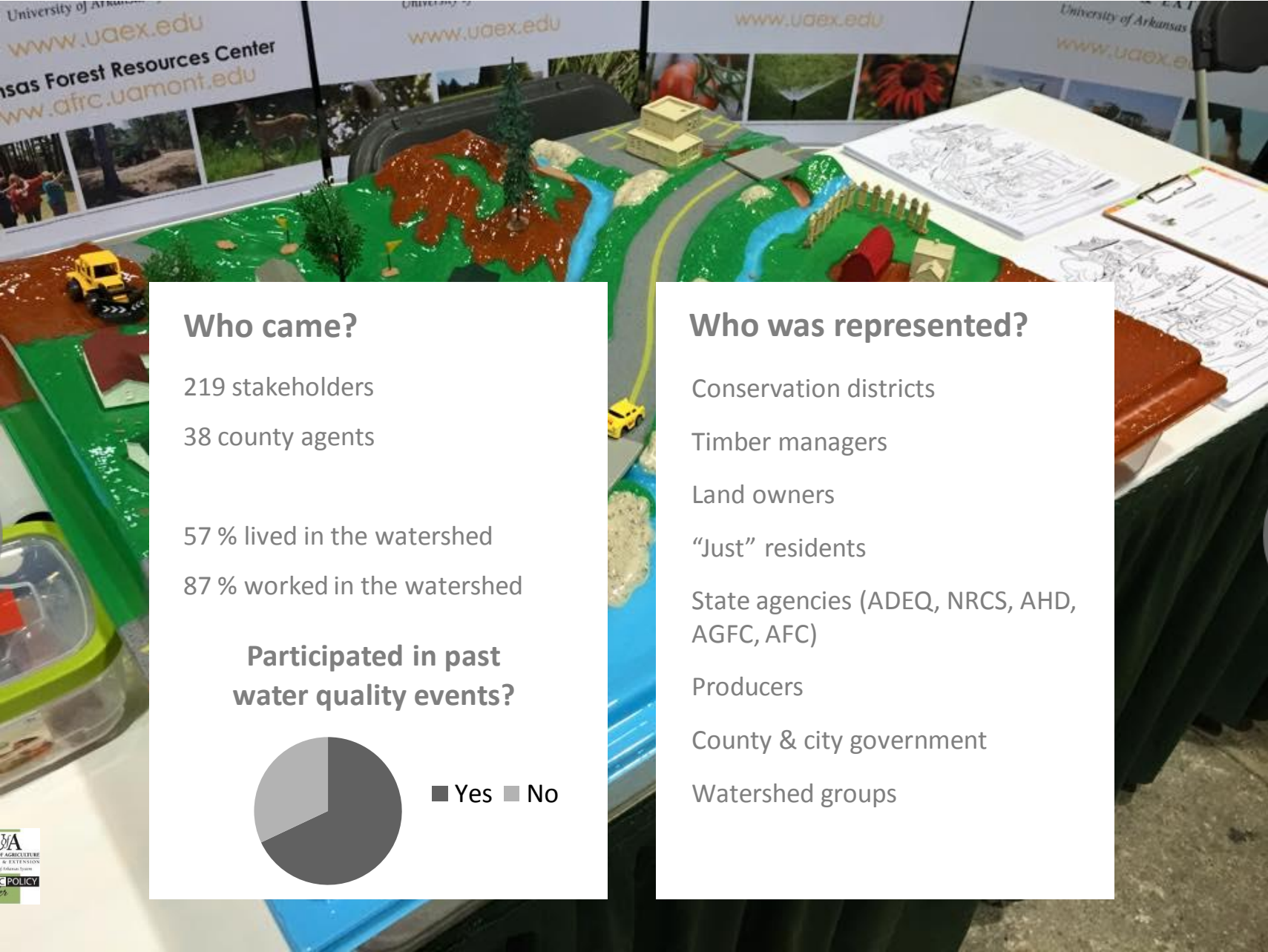
Build Relationships

Local people talk to one another about their challenges and realities. They learn what's already underway and how they have a part to play.

Equal Opportunity

Use structured activities to draw out people's values, concerns and ideas of who is missing from the table.





Who came?

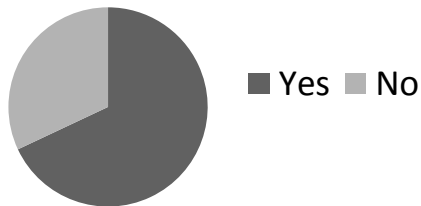
219 stakeholders

38 county agents

57 % lived in the watershed

87 % worked in the watershed

Participated in past water quality events?



Who was represented?

Conservation districts

Timber managers

Land owners

“Just” residents

State agencies (ADEQ, NRCS, AHD, AGFC, AFC)

Producers

County & city government

Watershed groups



1-2-4-All

Water/Land Use

Described how water was used in the watershed.

Discussed the major land uses and covers of their watersheds.

Concerns

Reviewed concerns individually, then paired up in 2 and 4 to discuss.

Group reported concerns.

Values

Answered why water was important to them.

Had to pop up and give 1 word.



Concerns

1-2-4-All By Watershed

Bayou Bartholomew – Sedimentation related to agriculture

Beaver Reservoir/Upper White River – Funding

Cache River – Sedimentation

Illinois River – Urban development impact

Lake Conway-Point Remove – Sedimentation

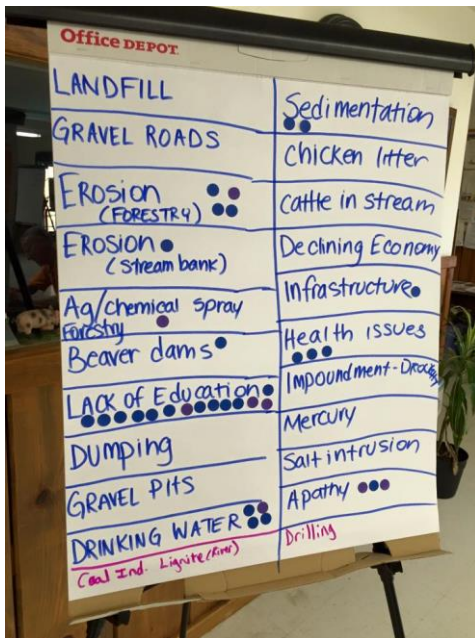
L'Anguille River – Erosion and impact of development on the ridge

Lower Ouachita-Smackover River – Lack of education/knowledge about water quality

Poteau River – Unpaved roads and flooding

Strawberry River – Streambank erosion (need for buffers) and sewer/septic concerns

Upper Saline River – Sedimentation



Why is water important to you?



Was it informative?

The good

- “It brought issues to the light that we don't normally think about”
- “I was able to get a crash course in the issues facing the watershed and the passion/personalities that exist”
- “I came to see where the stakeholders/professionals minds were on this important topic - and I learned that I knew less than I thought - so I learned more than I'd hoped”

Needs improvement

- “I was expecting to hear imminent problems from local citizens”
- “From my standpoint we identified the same issues that have been identified for decades. It is time for doing not planning.”
- “Not enough landowners”

What will you do?

After this forum, I will:

- “I plan to work with producers on covering the soil”
- “Be available to help with any startup watershed group”

Arkansas Mud Drive

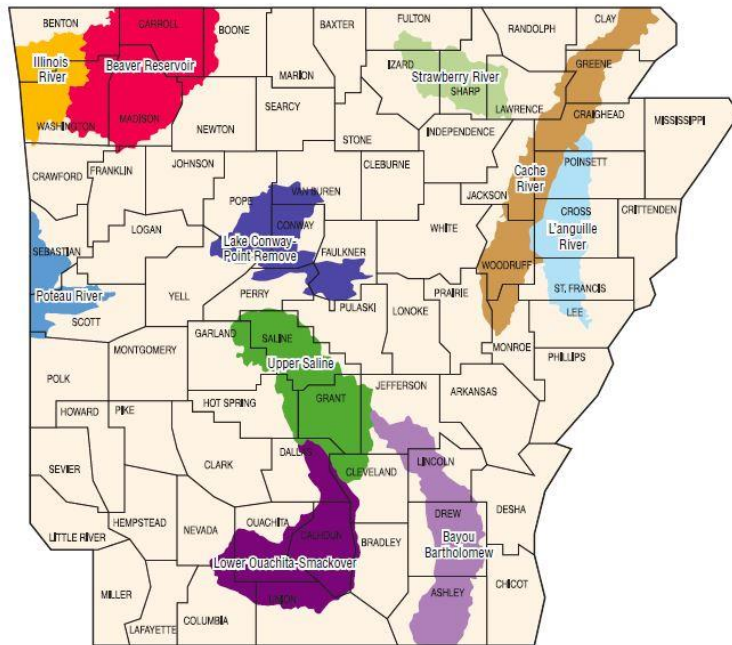


ents on my property”
Mike Budd, with Fish and Wildlife Service,
ation in our community”
partnered with Arkansas Association of
improve stream bank”
Conservation Districts to get word out about
e of how I operate my farm”
voluntary pledges to keep water structures in
each place after harvest.

Goal: Reduce sediment getting into water, create rest stop for migrating wildlife, educate youth about farming and conservation.

Priority Watershed Progress

Arkansas' priority watersheds 8-digit HUC



Stakeholders in Strawberry and Cache River watersheds are working with FTN & Associates to create watershed management plan to address nonpoint source pollution.

Thank you



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