



# Cawaco News

Serving Blount, Chilton, Jefferson, Shelby and Walker Counties of Alabama

FALL 2013



*The Alabama Forestry Commission moved the units on July 30, 2013*



*Some of the roadways were very narrow*



## Project Updates:

### TANNEHILL STATE HISTORIC PARK WASTEWATER TREATMENT UPGRADE

**Project Directors:** Kellie Johnston, Executive Director, Cawaco RC&D;  
Glenn Littleton, Cahaba Clean Water Partnership Facilitator

**Problem:** On February 14, 2012, the Alabama Department of Environmental Management issued an Administrative Consent Order (12-077-CWP) citing Tannehill State Park for violations to their NPDES permit.

**Reason:** Discharge limit required by the permit was lowered from 4.5 mg/l Total Phosphorous to 0.3 mg/l Total Phosphorous. The Park's wastewater treatment plant typically produced wastewater within permit standards. However, the treatment plant was not designed to remove phosphorus. Following the change to the lower Total Phosphorous discharge limit, the facility is now out of compliance for Total Phosphorous Discharge.

**Solution:** Cawaco RC&D, the Cahaba Clean Water Partnership, the City of Tuscaloosa, ACIPICO and other partners are seeking further funding opportunities to install a drip-irrigation wastewater system for the park. This option removes the discharge into Mud Creek and land-applies the treated wastewater. Through this method, the cost updating the existing plant to treat phosphorus was reduced from \$600,000 to \$300,000. The Partnership identified, and the Park acquired wastewater treatment units from Alabama Surplus Property further reducing the cost to \$100,000. Cawaco RC&D provided a grant to support the project. Tombigbee RC&D has also provided matching funds.

**Progress Made:** On July 30, the Alabama Forestry Commission moved the wastewater package plants from Farley Field to the new site. The assistance from Brad Lang and the Alabama Forestry Commission crew was invaluable in moving the project forward one more step closer to the final goal. Glenn Littleton, Cahaba Clean Water Partnership Facilitator, Johnnie Johnston, Sewage Equipment Sales & Services and Stacey Green, Tannehill Executive Director was on site for support.

- Representative Gerald Allen and the Tuscaloosa Legislative Delegation facilitated a grant from the Alabama Association of Resource Conservation & Development Councils \$25,000. The grant will be directed by Cawaco Resource Conservation & Development Council to Tannehill State Park.
- A grant pre-application has been submitted by Tannehill to ADECA in the amount of \$50,000.



Kellie Johnston and Allen McLemore present "Phosphorus Removal From Surface Water Discharge" at the 2013 Alabama Water Resource Conference



Blount County Grants announced at Cawaco Board meeting in August



Lt. Steve Gunn of the Oneonta Police Dept. holds up a training gun that was purchased through a grant with Cawaco RC&D



Historical data is preserved through a grant from Cawaco RC&D

- Stacey Green, Tannehill Executive Director has met with the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham and has submitted a grant application for the Fall grant cycle.

A presentation on the Tannehill Waste Water Treatment Project was made at the Alabama Water Resource Conference in Orange Beach, September 4-6, 2013. Allen McLemore with Alternative Wastewater Engineering focused on the innovative method of utilizing drip irrigation to eliminate phosphorus from entering Alabama's creeks and streams and helping wastewater treatment systems comply with EPA regulations.

## GRANTS ANNOUNCED AT CAWACO BOARD MEETING IN BLOUNT COUNTY

During Cawaco's quarterly meeting in August, the Blount County Commission, Cawaco Resource Conservation and Development Council, Rep. David Standridge, and Sen. Scott Beason announced the funding of three Blount County-based projects – training equipment for the Oneonta Police Department, up-to-date equipment for Project Lifesaver, and preserving genealogical information for the Blount County Memorial Museum.

The **Oneonta Police Department** received a grant to assist in funding training equipment for "Shoot-Don't Shoot" scenarios. This funding allows for real-life training involving paintball weapons used to simulate live-fire shooting which provides instant feedback with no risk of injury. All equipment is similar to weapons used in real-time situations.

"Training with something you actually carry is critical in law enforcement," said Lt. Steve Gunn. "This training will show whether or not our tactics are being utilized effectively."

The Oneonta Police Department was approved for a \$24,250 grant from the Alabama Department of Homeland Security for other training equipment to expand their training program. The approximately \$4,000 grant announced at the meeting will enhance the equipment received through the ALDHS grant. The City of Oneonta has also donated a 4.5 acre plot of land worth approximately \$30,000 for the public safety departments of Oneonta to use as a multi-purpose training facility.

Another grant was awarded to the **Cleveland Volunteer Fire Department** for Project Lifesaver – a program that provides tracking devices for Alzheimer patients. Cleveland VFD and the Blount County Sheriff's Department coordinate together to organize this program, and it is operated through donations only.

With Project Lifesaver's reserved funds, the provided \$5,000 grant will help to offer the program more funds to buy improved up-to-date equipment.

A \$1,000 grant was also announced for the **Blount County Memorial Museum** to assist in preserving all genealogical and historical documents in the Blount County Courthouse and the museum dated prior to 1988.

Papers, ledgers, and microfilm will be scanned to a digital format to allow for easier and faster public access to records.





Kellie Johnston and Allen McLemore presented "Phosphorus Removal From Surface Water Discharge" at the 2013 Alabama Water Resource Conference, September 4-6, 2013, Orange Beach, AL.



A group of eager volunteers braved the heat to clean up Holt Lake on August 10.



## News, Meetings, and Happenings...

### ALABAMA WATER RESOURCES CONFERENCE

The 2013 Alabama Water Resources Conference was held September 4-6 IN Orange Beach, AL. Speakers included **Kellie Johnston** and **Allan McLemore**, as well as **Governor Bentley**.

### Governor Bentley's vision for collaborative, responsible water management

Governor Robert Bentley believes that a resource as vital as water cannot be taken for granted if we expect our state to prosper and Alabamians to continue to enjoy an excellent quality of life. Being a good steward of our water heritage and managing it wisely is the only way to ensure future abundance for ourselves and for the generations to come. We all want our state to continue to thrive; as long as we work together toward our common goals, Alabama will flourish.

In August 2011, to begin developing an overview of water issues and activities, Governor Bentley called together four agencies of state government with water resource responsibilities. Following a preliminary briefing from the group, the Governor decided in April 2012 to continue and expand this work by formalizing the Alabama Water Agencies Working Group. Soon thereafter, a fifth agency, the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries was added, resulting in the group as currently constituted.

As Alabama continues to negotiate with Florida and Georgia for its right to shared water resources, Governor Robert Bentley has directed state agencies to develop a water management plan by December 2013. With no current policy to guide present and future water usage, the state is at a decided disadvantage when it negotiates with other states that can clearly describe how they are managing current resources and how much water they need to sustain future growth.

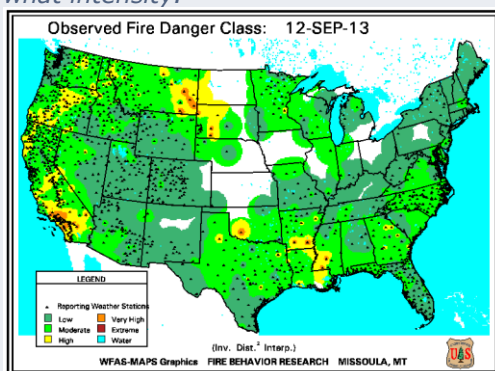
The Alabama Water Agencies Working Group, comprised of five state agencies, recently [released a report](#) to Governor Bentley detailing the progress and next steps needed for water policy development and a water management plan.

### HOLT LAKE CLEANUP

On Saturday, August 10th, **72 volunteers** removed **4.6 tons** of trash and debris from Holt Lake. The cleanup was sponsored by a coalition of local citizens, industries, County, State and Federal agencies, including the US Army Corps of Engineers and Alabama Power's *Renew Our Rivers* campaign. The clean up's success was due largely to the participation of local citizens and businesses. Pirates of the Warrior, coordinated pontoon boats and volunteers for the event, which provided a significant contribution to volunteers without boats. Volunteers were treated to a hot dog lunch donated by local businesses and coordinated by the Alabama Power Service Organization. Debris removal was coordinated by Patton Geologics. Rumsey Environmental provided dumpsters.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)-"the area where houses and wildland vegetation coincide."

The southeastern United States consistently experiences more wildfires per year than any other region. More than 100 million acres of land have a moderate to extreme potential for wildfire. The issue is not if an area will burn but when, and at what intensity.



Map courtesy of USFS- Wildland fire assessment system

<http://www.wfas.net/index.php/fire-danger-rating-fire-potential--danger-32>



## WILDFIRE SAFE, SOUND & CODE SMART TRAINING

Held on August 22-23, in Cullman, "Wildfire safe Sound and Code Smart" training was attended by homeowners, county, state and local officials, firefighters, forestry professionals, planning professionals, real estate developers, and insurance agents.

The workshop addressed planning, designing, building and retrofitting homes to protect life and property of individual homes and communities.

Despite the fast-growing number of Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) areas throughout the US, studies show that rural areas lack proper building, fire and WUI codes. Only about 7,000 communities have adopted a WUI codes or prepared a Community Wildfire Protection Plan, and less than 2% of communities currently implement wildfire prevention programs.

Most communities are taking steps only after a fire incident occurs, instead of proactively working to protect life and property before disaster strikes.

The national program guides and supports community leaders as they develop and adopt codes, while actively encouraging implementation of existing educational programs in communities with high-risk of wildfire.

The training was funded through a grant from the National Association of RC&D Councils, and was organized by Cawaco, AMRV, and Tombigbee RC&D Councils.

## EPA STORMWATER CALCULATOR

EPA's National Stormwater Calculator is a desktop application that estimates the annual amount of rainwater and frequency of runoff from a specific site anywhere in the United States. Estimates are based on local soil conditions, land cover, and historic rainfall records.

It is designed to be used by anyone interested in reducing runoff from a property. The Calculator accesses several national databases that provide soil, topography, rainfall, and evaporation information for the chosen site. The user supplies information about the site's land cover and selects the types of low impact development (LID) controls they would like to use. The LID controls that the user can choose are seven green infrastructure practices:

1. Disconnection
2. Rain harvesting
3. Rain gardens
4. Green roofs
5. Street planters
6. Infiltration basins
7. Porous pavement

Green infrastructure promotes the natural movement of water, instead of allowing it to wash into streets and down storm drains. Green infrastructure also has the added benefit of beautifying neighborhoods and increasing property values. Clean water is essential to keeping our families and the environment healthy. The Calculator helps protect and restore the environmental integrity of our waterways.

- <http://www.epa.gov/nrmrl/wswrd/wq/models/swc/>



*Charles Yeager, Manager of Turkey Creek Nature Preserve stands next to the fully-equipped Tool Trailer that is available to non-profits who are interested in building trails in Alabama. The trailer is made available by Cawaco through a grant from ADECA.*

**WE ARE CURRENTLY  
ACCEPTING GRANT  
APPLICATIONS! CALL TODAY  
FOR MORE INFO**

Staff:

**Kellie Johnston**

*Executive Director;  
Black Warrior Clean Water  
Partnership Facilitator*

**Patti Pennington**

*Programs Manager;  
Grants Administrator*

*We are on the web!*

[www.cawaco.org](http://www.cawaco.org)

Address:

21121<sup>st</sup> Ave. South  
Suite 541  
Birmingham AL 35126

Phone:

205-623-0457

Email: [grantfunds@live.com](mailto:grantfunds@live.com)

## CAWACO TOOL TRAILER READY FOR FALL TRAIL-BLAZING!

On September 6, Cawaco attended the Alabama Trails Commissions training in Clanton and announced to the participants the availability of the tool trailer. In 2011, Cawaco received a grant from the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs to purchase and equip a utility trailer with trail-building tools and make the trailer available to non-profits. The trailer is available on a first-come first-serve basis and requires a deposit. For more information, call Patti Pennington @ 205-263-0457.

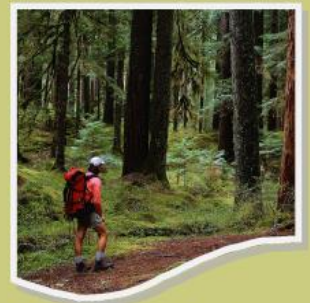


For more information and to schedule use of the trailer visit us online: <http://www.cawaco.org/tools-for-trails-calendar/>

**Or Call Patti @ Cawaco**

**Tel: 205-623-0457**

Building a trail but don't have the right tools for the job? We can help! Cawaco RC&D has a utility trailer equipped with trail-building tools, and it is available for a \$20/day service fee + deposit.



*Trailer contains weed-eaters, rakes, shovels, chainsaws, pole saws, privet pullers, pruners, a trash can and wheelbarrow, just to mention a few items!*

## WHO ARE WE?

Cawaco Resource Conservation and Development Council plans and supports activities that increase conservation of natural resources, encourage economic development and enhance the environment and standard of living within the Council area.

The Cawaco RC&D Council is actively involved in the management of multi-county, cross-jurisdictional projects that address natural, financial, and/or human resource opportunities within Blount, Chilton, Jefferson, Shelby, and Walker Counties. Many of these projects involve partnerships between local businesses, governmental agencies and citizen volunteers.

## OUR GRANT PROGRAM

Under the terms of its charter, Cawaco RC&D can distribute grants to qualified public entities or 501(c)(3) charities serving the people of Blount, Chilton, Jefferson, Shelby and Walker Counties of Alabama. The Council does not lend or grant money to individuals or for-profit institutions. All applying organizations must supply proof of tax-exempt status showing specific Internal Revenue Service qualification.