

Date: February 20, 2019

To: Mr. David Frazier, Chairman  
New River Soil and Water Conservation District  
968 East Stuart Drive  
Galax, VA 24333

Rex Hill, Chairman  
Carroll County Board of Supervisors  
605-1 Pine Street  
Hillsville, VA 24343

Mr. Tony Davis, District Director  
Surry County Soil and Water Conservation District  
220 Cooper Street  
P.O. Box 218  
Dobson, NC 27017

Mr. David Rowe, Mayor  
City of Mount Airy  
300 South Main Street  
Mount Airy, NC 27030

Mr. Van Tucker, Chairman  
Surry County Board of Commissioners  
P.O. Box 1514  
Pilot Mountain, NC 27041

**RE: Stewarts Creek – Lovills Creek Watershed Project in Virginia and North Carolina**

Dear Watershed Sponsors:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is pleased to have assisted you with the installation of one 55-acre floodwater retarding structure in Carroll County, Virginia, one 42-acre multi-purpose flood control and water supply reservoir in Surry County, North Carolina, and 20,700 feet of channel enlargement through the City of Mount Airy as part of the Stewarts Creek – Lovills Creek Watershed project. With proper operation and maintenance, these measures will continue to serve the local community for many years to come.

We are currently doing a review of existing watershed projects to determine if they are still feasible to implement. The Stewarts Creek - Lovills Creek Watershed is a joint flood control and water supply project between Virginia and North Carolina. It is still considered an "active" project even though nothing has been constructed in this project since 2001. The continued feasibility of a project is to be monitored and documented in the project files by NRCS in accordance with

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements. Factors to be considered in determining the continued feasibility are economic, environmental and social defensibility, and the local Sponsors commitment to continue the project. If the NRCS and the local sponsors agree that additional progress can be made, a schedule for installing the remaining measures will be prepared. Modifications and updates to the plan will be prepared as necessary.

In the event a project is partially implemented (i.e. Stewarts Creek – Lovills Creek Watershed Project) and the sponsors and NRCS are satisfied with the work completed (to an extent that sponsors do not expect to implement unfinished portions), representatives from NRCS and the Sponsor must meet to complete the following:

1. A supplemental watershed agreement will be prepared which will delete the measures that have not been installed.
2. A completion report with total installation costs will be submitted to the NRCS National Headquarters in Washington, DC.
3. The current project status will be changed to "installation complete".
4. NRCS may continue to provide technical assistance for the measures after installation is complete and their evaluated life are complete, upon request.
5. The Sponsor and NRCS may propose new watershed projects in the future that may include features from a prior project that were not implemented.

**NRCS is requesting that all the watershed sponsors get together over the next few months to discuss the future of the Stewarts Creek-Lovills Creek Watershed project. The status and future of this project needs to be evaluated and discussed by the Sponsors and NRCS in both states. If there is no interest in moving forward, NRCS will take steps to close out the project and remove it from the backlog of projects that are awaiting funding for implementation.**

**Attached is a fact sheet that will provide some information on the current status of the project. NRCS would like to know if there is any interest in continuing with this project or if we should pursue deleting the remaining planned works of improvement and closing it out. Keep in mind that even if we jointly decide to move forward with the project, considerable effort will be required to evaluate the watershed planning documents and update them to comply with The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).**

The basic requirements for implementation of PL-566 Watershed Projects are as follows:

- NRCS can provide technical assistance, financial assistance, or both to install measures that are authorized for implementation.
  - NRCS pays 100% of their own technical assistance costs or can reimburse the sponsors for their costs in obtaining technical assistance from others.
  - NRCS pays 100% of the construction costs for flood control projects.
- Local Sponsors must pay 100% of the costs for purchasing landrights, easements and rights-of-ways, obtaining permits, relocating utilities, project administration, and operation and maintenance of completed works of improvement for the evaluated life of the project.

The NRCS technical staff stand ready to answer any questions you have or to meet with you to discuss this project in the office or in the field. We have assigned the following NRCS staff as the point of contacts for each state:

Virginia

David Kriz  
ASTC (Water Resource Operations)  
Phone: (804) 287-1646  
Email: [david.kriz@va.usda.gov](mailto:david.kriz@va.usda.gov)

North Carolina

Jim Kjelgaard  
State Conservation Engineer  
Phone: (919) 873-2130  
Email: [jim.kjelgaard@nc.usda.gov](mailto:jim.kjelgaard@nc.usda.gov)

We look forward to hearing from you regarding your discussions and/or decisions regarding the future of the Stewarts Creek – Lovills Creek Watershed project. If possible, we would like to hear back from you by May 31, 2019.

Sincerely,



JOHN A. BRICKER  
NRCS State Conservationist in VA



TIMOTHY BEARD  
NRCS State Conservationist in NC

Enclosure: Stewarts Creek – Lovills Creek Watershed Project Fact Sheet

cc: Steve Truitt, Carroll County Administrator, Hillsville, VA  
Tracy Goodson, New River SWCD District Manager, Galax, VA  
Robert Williams, Assistant State Conservationist (Field Operations), Christiansburg, VA  
Nathan Osborne, District Conservationist, Galax, VA  
David Kriz, Assistant State Conservationist (Water Resource Operations), Richmond, VA  
Jim Kjelgaard, State Conservation Engineer, Raleigh, NC  
Lee Holcomb, Supervisory Soil Conservationist – Team 4, Wilkesboro, NC  
Mark Ferguson, Assistant State Conservationist (Field Operations), Waynesville, NC  
Barbara A. Jones, City Manager, Mount Airy, NC  
Mitch Williams, City Engineer, Publics Works, Mount Airy, NC

## **Stewarts Creek – Lovills Creek Watershed Project Fact Sheet**

Compiled by NRCS Staff

February 2019

**Purpose:** NRCS is doing a review of existing watershed projects to determine if they are feasible. The Stewarts Creek-Lovills Creek Watershed is a joint flood control and water supply project between Virginia and North Carolina. It is still considered an active project even though nothing has been constructed in this watershed since 2001.

### **Key Information and Milestones for this Project:**

- The Sponsors made application for Federal assistance to the USDA Soil Conservation Service for the Stewarts Creek Watershed in April 1962. An amendment to the application was made in October 1962 to add the Lovills Creek Watershed
- The Watershed Plan was approved by the local Sponsors and NRCS on September 10, 1965. The plan was approved by the following local Sponsors:
  - New River Soil and Water Conservation District in VA
  - Surry Soil and Water Conservation District in NC
  - Mount Airy, NC
  - Surry County Watershed Improvement Commission in NC
- Since the Plan was approved, the following entities were added as local Sponsors:
  - Carroll County Board of Supervisors in VA
  - Surry County Board of Commissioners in NC
- The Plan was authorized for implementation by resolutions from the U.S. Senate Committee on Public Works on July 12, 1965 and from the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Public Works on September 9, 1965, under the authority of the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act of 1954, Public Law 83-566, as amended.
- The Watershed Plan provided for the following:
  - Installation of conservation measures on land in the upstream watershed
  - Installation of three floodwater retarding structures (Two in VA and one in NC)
  - Installation of one multi-purpose floodwater retarding structure and water supply storage structure for Mount Airy.
  - Installation of 118,800 feet of channel improvement
    - 58,200 feet of channel enlargement
    - 60,600 feet of clearing and snagging
- Changes to the Plan since it was authorized for implementation:
  - Supplement No. 1 was approved on January 29, 1970. It modified the work plan by adding a water release gate for multi-purpose structure No. 1, the water supply reservoir.
  - Supplement No. 2 was approved on August 4, 1970. It eliminated floodwater retarding structures 9 and 10 and substituted structure No. 9A.
  - Supplement No. 3 was approved on September 22, 1971. It addressed the relocation assistance for displaced residents.
  - Supplement No. 4 was approved on March 5, 1984. It added Carroll County, Virginia as a Sponsor and changed the method of contracting from local to federal contracting.

- Supplement No. 5 was approved on May 29, 1987. It eliminated floodwater retarding structure 9A and substituted 9B.
- Supplement No. 6 was approved on March 4, 1988. It added the Surry County Board of Commissioners as a Sponsor and, in order to construct structure 9B, it assigned responsibility for signing the project agreement and the operation and maintenance agreement.
- Supplement No. 7 was approved on July 18, 1991. Mount Airy was designated as the contracting local organization for the construction of stream channel improvements on Lovills Creek.
- Supplement No. 8 was approved on November 20, 1995. It removed 11.5 miles of clearing and snagging and 7.1 miles of channel improvement and realignment. The Lovills Creek floodway through Mount Airy, NC was not included in this supplement.
- What has been implemented to date in the watershed project:
  - Conservation measures were installed throughout the watershed by NRCS, SWCD and Forest Service personnel working with individual landowners. All planned land treatment has been implemented.
  - Construction of a 55-acre Lovills Creek Lake in Carroll County, VA in 1990.
  - Construction of a 42-acre multi-purpose reservoir, Dam No. 1A in Surry County, NC in 1972.
  - 20,700 feet of channel enlargement through the Mount Airy, NC which was completed in 2001.
- The following planned works of improvement are still "on the books" but have not been implemented to date:
  - Structure No. 11 (Paul's Creek Dam) near North Carolina/Virginia state line.
- Please provide any feedback or input to the following Commission that no longer exists:
  - The Surry County Watershed Improvement Commission was an original signatory to the Watershed Plan and Watershed Agreement and to all subsequent Plan Supplements and Supplementary Watershed Agreements. This organization was a subdivision of the Surry County government but was dissolved in **(Insert Month and Year)** and no longer exists as a signatory to future activities associated with this project.

Date: February 20, 2019

To: Mr. David Frazier, Chairman  
New River Soil and Water Conservation District  
968 East Stuart Drive  
Galax, VA 24333

Rex Hill, Chairman  
Carroll County Board of Supervisors  
605-1 Pine Street  
Hillsville, VA 24343

Mr. Tony Davis, District Director  
Surry County Soil and Water Conservation District  
220 Cooper Street  
P.O. Box 218  
Dobson, NC 27017

Mr. David Rowe, Mayor  
City of Mount Airy  
300 South Main Street  
Mount Airy, NC 27030

Mr. Van Tucker, Chairman  
Surry County Board of Commissioners  
P.O. Box 1514  
Pilot Mountain, NC 27041

**RE: Stewarts Creek – Lovills Creek Watershed Project in Virginia and North Carolina**

Dear Watershed Sponsors:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is pleased to have assisted you with the installation of one 55-acre floodwater retarding structure in Carroll County, Virginia, one 42-acre multi-purpose flood control and water supply reservoir in Surry County, North Carolina, and 20,700 feet of channel enlargement through the City of Mount Airy as part of the Stewarts Creek – Lovills Creek Watershed project. With proper operation and maintenance, these measures will continue to serve the local community for many years to come.

We are currently doing a review of existing watershed projects to determine if they are still feasible to implement. The Stewarts Creek - Lovills Creek Watershed is a joint flood control and water supply project between Virginia and North Carolina. It is still considered an "active" project even though nothing has been constructed in this project since 2001. The continued feasibility of a project is to be monitored and documented in the project files by NRCS in accordance with

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements. Factors to be considered in determining the continued feasibility are economic, environmental and social defensibility, and the local Sponsors commitment to continue the project. If the NRCS and the local sponsors agree that additional progress can be made, a schedule for installing the remaining measures will be prepared. Modifications and updates to the plan will be prepared as necessary.

In the event a project is partially implemented (i.e. Stewarts Creek – Lovills Creek Watershed Project) and the sponsors and NRCS are satisfied with the work completed (to an extent that sponsors do not expect to implement unfinished portions), representatives from NRCS and the Sponsor must meet to complete the following:

1. A supplemental watershed agreement will be prepared which will delete the measures that have not been installed.
2. A completion report with total installation costs will be submitted to the NRCS National Headquarters in Washington, DC.
3. The current project status will be changed to "installation complete".
4. NRCS may continue to provide technical assistance for the measures after installation is complete and their evaluated life are complete, upon request.
5. The Sponsor and NRCS may propose new watershed projects in the future that may include features from a prior project that were not implemented.

**NRCS is requesting that all the watershed sponsors get together over the next few months to discuss the future of the Stewarts Creek-Lovills Creek Watershed project. The status and future of this project needs to be evaluated and discussed by the Sponsors and NRCS in both states. If there is no interest in moving forward, NRCS will take steps to close out the project and remove it from the backlog of projects that are awaiting funding for implementation.**

**Attached is a fact sheet that will provide some information on the current status of the project. NRCS would like to know if there is any interest in continuing with this project or if we should pursue deleting the remaining planned works of improvement and closing it out. Keep in mind that even if we jointly decide to move forward with the project, considerable effort will be required to evaluate the watershed planning documents and update them to comply with The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).**

The basic requirements for implementation of PL-566 Watershed Projects are as follows:

- NRCS can provide technical assistance, financial assistance, or both to install measures that are authorized for implementation.
  - NRCS pays 100% of their own technical assistance costs or can reimburse the sponsors for their costs in obtaining technical assistance from others.
  - NRCS pays 100% of the construction costs for flood control projects.
- Local Sponsors must pay 100% of the costs for purchasing landrights, easements and rights-of-ways, obtaining permits, relocating utilities, project administration, and operation and maintenance of completed works of improvement for the evaluated life of the project.

The NRCS technical staff stand ready to answer any questions you have or to meet with you to discuss this project in the office or in the field. We have assigned the following NRCS staff as the point of contacts for each state:

Virginia

David Kriz  
ASTC (Water Resource Operations)  
Phone: (804) 287-1646  
Email: [david.kriz@va.usda.gov](mailto:david.kriz@va.usda.gov)

North Carolina

Jim Kjelgaard  
State Conservation Engineer  
Phone: (919) 873-2130  
Email: [jim.kjelgaard@nc.usda.gov](mailto:jim.kjelgaard@nc.usda.gov)

We look forward to hearing from you regarding your discussions and/or decisions regarding the future of the Stewarts Creek – Lovills Creek Watershed project. If possible, we would like to hear back from you by May 31, 2019.

Sincerely,



JOHN A. BRICKER

NRCS State Conservationist in VA



TIMOTHY BEARD

NRCS State Conservationist in NC

Enclosure: Stewarts Creek – Lovills Creek Watershed Project Fact Sheet

cc: Steve Truitt, Carroll County Administrator, Hillsville, VA  
Tracy Goodson, New River SWCD District Manager, Galax, VA  
Robert Williams, Assistant State Conservationist (Field Operations), Christiansburg, VA  
Nathan Osborne, District Conservationist, Galax, VA  
David Kriz, Assistant State Conservationist (Water Resource Operations), Richmond, VA  
Jim Kjelgaard, State Conservation Engineer, Raleigh, NC  
Lee Holcomb, Supervisory Soil Conservationist – Team 4, Wilkesboro, NC  
Mark Ferguson, Assistant State Conservationist (Field Operations), Waynesville, NC  
Barbara A. Jones, City Manager, Mount Airy, NC  
Mitch Williams, City Engineer, Publics Works, Mount Airy, NC



## **Stewarts Creek – Lovills Creek Watershed Project Fact Sheet**

**Compiled by NRCS Staff**

**February 2019**

**Purpose:** NRCS is doing a review of existing watershed projects to determine if they are feasible. The Stewarts Creek-Lovills Creek Watershed is a joint flood control and water supply project between Virginia and North Carolina. It is still considered an active project even though nothing has been constructed in this watershed since 2001.

### **Key Information and Milestones for this Project:**

- The Sponsors made application for Federal assistance to the USDA Soil Conservation Service for the Stewarts Creek Watershed in April 1962. An amendment to the application was made in October 1962 to add the Lovills Creek Watershed
- The Watershed Plan was approved by the local Sponsors and NRCS on September 10, 1965. The plan was approved by the following local Sponsors:
  - New River Soil and Water Conservation District in VA
  - Surry Soil and Water Conservation District in NC
  - Mount Airy, NC
  - Surry County Watershed Improvement Commission in NC
- Since the Plan was approved, the following entities were added as local Sponsors:
  - Carroll County Board of Supervisors in VA
  - Surry County Board of Commissioners in NC
- The Plan was authorized for implementation by resolutions from the U.S. Senate Committee on Public Works on July 12, 1965 and from the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Public Works on September 9, 1965, under the authority of the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act of 1954, Public Law 83-566, as amended.
- The Watershed Plan provided for the following:
  - Installation of conservation measures on land in the upstream watershed
  - Installation of three floodwater retarding structures (Two in VA and one in NC)
  - Installation of one multi-purpose floodwater retarding structure and water supply storage structure for Mount Airy.
  - Installation of 118,800 feet of channel improvement
    - 58,200 feet of channel enlargement
    - 60,600 feet of clearing and snagging
- Changes to the Plan since it was authorized for implementation:
  - Supplement No. 1 was approved on January 29, 1970. It modified the work plan by adding a water release gate for multi-purpose structure No. 1, the water supply reservoir.
  - Supplement No. 2 was approved on August 4, 1970. It eliminated floodwater retarding structures 9 and 10 and substituted structure No. 9A.
  - Supplement No. 3 was approved on September 22, 1971. It addressed the relocation assistance for displaced residents.
  - Supplement No. 4 was approved on March 5, 1984. It added Carroll County, Virginia as a Sponsor and changed the method of contracting from local to federal contracting.

- Supplement No. 5 was approved on May 29, 1987. It eliminated floodwater retarding structure 9A and substituted 9B.
- Supplement No. 6 was approved on March 4, 1988. It added the Surry County Board of Commissioners as a Sponsor and, in order to construct structure 9B, it assigned responsibility for signing the project agreement and the operation and maintenance agreement.
- Supplement No. 7 was approved on July 18, 1991. Mount Airy was designated as the contracting local organization for the construction of stream channel improvements on Lovills Creek.
- Supplement No. 8 was approved on November 20, 1995. It removed 11.5 miles of clearing and snagging and 7.1 miles of channel improvement and realignment. The Lovills Creek floodway through Mount Airy, NC was not included in this supplement.
- What has been implemented to date in the watershed project:
  - Conservation measures were installed throughout the watershed by NRCS, SWCD and Forest Service personnel working with individual landowners. All planned land treatment has been implemented.
  - Construction of a 55-acre Lovills Creek Lake in Carroll County, VA in 1990.
  - Construction of a 42-acre multi-purpose reservoir, Dam No. 1A in Surry County, NC in 1972.
  - 20,700 feet of channel enlargement through the Mount Airy, NC which was completed in 2001.
- The following planned works of improvement are still "on the books" but have not been implemented to date:
  - Structure No. 11 (Paul's Creek Dam) near North Carolina/Virginia state line.
- Please provide any feedback or input to the following Commission that no longer exists:
  - The Surry County Watershed Improvement Commission was an original signatory to the Watershed Plan and Watershed Agreement and to all subsequent Plan Supplements and Supplementary Watershed Agreements. This organization was a subdivision of the Surry County government but was dissolved in **(Insert Month and Year)** and no longer exists as a signatory to future activities associated with this project.