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Lake Greenwood Residents Gather to Address Water Quality Issues



Posted on 14.JUL.09

Over 80 Lake Greenwood residents met at the 96 Depot tonight to discuss the quality of water and lake issues. John Tynan, Project Manager for Clean Air and Climate Change of Upstate Forever (Promoting sensible growth and protecting special places in the Upstate) answered many questions from those in attendance. DHEC employees, Representative Mike Pitts, Gene Pinson and Rebecca Spratlin (Watershed Manager for the Saluda and Savannah Basins) were also in attendance and sat on the board of experts to assist in answering questions and address concerns.

The residents were provided with literature that gave them alternatives to help make the quality of water in Lake Greenwood safer and cleaner. Some of their main concerns were that of sediment(s), safe water, water levels, and pollution.

From the SAVING LAKE GREENWOOD report: ...which is a comprehensive overview of 5 years of intensive research conducted by the Saluda Reedy Watershed Consortium, a broad-based coalition headed by Upstate Forever that includes universities, state natural resource agencies, private business, and other conservation organizations. The 2 primary threats to the long-term health of Lake Greenwood identified in the report are sediment from upstream development and phosphorus for wastewater discharges...which (sediment and phosphorus) can lead to substantial algae growth...as the bloom in 1999. Recommendation, if adopted, would ensure the long term protection of the Lake and surrounding counties. This report calls for quick, decisive action by upstream and downstream communities, DHEC, and state legislators

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in order to improve the long-term health and prevent another catastrophic algae bloom. The first such recommendation is for DHEC to establish phosphorous limits on all wastewater discharges in the watershed, 80% of which must renew their discharge permits in 2009.

Attendees were also given information on how to take care of your septic system if you live near a lake or body of water.

The Upstate Forever Organization also provided a link so that anyone may download the full report: www.upstateforever.org

Residents were also encouraged to report water quality problems, pollution, septic problems and any other complaints or concerns to the appropriate authorities/experts.

Here are some the contact numbers:
 Emergency Response Line (after hours): 1-888-481-0125

Swimming Advisory Hotline: 1-800-360-5655

Bureau of Land & Waste Management: 1-803-896-4000

Bureau of Air quality: 1-803-898-4123

Watershed Manager R Spratlin: 1-803-898-4355

Bureau of Water (Columbia): 1-803-898-4300

Upstate Forever Rep. John Tynan: 1-864-517-0220

Some links that may be helpful are:

www.upstateforever.org

spratlrh@dhec.sc.gov

www.scdhec.gov/environment/water/shed

www.scdhec.gov/environment/enserv/regions.htm

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