



www.tellicowater.org

May 2014

WATeR WORKS

WATeR's Recent Efforts to Assure the Quality of the Water in Tellico Lake

WATeR supports Madisonville's attempt to correct their non-compliance issues with Environmental Protection Regulations through a proposed new wastewater treatment facility. Currently, Madisonville discharges wastewater from their treatment facility into Bat Creek. The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) has cited the plant for non-compliance with EPA treatment standards for the last 12 quarters, with a long history of non-compliance preceding that. Fortunately, exposure to the atmosphere and sunshine significantly reduces the bacteria content before it reaches Tellico Lake about 20 miles downstream.

Unfortunately, the pollutants in the discharge have taken a toll on the ecosystem of Bat Creek causing TDEC to include this creek on its list of impaired streams in Tennessee.

To remedy the non-compliance issues of the discharge from the Plant, Madisonville has proposed to build a new plant, but instead of discharging into Bat Creek, they plan to pipe the discharge directly to Tellico Lake and rely upon the larger body of water to dilute the effluent. Because the smaller Bat Creek does not provide for such dilution potential as does Tellico Lake, less in-plant treatment is proposed. Treating the wastewater only twice compared to the likely requirement for a third treatment process if discharged to Bat Creek could possibly save the city about \$1.5 million in capital cost.

WATeR opposes the proposal to discharge into Tellico Lake for several reasons:

- A major pollution discharge into the lower depths of Tellico Lake will have a much greater impact on the environment and be sustained for longer than a similar discharge into Bat Creek. Instead of natural treatment by exposure to the atmosphere and sunlight as it flows downstream in Bat Creek, such pollution discharged on the bed of the lake will remain for up to several months.
- The proposed discharge point is only 0.1 mile upstream of the current discharge pipe of the Wastewater Treatment Plant of the Tellico Reservoir Development Agency (TRDA). It will be impossible to determine which discharge is responsible for pollution if it were to occur. Neither plant will assume responsibility.
- The current Madisonville Plant has a long and consistent history of failure to comply with treatment and discharge limits of the state of Tennessee. Furthermore, TDEC has been ineffective in enforcing penalties and fines to Madisonville associated with these non-compliance citations. Consequently, the town has no incentive to adhere to EPA standards once the discharge water has been piped 20 miles away from their town with little threat of effective enforcement.

- Madisonville has rejected two opportunities to contract for piping untreated wastewater to two separate established treatment plants with excellent staff and facilities, because they refused to pay requested fees for treatment. That begs the question: Can Madisonville be expected to establish a fee structure appropriate to operate and maintain their own facility with a high degree of efficiency and reliability if they have declined the opportunity to pay appropriate fees to these other plants?

Tellico Lake is correctly perceived as one of the cleanest lakes of the TVA system. It attracts recreational boating and fishing from throughout the region. This reputation is an essential element in recruiting new residents and clean industry. Maintaining this level of cleanliness is thus a major contribution to the economy of both counties. Polluting this lake, however, would have a far greater effect on the economy of the region than any possible effect on the rural region surrounding Bat Creek.

There are other alternatives available to Madisonville that do not involve such potential environmental pollution concerns. We urge the town to select another option that would minimize the pollution to Bat Creek, while at the same time preserve the water quality of Tellico Lake.

For additional information, please contact Bill Waldrop, Chairman of WATeR's Water Quality Improvement Committee at WRWaldrop@aol.com.

[We encourage the residents of the region around Tellico Lake to write TDEC and their state senators and representatives in opposing the application for permitting the proposed discharge.](#)

[Here is the contact information for government officials:](#)

[General Assembly](#) - All legislators may be reached at 1-800-449-8366, then enter the last five digits of their office phone number listed below.

[Senator Randy McNally,](#)

District 5, 307 War Memorial Building
Nashville, TN 37243 Nashville, TN 37243
741-6806, sen.randy.mcnally@capitol.tn.gov

[Representative Jimmy Matlock](#)

District 21, 219 War Memorial Building,
Nashville, TN37243
741-3736, rep.jimmy.matlock@capitol.tn.gov

[Governor Bill Haslam](#)

1st Floor, State Capital, Nashville, TN 37243.
bill.haslam@tn.gov Sandra.dudley@tn.gov

[Dr. Sandra Dudley](#)

Director, Division of Water Resources
Department of Environment and Conservation
William R. Snodgrass Tennessee Tower
312 Rosa L. Parks Ave., 11th Floor, Nashville, TN 37243

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL WATeR EVENT

2014 Tellico Lakeshore Clean-up

March 22, 2014 WATeR held its 13th annual lakeshore clean-up of the Tellico Watershed. We had 341 volunteers including 32 high school students and students and faculty from Hiwassee College. The volunteers picked up trash from 56 locations located in Loudon, Monroe and Blount counties.

The weather was perfect and the volunteers, once again, did a terrific job. They picked up over 5 tons of trash, 24 tires, 90 pounds of plastic and 8 bags of recyclable cans. During the 13 years 4953 volunteers have collected over 103 tons of trash from around Tellico Lake. There has been an increased awareness of the need to keep the lake and watershed clean. WATeR and volunteers continue to regularly collect trash from barrels at designated sights and continue to keep the trails and islands clean during the year.

We want to thank the volunteers, clubs, organizations and communities for their support and ongoing effort. We also want to give a special thanks to TVA, TWRA, TRDA, Santek Environmental for providing dumpsters and free access to the landfill, Loudon County Convenience center, Tellico Village Public Works, T-Bart, Loudon county and Monroe county Sheriff's departments and to Hiwassee College for their work in the upper Bat Creek area.

The Clean Up Committee includes Tom Schemberger, Ned Miller, Bill Waldrop, Bill Webster, Tom Ringenbach and Bob Kutschera.

Report of the Education and Awareness Committee

WATeR's Education and Awareness Committee has recently been reestablished and is lead by Dave Noble. Here is a brief outline of their planned activities:

- They plan to meet with various clubs and associations in our general area to promote the activities of WATeR and its important missions. In addition, the committee is representing WATeR at several trade and craft shows throughout the region to further promote awareness of a clean environment and WATeR's role in protecting the watershed.
- Develop a project with Jeff Gagley at the Public Works of Tellico Village to mark storm sewers with warnings not to dump any material that would be detrimental to our lake and rivers within the watershed.
- Seeking TDOT approval to erect "Entering the Tellico Reservoir Watershed" signs along state highways at no cost to WATeR.

The following are contributing members that have been added since our previous January newsletter

Membership Support is critical for the operation of WATeR Programs

Benefactors Over \$100

Dan & Emily Ahrens, Howard & Susan Kastner, Jo Anne Klug, Bill & Lucy Motts, Carl & Marily Peterson, Lynn & Willie Seeber

Patrons \$51 - \$100

Lee & Lori Alber, Larry Benson, Bette Bierer, James & Carolyn Blankemeyer, Sam, Ruth & Shirley Carpenter, Richard & Frieda Coleman, Rich & Barb Comiso, Mary Cushman, Ed & Barbara Elder, Gerald & Lou Ann Ferguson, Jack Hall, Bob & Molly Joy, Bill & Jane Lenoir, Lance Lyons, Joseph & Laurel Marlette, Bob & Janice Martin, Jimmy Matlock, James & Linda McCoy, Carey & Nancy McHugh, Mel & Anne McNeer, Al & Carol Michaelson, Ruth Owens, Stanley & Rita Pawenski, Ronald & Sally Potter, Tom & Vonnie Rivers, Pam Rolles, Michael & Mary Ann Ruppert, John & Rosemary Saczawa, Fernando & Deborah Sanchez, Jon & Jan Smith, Mitch & Amy Jo Smith, Paulette Summey, Joe & Sally Svec, Robert & Frances Thompson, Shell Oil Company Foundation Matching Gifts

Contributors \$20 - \$50

Bill & Phyllis Adams, Dennis & Maureen Adams, Warren & Gretchen Allen, Phillip Baker, Robert Baldani, Tony Balio, Ray & Nancy Barrett, Brian & Judith Baxter, John & Ulla Beerman, Brock & Nancy Benn, James & Darlene Black, Dale & Sharon Blanton, Fred & Elaine Bonney, Melinda Suzanne Booker, Don & Jane Borst, Bob & Robin Bowen, Ernie & Ginny Bredefeld, Gary & Kathy Brooks, Frank Burdick, Larry & Marge Burkholder, Jan Burns, Steve & Jeanie Burrell, Jerry & Nancy Campbell, Larry & Jo Ellen Campbell, Ed Cantwell, Henry & Laura Champagney, Tom & Terry Clark, Frank & Ellen Cleary, Mike Cleverdon, Jean Cockrell, Jeffrey Conklin, Lou & Jackie Cotton, Neil & Sharyn Cowley, Mike & Lonnie Crosby, William Crowder, Mike & Marcy Cummings, Russell DeLuca, Lloyd & Claire Donnelly, David & Sally Donohue, Don Edmonds, Larry Elder, Walter Emmons, Fred & Elizabeth Evans, Jay & Diane Fitzsimmons, Donald & Donna Fraley, Chet & Norma Francis, Don & Corky Freeman, Bruce & Dolly Garnett, Stephen & Mary Ann Geoffrey, Dot Grinder, Gary & Lou Grove, Ed & Tracey Heilman, Karl & Faye Heye, Don & Marilyn Hill, John Hintz, Richard & Phyllis Hinze, Dave & Lois Hudgens, Chuck & Glenna Hutchens, Grant & Pat Johnson, John & Linda Jones, James & Karen Jorgensen, Rich & Elaine Karakis, Jack & Sheila Kelly, Patricia Kessler, Darlene Knott, Mark Knott, Bob & Kathy Kutschera, Charles & Harriet Lewis, Donald Logsdon, Jerry & Jan Luedtke, Bart & Susan Margoshes, Shirley Marra, Matt & Martha Mathews, Steve & Kaye Maynard, Bob McFarland, Cynthia McLean, Joy Merder, Craig & Claudia Michalski, Joe & Karen Michniacki, Irwin & Marylees Miller, Bill & Mozelle Morgan, Dan & Sandra Mouron, Joseph & Mary Mulherin, Gary & Joan Mulliner, Richard Naegelen, Jim & Carolyn Neely, Walter & Linda Neumann, Carl & Ruth Offut, James Oletzke, Jerry Parker, Mark & Ruth Peranich, Christy & Joan Petill, Jerry & Erlys Ploeger, John & Jean Porter, Mike & Barbara Poulsen, William C. Price, Ken & Diane Ray, Phil Rosenthal, Gilbert Sandgren, Norm & Linda Schuessler, David & Martha Scruggs, John & Sue Seitz, Daryl Sponseller, Larry & Linda Stickler, John & Judy Teeples, Ken & JolyneThoreson, Jake & Sue Thornton, Wayne & Ginny Tolbert, Dan & Nancy Tretinik, Stephen & Arden Trudnak, David & Karen Verhulst, John & Michele Wainwright, George & Pat Walter, Forrest & Margery Wasserman, Jim & Jane Wells, Worth & Martha Wilkerson, Jim & Cheryl Wilkinson, Fred & Teresa Womack, George Zola, Keep Monroe County Beautiful