

APPENDIX M – LANDOWNER SURVEY

Surveys mailed and responses

A survey was sent out in the fall of 2002 to gather information about the properties along the Darby Creeks and their tributaries and to gather landowner concerns regarding their property. A total of 1,101 surveys were mailed out and 294 landowners, 27 percent, responded to the surveys. Nine of the surveys were returned due to wrong addresses.

Length of property along stream

The length of property along the streams ranged from less than fifty feet to twelve miles.

Location of property

The majority of responses, 186, showed ownership on only one side of the stream. A total of 95 landowners own property on both sides of the stream. Thirteen did not answer this question.

Width of vegetation

The width of vegetation along the stream banks ranged from less than ten feet to many acres of woods or pasture.

Type of vegetation

Of three different vegetation types along the streams, grass, trees and brush, 202 landowners reported having grass, 256 had trees and 201 had brush. Eighteen reported having something other than grass, trees, or brush.

Thirty-six landowners reported having only one type of vegetation along the stream. Ninety-three reported having a combination of two types of vegetation and 136 reported having a combination of three types of vegetation. Fifteen landowners reported having a combination of four types of vegetation. Fourteen did not answer this question.

TMDL familiarity

Most of the responders were not familiar with TMDL, Total Maximum Daily Load. Sixty-five landowners are familiar and 209 are not familiar with TMDL. Two are somewhat familiar with TMDL and thirteen did not answer this question.

DCWPG familiarity

A larger number of landowners are familiar with DCWPG than with TMDL. A total of 126 landowners are familiar with DCWPG. Slightly more people, 152, do not know what the

Darby Creek Watershed Planning Group (DCWPG) is. Three are somewhat familiar with DCWPG and thirteen did not answer this question.

Notify of meeting notices

The vast majority of responders, 236, want to be notified of future TMDL and DCWPG meetings. Fifty do not want to be notified and one may want to be notified of future meetings. Seven did not answer this question.

Concerns

A total of 161 concerns were listed by the landowners. The majority of concerns, 23 percent, were over log jams, trash in the creeks, erosion and sedimentation. The next highest concern, twenty percent, was over the level of government involvement, a lack of landowner input and restrictions. Nine percent would like to see no more development. Several landowners, seven percent, would like more information on the Darby Creek Watershed and the process of developing a plan. Six percent stated no concerns at this time and another six percent have concerns over sewage and pollution in the creek. Flooding is another concern landowners have.

