

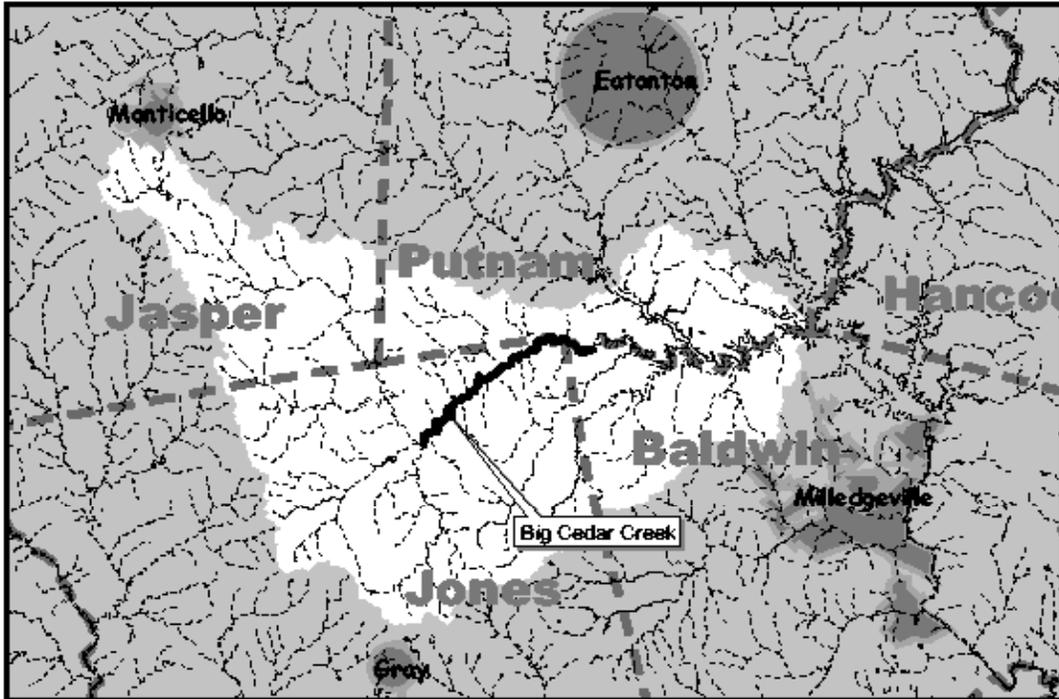
**STATE OF GEORGIA
TMDL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

**BIG CEDAR CREEK
(Fecal Coliform)**

Prepared by
**The Georgia Department of Natural Resources
 Environmental Protection Division
 Atlanta, GA**

TMDL Implementation Plans are platforms for establishing a course of actions to restore the quality of impaired water bodies in a watershed. They are intended as a continuing process that may be revised as new conditions and information warrant. Procedures will be developed to track and evaluate the implementation of the management practices and activities identified in the plans. Once restored, appropriate management practices and activities will be continued to maintain the water bodies. The overall goal of the Plan is to define a set of actions that will help achieve water quality standards in the state of Georgia. This plan was originally prepared as an implementation inventory by the Middle Georgia RDC with a Section 604(b) Grant. TMDL load allocation information has been updated to reflect the approved TMDL.

HUC10 - 0307010117



Impaired Waterbody*	Impaired Stream Location	River Basin	Miles/Area Impacted	Partially Supporting/ Not Supporting
Big Cedar Creek	Hog Creek to Lake Sinclair	Oconee	11	Partially Supporting

**TMDL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN
For
FECAL COLIFORM BACTERIA
In
BIG CEDAR CREEK
JONES, BALDWIN, PUTNAM COUNTIES, GEORGIA**

Developed by

Middle Georgia Regional Development Center

In Coordination with

Big Cedar Creek Plan Advisory Committee

September 15, 2001

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Big Cedar Creek Fecal Coliform Bacteria TMDL Implementation Plan

BACKGROUND

The stream segment under study is Big Cedar Creek from Hog Creek to Lake Sinclair (see attached map) that covers approximately 11 miles and includes the counties of Jones, Putnam and Baldwin. Big Cedar Creek has water classification of fishing, and its degree of impairment is listed as partially supporting. TMDL load limit and allocation data is not yet available, and is currently being developed by the Environmental Protection Agency.

To assist in its development of this TMDL Implementation Plan, the Middle Georgia RDC established the Big Cedar Creek Plan Advisory Committee consisting of representatives from agriculture, forestry, local government, the private business sector, the University of Georgia, Georgia State College and University, local adopt-a-stream groups, and major environmental organizations (see Appendix A). Several meetings of this Plan Advisory Committee were held to review the TMDL process and provide input into the inventory document. In addition, major property owners along Big Cedar Creek were notified of the impending TMDL and were asked to provide input when it becomes available (see Appendix B). They will also be given an active role during the implementation phase of this process.

SOURCES CONTRIBUTING TO IMPAIRMENT

Without the benefit of the TMDL document, three possible non-point sources were identified as contributing to the impairment. The first that is considered a major potential source is the deposit of wildlife feces onto land surfaces where it is transported to the stream during storm events, along with the illegal dumping of animal verrea in streams. The second considered a minor potential source is livestock grazing, confined livestock operations and agricultural animals having access to the stream. The third also considered a minor potential source is leaking septic systems or the failure of septic systems and illicit discharges of raw sewerage. Those conducting recent stream monitoring and field reconnaissance have found possible human waste left by squatters who, at times, reside underneath the U.S. 129 bridge where the monitoring station is located.

EXISTING REGULATORY/VOLUNTARY ACTIONS

In addition to a host of federal and state laws administered by various agencies, there are a number of important regulatory and voluntary actions currently being implemented to address the three possible non-point sources noted above. They are:

1. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service provides wildlife management services in the Piedmont National Wildlife Area. The U.S. Forest Service and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources is involved in wildlife preservation/management and other activities in the Oconee National Forest and the Cedar Creek Wildlife Management Area, respectively.
2. The University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service, the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission and the Natural Resources Conservation Service all are very active in preventing non-point pollution from agricultural operations, including livestock and dairy. This includes conducting educational programs, developing BMPs for these operations and providing technical and, at times, financial assistance to farmers for BMP implementation, and performing basic and applied research on new methods to control agriculture non-point pollution.
3. The Georgia Forestry Commission operates a water quality program that includes the development of BMPs, BMP education programs, and BMP monitoring for compliance.

4. The Georgia Department of Natural Resources-Environmental Protection Division regulates confined animal operations by requiring nutrient management plans, operator certification, and BMP use.
5. At the local level, the health departments of Baldwin, Jones and Putnam Counties are required to review plans for new septic tank/drainfield installation, to conduct soil percolation tests, and to inspect new septic tank and drainfield installations on the site to make sure they meet the specifications set forth in the approved plans. In addition, Jones and Putnam Counties have zoning ordinances that regulate the use, lot size, yard setbacks, etc. for the protection of the health, safety and general welfare of the citizens.

RECOMMENDED REGULATORY AND VOLUNTARY MEASURES

Three new regulatory/voluntary measures are being recommended in this implementation inventory. The first is the establishment of partnerships between the local governments (Baldwin, Jones and Putnam Counties) and the state and federal agencies responsible for administering the agricultural water quality programs and wildlife management/conservation activities. The intent of these partnerships is to set mutual responsibilities for BMP monitoring, provide technical and financial assistance to farmers for BMP implementation, create and implement education and outreach programs to farmers and the general public on water quality issues, and to seek cooperative solutions to wildlife's impact on water quality in the Big Cedar Creek watershed.

The second measure is the expansion of the Georgia Adopt-A-Stream Program to the Big Cedar Creek watershed. This program will enlist and train volunteers to conduct visual surveys, biological monitoring, chemical testing, and cleanup along Big Cedar Creek.

The third new regulatory/voluntary measure is hunter education classes conducted by the Department of Natural Resources-Wildlife Resources Division volunteer instructors. The intent of these classes is to teach hunters the proper disposal of animal and human waste while they are out in the field.

SCHEDULE FOR IMPLEMENTING MANAGEMENT MEASURES

Below is the schedule for the implementation of the management measures.

Year 1

- Form Stakeholders Group
- Organize Implementation Work and Identify Potential Funding Sources
- Identify Sources of TMDL Parameters
- Develop Programs for Agriculture and Wildlife Management
- Organize and Implement Education and Outreach Programs
- Monitor and Evaluate Results
- Reassess TMDL Allocations
- Provide Periodic Status Reports on Implementation Process

Years 2-5

- Develop Programs for Agriculture and Wildlife Management
- Organize and Implement Education and Outreach Programs
- Detect and Eliminate Illicit Discharges
- Monitor and Evaluate Results
- Reassess TMDL Allocations
- Provide Periodic Status Reports on Implementation Process

Year 5

- Evaluate Additional Management Controls Needed
- Begin Process for Phase II

A total of 13 management controls and activities have already been implemented. Three new management controls/activities are proposed in the five-year program.

MONITORING PLAN

In 1999, as part of its regular basin plan monitoring program, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources conducted stream monitoring at its station near the U.S. 129 bridge, including assessing the presence of fecal coliform. During the summer of that year, the fecal coliform counts did not meet state standards.

Through a cooperative effort of the University of Georgia's College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service agents in Baldwin, Jones, and Putnam Counties, an extensive stream monitoring effort is underway to determine the sources and degree of fecal coliform pollution in the Big Cedar Creek watershed. Based on early results of this monitoring program, the major contributing factor to this pollution is wildlife living in the forest areas.

Future monitoring will include the following:

- Department of Natural Resources-Environmental Protection Division-Fecal Coliform testing as part of its Basin Planning Program in 2004.
- City of Eatonton-Fecal Coliform testing as part of its requirements for the NPDES permit.
- Continuation of the stream monitoring cooperative between the University of Georgia's College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service Agents in Baldwin, Jones, and Putnam Counties during the years 2002, 2003, 2005, and 2006.
- The Big Cedar Creek Adopt-A-Stream Program-Sponsor assisting the cooperative above in the fecal coliform testing, as well as conducting visual surveys, and pollutant source identification.

CRITERIA TO DETERMINE SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS

It is hoped that through the cooperative monitoring program, sufficient evidence can be gathered to change the classification of the stream from partially supporting to supporting, thus removing it from the 303 (d) list.

No additional regulatory controls are recommended at this time. It is proposed that partnerships like the one in place for the stream monitoring program and the adopt-a-stream program continue even after delisting takes place in order to maintain good water quality on Big Cedar Creek.

Despite the fact that agriculture uses appear to have a minor impact on fecal coliform pollution in the Big Cedar Creek watershed, agencies responsible for implementing agricultural BMPs should continue their efforts to ensure problems from such uses do not occur in the future.

STATE OF GEORGIA

TMDL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR: Big Cedar Creek Fecal Coliform RIVER BASIN: Oconee
 (STREAM) (PARAMETER) PLAN DATE: 9/15/01

Prepared by: <u>Phil Clark</u>		Or Prepared By: _____			
<u>Middle Georgia</u> Regional Development Center Address: <u>175-C Emery Highway</u> City: <u>Macon</u> State: <u>GA</u> Zip: <u>31217</u> e-mail: <u>pclark@mgrdc.org</u> Date Submitted to EPD: <u>9/15/01</u>		Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ e-mail: _____ Date Submitted to EPD: _____			
General Information		Significant Stakeholders			
Obtain this information from the TMDL document or other information. When completed, this document will be a self-contained report independent of the TMDL document.		Identify local governments, agricultural organizations or significant land holders, commercial forestry organizations, businesses and industries, and local organizations including environmental groups with a major interest in this water body. (See Appendices A and B.)			
TMDL ID (to be entered by EPD)	OCO0000016	Name/Organization			
Water body name	Big Cedar Creek	Address			
HUC basin name	Oconee	City	State	Zip	
HUC number	030701011704	Phone	e-mail		
Primary county	Jones	Name/Organization			
Secondary county	Baldwin, Putnam	Address			
Primary RDC	Middle Georgia	City	State	Zip	
Secondary RDC	N/A	Phone	e-mail		
Water body location	Hog Creek to Lake	Name/Organization			
	Sinclair	Address			
Miles or area impacted	11	City	State	Zip	
Parameter addressed in plan	Fecal Coliform	Phone	e-mail		
Water use classification	Fishing	Name/Organization			
Degree of impairment	Partially supporting use <input type="checkbox"/>	Address			
	Not supporting use <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	City	State	Zip	
Date TMDL approved by EPA	February 2002	Phone	e-mail		
Impairment due to	Point sources <input type="checkbox"/>	Name/Organization			
	Nonpoint sources <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Address			
	Both <input type="checkbox"/>	City	State	Zip	
Point source-Form A; Nonpoint source-Form B; Both-Form A+B+C		Phone	e-mail		

If more, add to comments on last page.

FORM B

SUMMARY OF ALLOCATION MODEL RESULTS FROM TMDL DOCUMENT (existing load, target TMDL, and needed reduction)

EXISTING LOAD	TARGET TMDL	NEEDED REDUCTION
6.84 x 10 ¹⁴ (counts/30 days)	1.39 x 10 ¹⁴ (counts/30 days)	80%

I. IDENTIFY **NONPOINT SOURCE** CATEGORIES AND SUBCATEGORIES OR INDIVIDUAL SOURCES WHICH MUST BE CONTROLLED TO IMPLEMENT LOAD ALLOCATIONS:

List possible major nonpoint sources contributing to impairment including those identified in TMDL document.

SOURCE	DESCRIPTION OF CONTRIBUTION TO IMPAIRMENT	RECOMMENDED LOAD REDUCTION (FROM TMDL)
Wildlife (Major Potential Source)	Deposits feces onto land surfaces where it can be transported during storm events to nearby streams, illegal dumping of animal verrea in streams.	N/A
Agricultural Animals (Minor Potential Source)	Livestock grazing – deposits feces onto land surfaces where it could be transported during storm events to nearby streams. Confined livestock operations – misapplication of manure applied to pastureland and cropland. Access to streams – feces deposited by grazing animals near streams.	N/A
Leaking Septic Systems (Minor Potential Source)	Failure of septic systems and illicit discharges of raw sewerage.	N/A

II. DESCRIBE ANY REGULATORY OR VOLUNTARY ACTIONS INCLUDING MANAGEMENT MEASURES OR OTHER CONTROLS BY GOVERNMENTS OR INDIVIDUALS THAT SPECIFICALLY APPLY TO THE POLLUTANT AND THE WATERBODY FOR WHICH THE TMDL WAS WRITTEN, THAT WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH RELIABLE AND EFFECTIVE DELIVERY MECHANISMS, AND THAT WILL HELP ACHIEVE THE LOAD ALLOCATIONS IN THE TMDL:

See the attachment for more instructions.

Existing or required regulatory actions

RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT, ORGANIZATION OR ENTITY	NAME OF REGULATION/ORDINANCE	DESCRIPTION	ENACTED OR PROJECTED DATE (mm/yy)	STATUS
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Wildlife Management	Includes the Piedmont National Wildlife Area – Contains 200 species of birds and diversity of wildlife habitats.	N/A	In effect
U.S. Forest Service/Georgia Department of Natural Resources	Wildlife Preservation/ Management and Other Activities	Includes Oconee National Forest/Cedar Creek Wildlife Management Area.	N/A	In effect
Jones County Health Department/Putnam County Health Department/Baldwin County Health Department	New Septic Tank Installation	Reviews plans for new septic tank installation to ensure state and local regulations are met. On-site inspection of new septic tanks to ensure proper installation.	N/A	In effect
EPA/Army Corps of Engineers	Clean Water Act/Section 404	Requires permit for dredge and fill activities in the lakes, rivers, and perennial and intermittent streams, wetlands, sloughs and natural ponds.	1972/6-88	In effect
U.S. Department of Agriculture	Federal Farm Bill	Prohibits landowners from converting forested wetlands to agricultural uses.	N/A	In effect
Georgia DNR EPD	Georgia Water Quality Act	Makes it unlawful to discharge excessive pollutants (sediments, nutrients, pesticides, animal waste, etc.) into waters of the State in amounts harmful to public health.	1964	In effect
Georgia DNR	Georgia Planning Act	Authorizes Georgia DNR to develop standards to protect wetlands, ground-water recharge areas, water supply watersheds, protected river corridors, and mountains.	1991	In effect

Jones County and Putnam County	Zoning Ordinance	Regulates use, lot size, yard setbacks, etc. for the protection of the health, safety, and general welfare of the citizens of Jones and Putnam Counties.		
DNR – EPD	Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation Requirements	Regulates confined animal operations. Requires nutrient management plans, operator certification, and BMP use.		

Existing voluntary actions

RESPONSIBLE ORGANIZATION OR ENTITY	NAME OF ACTION	DESCRIPTION	ENACTED OR PROJECTED DATE (mm/yy)	STATUS
Georgia Forestry Commission	Forest Water Quality Program	Develops BMPs and conducts BMP education programs and BMP monitoring for BMP compliance.	1978; Manual updated 6/99	In effect
University of Georgia – Cooperative Extension Service	Promotion of Soil and Water Conservation in Agriculture	Involves classroom instruction, basic and applied research, consulting assistance, preparation of comprehensive nutrient management plans, and information for nonpoint source water quality impacts.	N/A	In effect
Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission	Agriculture Nonpoint Source Management Lead Agency	Develops nonpoint source management programs and conducts educational activities to promote protection of land and water devoted to agricultural uses.	1937	In effect
Natural Resources Conservation Service	Financial/Technical assistance to farmers	Includes standards and specifications for agriculture BMPs. Implements Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Conservation Reserve Program, and Small Watershed Program. Conducts National Resources Inventory every five years. Provides web-based database application (Performance and Results Measurement System, PRMS)	N/A	In effect

Additional recommended regulatory or other measures, which should be implemented to reduce the loads of the TMDL parameter

ENTITY/ORGANIZATION RESPONSIBLE	NAME OF PROPOSED REGULATION/ORDINANCE/ OTHER	DESCRIPTION	ENACTED OR PROJECTED DATE (mm/yy)	STATUS
Jones County/Baldwin County/Putnam County	Establish partnerships with NRCS, Forestry Commission, Soil and Water Conservation Commission, University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Georgia DNR-Wildlife Resources Division.	Set mutual responsibilities on the monitoring of BMPs, provide assistance to farmers and in implementing BMPs, provide educational programs to farmers, and the general public and support wildlife management.	10/01	Proposed
Georgia DNR - EPD	Georgia Adopt-A-Stream Program	Enlist and train new volunteers to conduct visual surveys, biological monitoring, and chemical testing and cleanup on impaired streams.	6/02	Expansion of program to Big Cedar Creek
DNR-WRD/Volunteer Instructors	Hunter Education	Proper disposal of animal and human waste.	10/02	Proposed

III. SCHEDULE FOR IMPLEMENTING MANAGEMENT MEASURES OR OTHER CONTROL ACTIONS:

These must be implemented as expeditiously as practicable within five years of when the implementation plan is accepted by EPA.

IMPLEMENTATION ACTION	YEAR 1 10/01-02	YEAR 2 10/02/03	YEAR 3 10/03-04	YEAR 4 10/04-05	YEAR 5 10/05-06
Form stakeholders group	X				
Organize implementation work with stakeholders and local officials to identify remedial measures and potential funding sources	X				
Identify sources of TMDL parameter	X				
Develop management programs to control runoff including identification and implementation of BMPs (Phase I):					
Agriculture	X	X	X	X	X
Urban					
Wildlife Management	X	X	X	X	X
Organize and implement education and outreach programs	X	X	X	X	X
Detect and eliminate illicit discharges		X	X	X	X
Evaluate additional management controls needed					X

Monitor and evaluate results	X	X	X	X	X
Reassess TMDL allocations	X	X	X	X	X
Provide periodic status reports on implementation of remedial activities	X	X	X	X	X
If needed, begin process for Phase II (next 5 years) and subsequent phases					X

IV. PROJECTED ATTAINMENT DATE AND BASIS FOR THAT PROJECTION:

The projected attainment date is 10 years from acceptance of the implementation plan by EPA.

V. MEASURABLE MILESTONES:

- Number of management controls and activities already implemented 13
- Number of management controls and activities proposed in five-year work program 3
- Number of management controls and activities actually implemented in five-year work period _____ (to be completed after 5 years)
- Stream sampled to identify areas of concern See monitoring plan
- Other _____ _____
- Other _____ _____

VI. MONITORING PLAN:

Monitoring data that placed stream on 303(d) list will be provided if requested.

Describe previous or current sampling activities or other surveys to detect sources or to measure effectiveness of management measures or other controls.

ORGANIZATION	TIME FRAME	PARAMETERS	PURPOSE	STATUS
DNR – EPD	1999	Fecal Coliform	Assess the presence of fecal coliform	Violation in Summer 1999
University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service, Jones County, Putnam County and Baldwin County	2001	Fecal Coliform	Conduct follow-up stream sampling, aerial reconnaissance and ground visual survey up/	In progress

			downstream of DNR monitoring station to determine the source(s) and degree of fecal coliform pollutant.	
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Describe any planned or proposed sampling activities or other surveys. (Scheduled EPD sampling can be found in the Basin Planning document.)

ORGANIZATION	TIME FRAME	PARAMETERS	PURPOSE	STATUS
DNR-EPD	2004	Fecal Coliform	Basin Planning	On-going
City of Eatonton	On-going	Fecal Coliform	To meet NPDES permit	On-going
University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service, Jones County, Putnam County and Baldwin County	6/02, 6/03, 6/05, 6/06	Fecal Coliform	Monitor and evaluate results of BMPs and other regulatory/voluntary actions to determine sources of the fecal coliform pollution.	Proposed
Adopt-A-Stream (Big Cedar Creek)	6/02, 6/03, 6/05, 6/06	Fecal Coliform	Assist the stream monitoring co-op noted above in fecal coliform testing, visual surveys, and pollutant source identification.	Proposed

VII. CRITERIA TO DETERMINE WHETHER SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS IS BEING MADE:

- % concentration or load change (monitoring program)
 - Categorical change in classification of the stream (delisting the stream is the goal)
 - Regulatory controls or activities installed (ordinances, laws)
 - Best management practices installed (agricultural, forestry, urban)
1. Monitoring Programs – An extensive stream monitoring effort is currently underway involving the University of Georgia’s College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service (Putnam, Baldwin, and Jones County agents), and Jones County to determine the sources and degree of fecal coliform pollution in the Big Cedar Creek watershed. Most of the watershed is occupied by forests that contain a variety of wildlife habitats. Aerial reconnaissance and ground surveys conducted to date have found only a few agricultural operations and residential structures that could remotely contribute to the fecal coliform pollution. Surveyors have found possible human feces left by squatters who at times reside underneath the U.S. 129 bridge where the state monitoring station is located. The University of Georgia is devising a technology that will soon be able to determine the exact source of the fecal coliform based on a

sample of the feces. It appears, based on early results of this monitoring program, the major contributing factor to this pollution is wildlife living in the forest areas. It is hoped that through this monitoring effort, sufficient evidence can be obtained to delist the stream from the 303(d) list.

2. Regulatory Controls or Activities Installed (ordinances, laws, education programs) – No new regulatory controls are being proposed. Partnerships, such as the one involved in the current stream monitoring program, should continue even after the stream is taken off the 303(d) list. This partnership, along with an active local adopt-a-stream program should work together in the future to not only maintain good water quality in Big Cedar Creek, but also identify sensible solutions to improve the impaired streams in Jones County.
3. Best Management Practices – Though agricultural uses appear to play a minor part in the pollution in the Big Cedar Creek watershed, agencies responsible for implementing BMPs should put their efforts in this watershed to ensure future problems from these uses do not occur.

COMMENTS

APPENDIX A

BIG CEDAR CREEK PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mr. Carey Bennett, Agency Manager
Baldwin County Farm Bureau
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Mr. David Bennett, Deputy Executive
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APPENDIX B

MAJOR PROPERTY OWNERS ALONG BIG CEDAR CREEK

Big Cedar Creek - FC

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