

Ecosystem Health Action Plan

Summary of TAP Workshop 2

TAP Workshop 2 was held at the RPBCWD office on June 15, 2023. The purpose of the workshop was to identify gaps ecosystem protection and improvement.

The group identified gaps in these four general areas:

Policies & Regulations

- Need ecosystem focused policies
- Need climate change focused policies
- Policies are typically focused on development rather than ecosystem protection
- Utilize overlay districts as a tool
- Revise rules/ordinances that require extents of impervious surface (streets, parking spaces, sidewalks)
- Potential new regulations on pesticide use, native plant requirements, groundwater protection, soil health, and mitigation of impacted upland habitats

Planning

- Need long-term ecosystem and climate change planning
- Developers plan developments not anyone looking out for ecological values, and some might argue human interests
- Need effective plans with boldness and vision
- Need better communication
- Purchase ecologically high value land

Projects

- Underfunded
- Poorly designed
- Developers motivated by profit not ecological protection

Education & Outreach

- Educate policy makers
- Teach about heat island, dark skies, ecosystems, the perfect lawn
- Teach the real estate community about regulations
- Reach a diversity of groups
- Incentivize interest and participation