

Participating Agencies & Organizations

Alabama Association of RC&D Councils
 Alabama Clean Water Partnership
 Alabama Cooperative Extension System
 Alabama Department of Environmental Management
 Alabama Department of Revenue
 Alabama Farmers Federation
 Alabama Forestry Association
 Alabama Forestry Commission
 Alabama Marine Police
 Alabama Onsite Wastewater Association Training Center
 Alabama Power
 Alabama Pulp & Paper Council
 Alabama Water Watch
The Choctaw Advocate
 Choctaw County Probate Judge Office
 Choctaw County Tax Assessor Office
The Clark County Democrat
 Congressman Artur Davis' Office
The Demopolis Times
 Ezell's Fish Camp
 Geological Survey of Alabama
 Georgia Pacific

Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality
 Mississippi State GeoResources Institute
 Dr. Tola Moffett, P.E., P.G.
 Parker Towing
The Pickens County Herald
 Riggs Consulting
 Senator Pat Lindsey
 Senator Richard Shelby's Office
 Senator Jeff Sessions' Office
 Sumter County Commission
The Sumter County Record-Journal
 Tombigbee Resource Conservation & Development Council
 Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Development Authority
 The University of Alabama Cartographic Lab
 The University of West Alabama
 USDA-ARS National Sedimentation Laboratory
 USDA Farm Service Agency
 USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service
 U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
 U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4
 U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service
 Zenah, Hust, Summerford & Williamson

Individual Stakeholders

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Judy Spree	Jim Jeter	Max Joiner	Barbara Shoemaker
Kathy Hunt	Tim Browing	Shawn Manning	Billy Shoemaker
Grant Hunt	Leslie Nixon	James Sullivan	Bill Mullins
Gary Fortenberry	Aileen Nixon	Martha Sullivan	Herb Vanderberry
Shirley Fortenberry	Tylor Gibson	Annie Smith	Larry Jones
Micky Smith	Bennie Johnson	Stephanie Parten	Sharon Jones
Lolita Smith	Kathy Johnson	Sue Smith	Edward Hardrid
Mark Ezell	Bart Robinson	Jo H. Beard	Kendall Bush
Patricia Ezell	John Besh	Jack Smith	Sid Nelson
Mike Cornett	Janie Woodridge	Evan McDonald	Jimmy James
Terry Williamson	Danielle Buckalew	Peter Smith	Brock Reynolds
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Jonathan Lowery	Katie Smith	Raleigh Wilkerson	James Johnston
Jay Steen	Bass Smith	John Moore	Jean White
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George Carpenter	Richard Buckner	Don Presley	

Need more information or want to get involved?

Contact: Wade Riggs, Project Facilitator

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LIVING ON THE

EDGE...



The Alabama Clean Water Partnership: Bringing interested citizens and water users together through a neutral forum in order to identify water related issues and challenges, becoming part of the solution for long-term water quality improvement and conservation in a non-regulatory way.



PROJECT SUMMARY

Significant erosion of the riverbanks along the Lower Tombigbee is a challenging issue in the Alabama counties of Greene, Sumter, Marengo, Choctaw, Clarke and Washington. First brought to the attention of various agencies and organizations by local landowners and county governments in 1981, and at recurring intervals since, the issue remains unresolved. Landowners express feelings of frustration, anger and hopelessness in the affected rural communities where taxes are paid on property that has fallen into the river, riverfront cabins and homes must be relocated or abandoned, riverfront roads are damaged, and valuable timber topples as banks erode. Both in-stream and riparian riverine habitats are compromised. Affected property owners acknowledge the Tombigbee River could be important to economic development in the Blackbelt counties of the Tombigbee Watershed. However, most agree that, to date, few benefits have been gained. Riverfront property is seen by many as being a liability rather than an asset because of the cost of stabilizing the eroding shorelines. Resolution of this issue will benefit both the economic and environmental health of the region.

In September 2005, the Alabama Clean Water Partnership, along with the Alabama Pulp & Paper Council and Alabama Farmers Federation, began a project to focus on this issue. The primary goals of the project include: 1) The education of stakeholders regarding various aspects of river bank erosion, 2) The identification of problem areas along the river, and 3) The identification of possible methods of correction of those problems. Nine educational meetings were held between April 2006 and February 2007, where issues identified by stakeholders were catalogued and prioritized. The process has enabled stakeholders to better understand the issue, as well as the abilities of others to address their concerns. Considering all possible causes of the erosion issues facing the river, stakeholders identified four major areas of concern.

ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

Scientific Study

Scientific study is necessary to determine natural erosion processes, as well as, other factors contributing to bank instability, location of critical areas, order of remediation, and recommended erosion control and stabilization practices.

The major challenge in addressing this issue is the need for funding to complete the scientific study.

River Traffic Control

Large, fast moving yachts create excessive wakes.

The major challenges in addressing this issue are the lack of control measures, enforcement authority and law enforcement personnel along the Tombigbee River.

Water Level Fluctuations

Water levels fluctuate significantly during large rainfall events.

The major challenge in addressing this issue is the limited ability to control water levels throughout the Tombigbee system.

Bank Stabilization

Property along the banks of the Tombigbee requires measures to reduce bank collapse and erosion, as well as restoration of critical habitat areas.

The major challenge in addressing this issue is cost. Technical assistance, design and construction techniques are expensive.



Map provided by
Alabama Water Watch

