United States Environmental Protection Agency

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EPA'S TARGETED WATERSHED GRANTS 2005 ANNUAL REPORT

December 2005

The Southeast Watershed Forum

Train-the-Trainer Academy

Using EPA funds, the Southeast Watershed Forum hosted a highly successful Watershed Leadership Train-the-Trainer Academy – an intensive, 3-day course covering watershed protection and assessment, best management practices, community consensus building and conflict resolution – all aimed at protecting water quality and supplies through wiser land use practices. Every attendee was required to commit to training a minimum of four other groups in their community; thereby reaching more than 5,000 additional watershed leaders and practitioners.

Growth Readiness Workshops

In addition, the forum hosted 27 Growth Readiness workshops reaching 80 communities in four states, with communities in four additional states slated to receive training in 2005 and 2006. These workshops are helping city and county planners, stormwater managers, and municipal officials design best management practices and growth patterns that will protect their local rivers, lakes, and groundwater as well as comply with EPA Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) and Stormwater Phase II regulations.

Thanks to the Southeast Watershed Forum, 110 local leaders are actively involved in fostering watershed-friendly land use practices throughout the Southeast. Examples of trainer outcomes include:

- A county-wide watershed permitting program (NC)
- A bay-wide nutrient management partnership (FL)
- Source water protection provisions in county comprehensive plans (VA)
- New riparian conservation easements (GA)
- New state requirements to review water quality monitoring programs from major new developments to ensure compatibility with the Total Maximum Daily Load process. (FL)

The staff and graduates from the Southeast Watershed Forum's 2004 Watershed Leadership Train-the-Trainer Academy include representatives from cities, counties, watershed groups, land trusts, regional planning agencies, RC&D Councils, Soil and Water Conservation Districts and state and federal agencies.

"Initial estimates show that nearly 140 cities, counties and townships evaluated development rules and identified changes to reduce the impact of growth on local water resources."

– Christine Olsenius Southeast Watershed Forum