

HISTORIC AND CURRENT EFFORTS TO CREATE WATER SUPPLIES IN
CUMBERLAND COUNTY, TENNESSEE
A TIMELINE
(REVISED)

Created By:
Randall H. Kidwell
Biologist and Environmental Professional
Crossville, TN 38571
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NEW INFORMATION CONTRIBUTING TO THE TIMELINE:

Since the first document I presented on August 30, 2023, I have found a couple of new sources of information that spans the time from May 1991 thru December 2014. One source of information is newsletters from an organization called Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning (TCWP). This is an environmental group that I believe to still be in existence and the newsletters are biased in one direction. However, I believe the majority of information, in regard to the timeline of events, is accurate and coincides with my recollections. I have scoured these documents over the last few days and have presented what I believe to be the most relevant parts in their entirety or excerpts. Perhaps this will give you a sense of the “environmental juggernaut” that we face.

The second source of information is a “Water Supply Timeline” from an organization called Obed Watershed Community Association (OWCA). This is an environmental group that I believe to still be in existence. I believe the majority of information, in regard to the timeline of events, is accurate and coincides with my recollections of events.

What is presented in this document is essentially 33-years of history if you begin in 1990. And, I am under no delusion that this is the complete history, which is for others to complete. There is some overlap as multiple sources reported on the same event. The 1990’s is when a great deal of the “action” occurred.

Personal Introduction:

One might say that I have lived a life involving water. I am a “Pisces” after-all, perhaps it was my destiny. My father, Tom Kidwell, was a “founding father”, among others, of the Catoosa Utility District and served on its Board of Commissioner from its inception, 1970s, until he passed away in 2008. We always talked “water”, it was just part of our lives.

From 1985 through most of 1994, I worked for GRW Engineers (GRW) as a Construction Inspector helping to bring municipal water to numerous rural communities throughout Tennessee and Kentucky, including Cumberland County Tennessee. Throughout those years as an employee of GRW, I had the occasion to work with the City

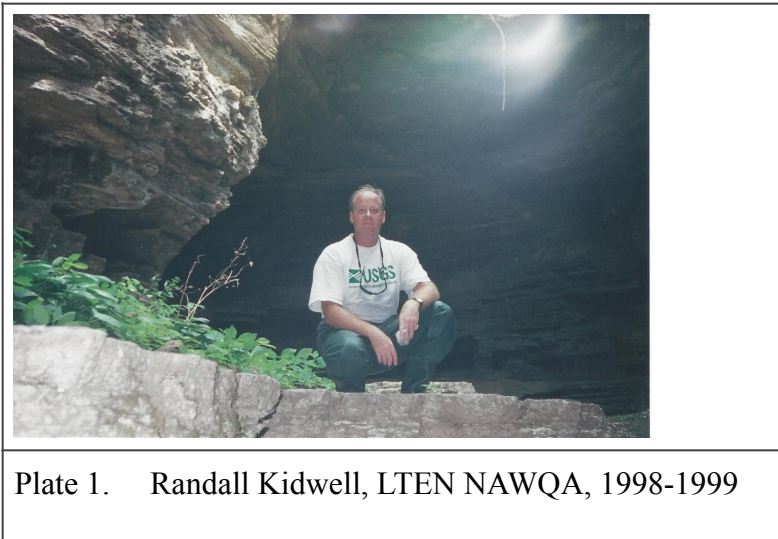
of Crossville, Crab Orchard Utility District, Catoosa Utility District, and West Cumberland Utility District.

Later, I attended Roane State Community College, Tennessee Technological University, and Mississippi State University. I have an AS degree in Biology and a BS in Wildlife and Fisheries Science with an emphasis in Fisheries.

During the summers of 1998 and 1999, I worked for the United States Geological Survey (USGS) on what was called the LTEN NAWQA (Lower Tennessee National Water Quality Assessment). We intensively gathered data on numerous lower Tennessee River watersheds. I had the pleasure of working with three excellent ichthyologists, one from the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and two from the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA). It was an experience I will never forget.

<https://tn.water.usgs.gov/lten/lten.html>

From 2003 to 2013, I worked for a local environmental consulting firm called Development and Environmental Planning Associates, Inc. During those years, we conducted numerous environmental studies for engineering firms, state agencies, and private individuals. After that, I formed by own company and continued to do environmental consulting.



Purpose:

The purpose of this document is to create the “first step” in compiling a historic record of the numerous actions taken by various entities within Cumberland County, TN to create water supplies for citizens. I have focused primarily on the actions of the Catoosa Utility District because my father, Tom Kidwell, was a founding father of Catoosa and that is what I am most familiar with. However, I have presented historic information on all water supply reservoirs currently in existence in Cumberland County. I believe an all inclusive compilation of the numerous historic and current efforts is critical to show Federal and State Legislators the totality of our efforts since the inception of treated drinking water supplies from municipalities and utility districts within Cumberland County, as well as to prevent repeating history and wasting time on fruitless endeavors.

Limitations:

I am limited by my own personal recollections and experience throughout the years as well as what is currently available on the internet. I did not do FOIA requests for any of the information presented. I have tried to provide links whenever possible. I have also included some documentation in regard to laws, private acts, endangered species, and the Obed Wild and Scenic River. I did not include references to the numerous laws referencing streams and wetlands such as the Clean Water Act, “Swampbuster” Act, Rivers and Harbors Act, etc. This document was created between 8/26/23 and 9/05/23. The links provided were good during that time period. I have provided true and factual information to the best of my ability.

Notations:

Dates that begin with a question mark indicate an uncertain date. Passages that are underlined and in italics are my remarks on recollections, points of interest, and areas where I could not find the information.

THE TIMELINE

1930:

City of Crossville water utility organized.

From Obed Watershed Community Association (OWCA) "Water Supply Timeline" document.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/13PbX7_GmDYJJjRItuO_KPRsO3iV-buDn/view

1938:

Construction of Meadow Park Lake

History: Meadow Park Lake was built as a necessity to provide water for the City of Crossville. Prior to building the lake city residents and businesses were supplied with water from a well at the old canning plant and then from the Hotel Taylor well. At this time the city was pumping around 14000 gallons per day. January 1937 T.M. Rector, L. T. Thurman and Moses E. Dorton signed papers with the government to build the Meadow Creek Falls Dam. The city was to supply the land and pay 10% of the cost of materials. WPA was to supply the labor and remainder of the cost of the materials for the project. Work on the project started in March of 1937. In 1938 a contest was done to name the new lake. Commissioners Rector, Thurman, and Dorton along with H.I. Bilbrey, Mrs. W.F. Bandy and S. C. Bishop made up the committee to select the winning name.

Highland Lake, Lake Crossville, Meadow Falls Lake, and Meadow Park Lake were the final four names. The latter was chosen due to an effort to convert the surrounding area into a recreational park. The winning entry was made by Laverne Tabor. Mrs. Tabor received ten dollars from the city. June 25, 1939 a dedication for Meadow Park Lake was done, with 15,000 attending the ceremony and boat races. Judge George L. Burnett was the master of ceremonies, and Mayor T. M. Rector gave the welcome address. Other speakers included Moses E. Dorton, M. S. Roberts from the firm of Freeland and Roberts and Congressman Albert Gore. Meadow Park Lake is approximately 269 surface acres.

<http://crossvilleleisureservices.com/meadowparklake.aspx>

1959:

Construction of Lake Tansi (Harrison Lake)

In 1956, work began on the lake. The heavy forest had to be cleared for the lake area and the dam built. By 1959, the dam had been completed and the lake had begun to fill, fed by a small mountain stream and the natural rain fall.

<https://laketansi-poa.com/about/>

1959:

City builds Holiday Lake. The City sold the property surrounding the lake to the developer of Holiday Hills but reserved the water rights.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/13PbX7_GmDYJJjRItuO_KPRsO3iV-buDn/view

1966:

Indiana Bat (*Myotis sodalis*) The Indiana bat is a small, insectivorous, migratory bat that hibernates colonially in caves and mines in the winter. The species was originally listed as in danger of extinction under the Endangered Species Preservation Act of 1966 and is currently listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended.

As we all know, the Indiana Bat must be addressed on all projects. And now there are more bats being added.

<https://www.fws.gov/species/indiana-bat-myotis-sodalis>

1968, October:

Wild and Scenic Rivers Act

(15) OBED, TENNESSEE.—The segment from the western edge of the Catoosa Wildlife Management Area to the confluence with the Emory River; Clear Creek from the Morgan County line to the confluence with the Obed River, Daddys Creek from the Morgan County line to the confluence with the Obed River; and the Emory River from the confluence with the Obed River to the Nemo bridge as generally depicted and classified on the stream classification map dated December 1973. The Secretary of the Interior shall take such action, with the participation of the State of Tennessee as is provided for under subsection (b) within one year following the date of enactment of this paragraph. The development plan required by such subsection (b) shall include cooperative agreements between the State of Tennessee acting through the Wildlife Resources Agency and the Secretary of the Interior. Lands within the Wild and Scenic River boundaries that are currently part of the Catoosa Wildlife Management Area shall continue to be owned and managed by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency in such a way as to protect the wildlife resources and primitive character of the area, and without further development of roads, campsites, or associated recreational facilities unless deemed necessary by that agency for wildlife management practices. The Obed Wild and Scenic River shall be managed by the Secretary of the Interior. For the purposes of carrying out the provisions of this Act with respect to this river, there are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary, but not to exceed \$2,000,000 for the acquisition of lands or interests in lands and not to exceed \$400,000 for development. No funds authorized to be appropriated pursuant to this paragraph shall be available prior to October 1, 1977.

<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/COMPS-1758/pdf/COMPS-1758.pdf>

1970s:

Rural utility districts form to build lines and sell water to rural areas that depended on wells.

From Obed Watershed Community Association (OWCA) "Timeline" document.
https://drive.google.com/file/d/13PbX7_GmDYJJjRltuO_KPRsO3iV-buDn/view

1971:

The Tennessee Water Control Act of 1971

<https://scholarship.law.vanderbilt.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=3310&context=vlr>

1973:

Water Study for City of Crossville. Wayne L. Smith and Associates, Inc.

The City of Crossville would likely be the source for this document.

1973, December:

Obed River Tennessee, Wild & Scenic River Study

<http://npshistory.com/publications/obed/wild-scenic-river-draft.pdf>

<http://npshistory.com/publications/obed/wild-scenic-river-1976.pdf>

1976:

Alabama lamp mussel (*Lampsilis virescens*) Federally listed as endangered.

The Alabama lamp mussel must be addressed on any proposed impact to the Obed and larger tributaries.

1976, October 12:

Obed Wild and Scenic River becomes part of the National Park Service.

<https://www.nps.gov/obed/learn/historyculture/stories.htm>

1977:

The Tennessee Water Quality Control Act of 1977, TCA 69-3

<https://www.tn.gov/environment/program-areas/wr-water-resources/watershed-stewardship/wetlands/state-and-federal-wetland-regulations.html>

1977, October 11:

Spotfin Chub (*Erimonax monachus*) Federally listed as threatened.

The Spotfin Chub must be addressed on any proposed impact to the Obed and larger tributaries.

<https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1521>

1989:

An Intensive Survey of the Obed River, Cumberland County, Tennessee, 1988.

Tennessee Department of Health and Environment, Division of Water Pollution Control, Knoxville Field Office. J.A. Wojtowicz and B.F. Clark

I do not have access to this document.

1990:

The Status of Water Quality in Tennessee 1990 305(b) Report Technical Report
<https://nepis.epa.gov/Exe/ZyPDF.cgi/P100RKUV.PDF?Dockey=P100RKUV.PDF>

The Price Wars

I cannot account for the exact years that this occurred, 1970s, 1980s, 1990s, 2000s or all of the above, but suffice it to say that there was a spectacle every year or so as the Utility Districts and the City of Crossville fought each other tooth and nail over the price of water. This is the reason that Utility Districts sought their own water supplies from the late 1980's up into the 2000s.

The “Regional Concept”

I do not know the specific time of the “Regional Concept” regarding water supplies but I do know it pre-dated Bill Haslam's TN H2O. It seems to appear first in the early to mid 1990s. You will see much of it in the following history.

Catoosa Utility District and Crab Orchard Utility District's plans to create water supply reservoirs

I do not know the exact date talks began at Catoosa Utility District to impound a portion of Clear Creek but I believe it was in the late 1980s. However, it appears that there was an engineering report prepared by GRW Engineers for the Catoosa Utility District in March of 1991.

1991, March:

GRW Engineers Study for Catoosa Utility District water supply

1991, May 15:

Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning, Newsletter No. 182

1. BIG SOUTH FORK AND OBED PROTECTION ISSUES

A. DAM PROPOSED FOR OTTER CREEK

A. A HUGE DAM IS PROPOSED FOR MAJOR OBED TRIBUTARY

According to a March 20 notice, the State's Division of Water Pollution Control has received an application from Mr. Steve Stone for a permit to construct a gigantic earthen dam on Otter Creek, a major southern tributary that enters the Obed upstream from it's confluence with Daddys Creek within the Catoosa Wildlife Management Area. The dam, located about 1.5 miles north (as the crow flies) of the Peavine Road, and south of the Catoosa boundary, would be 90 ft (!) high, 25 ft wide at the top, and 385 ft wide at the bottom (the last figure--calculated by us from data provided about slopes of the dam faces—is almost as staggering as is the height of the dam). The lake will be used for recreation, fishing, wildlife habitat and as a source of water for the Crab Orchard Utility District.

TCWP responded to the public notice on April 1, and again on April 12, voicing major concerns and requesting a public hearing. Other organizations have likewise asked for a hearing and a site visit. The National Park Service has requested that an

Environmental Assessment (and if necessary an Environmental Impact Statement) be prepared to determine if there will be any adverse effects to the Obed Wild and Scenic River.

Among the major concerns are the following: (a) sediment from the movement of huge amounts of earth and exposure of large excavated areas: (b) acidic or other toxic pollution from strata disturbed by excavation: (c) interruption (or stoppage) of water flow during the years it would take the large lake to fill up: (d) changes in water temperature and dissolved oxygen: (e) impacts from all of the above on the aquatic and streamside ecology and on fisheries of Otter Creek and the Obed (Otter Creek is considered important for muskie spawning).

The Division of Water Pollution Control has granted our request for a public hearing. It will be held Tuesday, June 4, at 7 pm Central Daylight Time (note: that's 8 pm EDT) at City Hall (104 Henry Street), Crossville. Comments must be relevant to water quality issues (e.g., the concerns raised in the preceding paragraph).

https://trace.tennessee.edu/tcwp_news/151/

1991, July 17:

Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning, Newsletter No. 183

1. BIG SOUTH FORK AND OBED PROTECTION ISSUES
- B. PROPOSED OTTER CREEK DAM BRINGS SURPRISES

https://trace.tennessee.edu/tcwp_news/152/

1991, September 9:

Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning, Newsletter No. 184

2. BIG SOUTH FORK AND OBED PROTECTION ISSUES
- B. PROPOSED OTTER CREEK DAM

https://trace.tennessee.edu/tcwp_news/153/

1991, November 6:

Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning, Newsletter No. 185

2. BIG SOUTH FORK AND OBED PROTECTION ISSUES
- B. PROPOSED OTTER CREEK DAM

https://trace.tennessee.edu/tcwp_news/154/

1992, October 13:

Catoosa Utility District submits Project Notification Form to State Clearing House for proposed Clear Creek impoundment.

1992, October 20:

Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning, Newsletter No. 190

2. BIG SOUTH FORK AND OBED

C. OTTER CREEK DAM ALIVE AGAIN

https://trace.tennessee.edu/tcwp_news/159/

1993, January 11:

Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning, Newsletter No. 191

1. OBED AND BIG SOUTH FORK

B. DAM PROPOSED FOR CLEAR CREEK

B. YET ANOTHER DAM PROPOSED FOR OBED WSR HEADWATERS, THIS ONE ON CLEAR CREEK

Our summary of the horror story of the Otter Creek dam proposal in NL190 2C ended with this statement: **"Transcending the Otter Creek dam issue, the longer-range problem for the Obed is the ongoing quest for more and more water by Crossville and other plateau communities that are reluctant to set limits to growth."** Little did we know how soon we'd be proved right.

The Clear Creek is one of the two major tributaries of the Obed River, and the segment downstream from the Fentress County line is included in the Obed National Wild & Scenic River. On Oct 13, 1992, the Catoosa Utility District submitted a Project Notification Form to the State Clearing House (In the Tennessee State Planning Office) that it proposed to build a water-supply dam on Clear Creek, Impounding a 100-acre reservoir. The State Clearing House forwarded this to 9 state agencies and set November 20 as the cut-off date for comments. **The National Park Service heard nothing about the proposal until December, and then only from the Sierra Club, via us.**

We have since then learned a bit of the history. The Catoosa Utility District commissioned a study by GRW Engineers, Nashville, which was published in March 1991 (we have only just seen it). **The report recommended that a raw water supply source of 3.0 MGD (million gallons per day) be planned for. It went on to evaluate three potential water supply locations and compared them to the existing alternative of purchasing potable water from the City of Crossville, Clear Creek, Drowning Creek, and the Obed River.** The Clear Creek dam would be just west of the Plateau Road (west of US 127) and would impound 101 acres. The Drowning Creek reservoir would be in the area bounded by Plateau Road, US 127, and 1-40 and would impound 321 acres. The Obed location would involve construction of a water-supply weir right in the Goulds Bend section, one of the most dramatic parts of the Obed gorge.

The report found Clear Creek to be the most economical location. The General Development Company (who are they?) "has expressed interest in pursuing development of a take on Clear Creek for their benefit and the benefit of the Catoosa Utility District" and would donate construction costs and water rights; even with that, and assuming Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) financing, the cost of treated water from a Clear Creek dam would be higher than the cost of purchasing potable water from Crossville (1) (However, GRW fears Crossville may raise the price as time passes.)

Now, the GRW recommendation has been translated into actual proposal. As in the case of the Otter Creek dam, funding would come from FmHA: a total of \$3,370,000, half of it an outright grant, half a loan. This project would thus be funded by federal

dollars and is therefore subject to the provisions of NEPA, requiring an Environmental Impact Statement. Further, under Sec. 7(a) of the National Wild & Scenic Rivers Act, “no department or agency of the United States shall assist---In the construction of any water resource project that would have a direct and adverse effect on the values for which such river was established determined by the Secretary charged with its administration.” Already, FmHA personnel have referred to the project as "small", with no real impact," so we clearly have another fight on our hands. It is certainly to be hoped that the National Park Service will take a strong active part in this fight.

This theft of water from the Obed system is clearly getting to be a habit. Where will it end? Some stronger protection for the head waters of Wild & Scenic Rivers is clearly needed. As far as the water needs of communities are concerned, state-wide or regional water-supply planning that includes underground as well as surface water – **and that is not afraid to set limits to growth—is clearly a necessity.**

https://trace.tennessee.edu/tcwp_news/160/

1993, March 19:

Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning, Newsletter No. 192

1. BIG SOUTH FORK AND OBED

B. CLEAR CREEK DAM PROPOSAL

B. STATUS OF CLEAR CREEK DAM PROPOSAL

https://trace.tennessee.edu/tcwp_news/161/

1993, May 1:

DAM PLANS JEOPARDIZE WILD AND SCENIC RIVER

A federally funded dam proposal threatens some of the most pristine waterways and rugged untouched scenery in the southeastern United States. The Farmers Home Administration is aiding a local water district with plans to dam a major tributary of the Obed Wild and Scenic River. The plan would seriously disrupt the flow of the Obed, affecting downstream areas and wildlife. "This proposal is a good example of waste of taxpayers' money. One set of government agencies will spend a lot of money developing and promoting a proposal for federal funding of an inappropriate project that another set will be forced to spend money analyzing and opposing," said Don Barger, NPCA Southeast regional director. The Obed and its tributaries have cut dramatic gorges as deep as 500 feet as they flow through Tennessee's Cumberland Mountains. They provide some of the best and most challenging white water in the eastern United States. Much of the forested surrounding area is a state wildlife preserve. Inhabitants include bobcats, foxes, deer, and more than 100 species of birds. Along with the Obed itself, the wild and scenic river designation covers portions of adjoining Clear Creek, Daddy's Creek, and the Emory River. It is on Clear Creek, which flows into the Obed, that the Catoosa Utility District hopes to build a dam and water treatment plant. The project would pull 1.5 million gallons of water from Clear Creek a day and create a 100-acre artificial lake. The project is to be funded by a \$1,685,000 federal grant and a federal loan of the same

amount from Farmers Home Administration. The dam project could hurt tourism and white-water rafting businesses in nearby Morgan County. Another concern is its proximity to an underground vein of coal known as the Wilder coal seam. The Department of Interior's Office of Surface Mining currently does not permit any disturbance of the stream, since the material overlying it has proven to be extremely toxic. If the material is disrupted by the project, it could release large amounts of acid and metal pollution for decades into Clear Creek and the surrounding area. The National Park Service and the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, as well as NPCA and local conservationists, have taken a stand against the dam. Barger said, "The Park Service was not even notified by Farmers Home Administration or the state planning office about this project. They found out about it from our local NPCA park watcher." The wildlife agency "strongly opposes the project," it wrote to the state planning office in November. It noted that "Clear Creek is one of the finest fishing streams in Tennessee" and provides spawning ground for the rare muskellunge and habitat for river otters, a state threatened species. By law, federal agencies are forbidden to assist dam projects that would "unreasonably diminish the scenic, recreational, and fish and wildlife values" of wild and scenic rivers. The law also requires that the environmental impacts of projects receiving federal funds be studied in full. But the utility district has already decided that the project would have "no significant impact," a decision meant to be made only after an environmental study is completed. While Farmers Home Administration is planning to conduct an environmental assessment, EPA told the agency in March that it believes a more rigorous environmental impact statement should be prepared.

<https://www.thefreelibrary.com/Dam+plans+jeopardize+wild+and+scenic+river.-a013788563>

1993, May 14:

Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning, Newsletter No. 193

2. OBED ISSUES

A. CLEAR CREEK DAM

A. VOICE YOUR OPPOSITION TO THE PROPOSED CLEAR CREEK DAM

https://trace.tennessee.edu/tcwp_news/162/

1993, July 16:

Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning, Newsletter No. 194

1. BIG SOUTH FORK AND OBED

B. CLEAR CREEK DAM PROPOSAL

B. OPPOSITION TO CLEAR CREEK DAM PROPOSAL

https://trace.tennessee.edu/tcwp_news/163/

1993, September 29:

Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning, Newsletter No. 195

2. IMPOUNDMENTS IN THE OBED SYSTEM

A. CLEAR CREEK DAM PROPOSAL

A. STRUGGLE AGAINST THE CLEAR CREEK DAM PROPOSAL CONTINUES

https://trace.tennessee.edu/tcwp_news/164/

1994, April 19:

Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning, Newsletter No. 198

2. OBED WATERSHED PROTECTION

A. AN EIS FOR CLEAR CREEK DAM PROPOSAL?

A. FARMERS HOME ADMINISTRATION MAY DO FULL EIS ON CLEAR CREEK DAM PROPOSAL

https://trace.tennessee.edu/tcwp_news/167/

? 1994, June or Later:

*National Park Service (NPS) document about the Obed WSR (Wild & Scenic River). This section, titled **Affected Environment**, appears to be a portion of a larger document. Within this section and under the heading **Water Quantity Impacts** on page 69 of the larger document (actually on the 5th page of this document), the proposed Clear Creek impoundment by the Catoosa Utility District is addressed. I have transcribed a portion of the document.*

“Water Quantity Impacts”

Water impoundments constructed to meet growing municipal and industrial demands alter water quantity of the Obed WSR. Although minimum flow releases are required from some reservoirs, the practice of seasonal storage and consumptive withdrawals impact the stream flows. There is concern that these impoundments are having significant negative impacts on the outstandingly remarkable values for which the Obed WSR was designated. The effects on natural and recreational resources has not been evaluated or determined at this time.

Since 1932, six studies examining the possibility of damming streams in the watershed have been prepared by the Corps of Engineers or TVA. None were constructed because they were cost prohibitive, offered poor recreational opportunities, provided only minimal flood storage, or would destroy aesthetic resources. At this time, there are no known plans to proceed with any of these projects.

However, a 100 acre (40.4 hectare) lake and 1.5 MGD water treatment plant have been proposed for construction on Clear Creek by the Catoosa Utility District and Farmers Home Administration. The site is at RM 44, approximately 26 miles (41.8 kilometers) upstream of the Obed WSR, and will have a 5.89 square mile (1,525.5 hectares) watershed. Other similar projects may be proposed as development pressures around the Crossville area increase posing a serious threat to the water quality and quantity in the Obed WSR. Currently, **4 impoundments over 100 acres (40.4 hectares) have been constructed by others than the Corps of Engineers and TVA: Lake Tansi and Brown Lake on tributaries of Daddys Creek; and Fox Creek Lake and Lake Holiday on the Obed River and it’s tributaries.**

Dams and water withdrawal activities slow and reduce flow in the upper reaches of the Obed River and therefore reduce the quantity, frequency, and duration of water flows in downstream sections of the Obed River. For example, the Obed River headwaters are dammed at river mile (RM) 40.2 to impound Lake Holiday. The river then flows without restriction and merges with the Emory River at Emory River RM, 28.5. The impounding of Lake Holiday has altered flow rates, water temperature, and other stream conditions (Sulkin 1988, Wojtowicz and Clark 1989).

From Lake Holiday, the City of Crossville operates a 3 million gallon per day (3 MGD) intake for its water treatment plant (Sulkin 1988). This water source currently meets the city's domestic needs. However, a 1973 engineering report indicated that at the current growth levels, the withdrawals would drain the city's water supplies by 2020 (Wayne L. Smith and Associates, Inc. 1973).

When water is withdrawn from Lake Holiday, the amount of water flowing out of the reservoir during late spring, summer and early fall greatly decreases. During these periods, the only flows that go into the Obed River come from the plant filter's backwash, meager groundwater supplies, limited flows from small tributaries, and sewage treatment plant discharges (Wojtowicz and Clark 1989, TN Dept. of Health and Environment 1990).

During these low flow periods, groundwater, which has higher concentrations of total dissolved solids than surface runoff, makes up a greater percentage of the stream flow. Thus, water quality parameters based on levels of total dissolved solids, such as conductivity, hardness and alkalinity, are higher than those taken during wetter periods. Of these factors, alkalinity directly affects aquatic systems.

Impounded flows on the Cumberland Plateau generally suffer from minimal aeration and exhibit temperature elevation and stratification. Impoundments located in areas with high human and livestock populations possess greater biological activity due to nutrient overloading. Thus, impoundments not only restrict stream flows, but also can be expected to alter water quality in those flows.

According to Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning (TCWP) Newsletter of January 11, 1993 (NL191 1B), the National Park Service (NPS) did not hear about the proposed impoundment of Clear Creek, by the Catoosa Utility District, until December of 1992. The failure to mention the proposed Otter Creek impoundment within the document strikes me as odd. However, this document could have been created after June of 1995 when the Otter Creek impoundment was complete and named Otter Creek Lake/Stone Lake. However, it was not mentioned in the private impoundments that exceeded 100-acres. Then again, Meadow Park Lake was not mentioned either. There are several maps within the document that give a date of June, 1994. I would like to see the entirety of this document including date produced.

<https://www.nps.gov/obed/learn/management/upload/Affected-Environment-reduce.pdf>

1994, June 20:

Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning, Newsletter No. 199

2. OBED WATERSHED PROTECTION

A. CLEAR CREEK: INTERIM GOOD NEWS
A. GOOD NEWS ON CLEAR CREEK DAM PROPOSAL
https://trace.tennessee.edu/tcwp_news/168/

1994, August 3:

Federal Register / Vol. 62, No. 7 / Friday, January 10, 1997 / Rules and Regulations
This document occurred in 1997 but refers back to 1994 public comments on a proposed impoundment of Clear Creek by the Catoosa Utility District in the "Background" section. Public Comments between August and December 1994.

Background: Another water supply reservoir is under consideration by the Catoosa Utility District for Clear Creek, an Obed River tributary, Morgan County, Tennessee. The purple bean occurs in the Obed River system. However, based on available information, this species does not exist at the proposed reservoir site or in the area downstream of the site that would be significantly affected by the project. Therefore, as the Service does not anticipate that the project will have a significant impact on the purple bean, the listing will not have any significant impact on this reservoir project (see response to Issue 1 in the "Summary of Comments and Recommendations" of this rule).

Issue 1: One respondent expressed concern that listing the purple bean could significantly impact efforts to build a water supply reservoir on Clear Creek, an Obed River tributary, in Morgan County, Tennessee, and asked specific questions regarding how this reservoir project would impact the species.

Response: The purple bean is the only one of these five species that occurs in the Obed River system. However, based on available information, this species does not exist at the proposed reservoir site or in the area downstream of the site that would be significantly affected by the project. Therefore, because the Service does not anticipate that the project will have a significant impact on the purple bean, the listing will not significantly impact the reservoir project. Specific questions on how a reservoir, which will likely have only minimal, if any, impact to the species, might negatively or possibly positively affect the species cannot be fully evaluated until detailed project plans are available for review. These issues, however, would be addressed in any biological opinion that may be developed for this proposed project.

<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-1997-01-10/html/97-565.htm>

1994, August 22:

Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning, Newsletter No. 200

1. BIG SOUTH FORK AND OBED: LOTS OF NEWS

B. CLEAR CREEK DAM EIS

B. EIS PROCESS IS UNDERWAY FOR CLEAR CREEK DAM PROPOSAL

https://trace.tennessee.edu/tcwp_news/169/

1994, September 1:

Brock Hill becomes Cumberland County Executive

1994, October 24:

Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning, Newsletter No. 201

1. BIG SOUTH FORK AND OBED:

B. TVA DOING CLEAR CREEK EIS

B. TVA DOING CLEAR CREEK EIS ON CLEAR CREEK DAM PROPOSAL

https://trace.tennessee.edu/tcwp_news/170/

1994, December 9:

Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning, Newsletter No. 202

3. BIG SOUTH FORK AND OBED: CAPSULES

A. CLEAR CREEK EIS

A. WORK STARTING ON CLEAR CREEK EIS

https://trace.tennessee.edu/tcwp_news/171/

1994, December 13:

Public hearing York Institute, Jamestown, Tennessee on endangered mussels and proposed impoundment of Crooked Creek by the Fentress County Utility District.

From my recollection of what my father and others told me, there were protesters protesting the proposed impoundment of Crooked Creek and possibly the impoundment of Clear Creek.

<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-1997-01-10/html/97-565.htm>

1995:

The Rural Water Improvement Plan study was conducted by local and state officials. It predicted that Cumberland County's existing water supply would only meet the needs of current users through 2010 even with the expansion of the city's water treatment capacity to 6 MGD (million gallons a day.)

From Obed Watershed Community Association (OWCA) "Water Supply Timeline" document.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/13PbX7_GmDYJJjRItuO_KPRsO3iV-buDn/view

1995:

FmHA (Farmers Home Administration) abolished, became RUS (Rural Development Service) of USDA.

FmHA is where most Water Utility Loans originated.

1995, February 8:

Federal Register / Vol. 60, No. 26 / Wednesday, February 8, 1995 / Notices

SUMMARY : This notice is provided in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Rural Utilities Service (RUS) and TVA's implementing procedures. TVA in conjunction with RUS has decided to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on alternatives for water supply development for the Catoosa Utility District and the upper Cumberland Plateau region of East Tennessee. The EIS will consider the potential environmental impacts of alternatives to meet the water supply needs of the district and region over a 30-year planning horizon. Alternatives to be considered will range from the construction of a water supply dam and impoundment on Clear Creek or other water course to the installation of a water pipeline from Watts Bar, Center Hill, or Dale Hollow Reservoirs. The objective of the action is to satisfy the water supply needs in the project area. With this notice, RUS and TVA are inviting comments on the scope of the EIS analysis.

<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-1995-02-08/pdf/95-2883.pdf>

1995, February 12:

Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning, Newsletter No. 203

1. OBED RIVER AND WATERSHED

A. REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY PROJECT (CLEAR CREEK EIS)

A. CLEAR CREEK EIS BECOMES REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY PROJECT

For the past 2-3 years, we have been deeply concerned about the uncoordinated proliferation of existing and proposed water-supply reservoirs on the Cumberland Plateau – most recently, Otter Creek dam and the proposed Clear Creek and Crooked Creek dams (see also 1B, below). The multiplicity of such reservoirs has a cumulative effect on the water flow (as well as the water quality) of rivers that we are dedicated to protecting - the Obed, Big South Fork and their tributaries.

We were most gratified, therefore, that our efforts have finally resulted in agency decisions to generate a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for one of these proposals, an EIS that promises to have broad implications. The proposal for the Clear Creek dam (NL191 1B; NL193 2A; NL195 2A; NL198 2A), for which the Catoosa Utility District is seeking Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) funding, provoked the outrage of a large number of people (members of TCWP, the Friends of the Obed Network, NPCA, and others). Incredible amounts of mail started pouring into agency offices (one official recently described it as "a bushel-basket-full"). This outpouring of sentiment, along with the contacts we made with key agency personnel, were major factors in the decision to generate a full EIS and in determining the process by which this is to be done.

The Rural Economic & Community Development Agency (RECD), which is FmHA's parent agency, recently contracted with the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) to do the EIS for what is now known as the Catoosa Utility District Regional Water Supply Project. TVA has experience in region-wide experience (not just local) water-resource planning, has no vested interest in building the Clear Creek dam, and has actually

authorized \$100,000 of its own money for the study. TVA and RECD have the status of joint lead agencies in the study.

A steering committee, made up of representatives of organizations with an interest in the project, met in Cookeville on December 15 to make suggestions about the process. TCWP and NPCA were represented by Joan Burns and Don Barger, respectively. The following are the major conclusions from this meeting (as summarized by TVA and RECD), plus comments on the meeting summary that we subsequently transmitted to TVA and RECD.

* The study area was delineated as including the boundaries water utilities operating around and between Jamestown, Monterey, and Crossville. We have urged that the study also include boundaries of utilities that could clearly interact with these (e.g., the Crab Orchard Utility District, which is building a 120-acre water-supply reservoir on Otter Creek).

* A full range of alternatives will be considered. We were pleased that the initial listing includes waterlines to Watts Bar, Center Hill, and Dale Hollow Reservoirs. Each of these has the potential of providing long-range solutions to the Plateau's water needs.

* Responding to the invitation to identify issues, we supplied the following:

(a) An overriding issue is protection of the water supply of the Obed Wild & Scenic River, the bottom line being the non-impairment standard in the 1916 National park Service Organic Act (ie., maintaining the resource "unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations").

(b) Because Clear Creek reservoir would stimulate development around it, it must be questioned whether a reservoir project designed to supply current water customers will not be partially used up by the population growth that would be stimulated.

(c) Also, because of the development bound to occur around the reservoir, an important issue to be considered is sewage—specifically, the impact on ground-water supplies of septic systems located in the local geology.

(d) The impact on endangered and threatened species is an issue.

(e) Potential interactions with utility districts outside the study area might alter feasibility projections for various alternatives, e.g., by spreading the costs of waterlines over a larger base.

Any day now, the Federal Register will publish the Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS. A public Scoping Meeting will be held about 4 weeks after the Notice of Intent is published. Please look for the notice in area newspapers, and plan to attend the meeting!!! Alternatively, leave your name and phone number on the TCWP-office answering machine (484-0286) and we'll notify you as soon as we have the date.

B. OBED WATERSHED IMPOUNDMENTS

As part of the Catoosa Utility District Water Supply project (1A, above), TVA has recently completed an inventory of impoundments in the Obed River watershed. The inventory, which was based on combined topographical map records and 1994 aerial photography, cataloged 2,903 impoundments. While many of these are small farm or private ponds, about two dozen are of significant size. In aggregate, the impoundments were found to cover 3,818 acres. (Note: the 120-acre Stone Lake, an

Otter Creek impoundment currently under construction- NL182 1A; NL190 2C), will bring the aggregate close to a round 4,000 acres).

TVA also cataloged the years in which the impoundments were constructed, And divided the period into three parts: pre-1976, 1976-1987, and 1988-1994. Significantly, by far the largest increase in construction activity was found to have occurred in the most recent period. Clearly, the time is ripe for overall water-resource planning for the region, and we hope that the study reported in 1A above, will make a very good start in this direction.

https://trace.tennessee.edu/tcwp_news/172/

1995, March 27:

Federal Register / Vol. 60, No. 58 / Monday, March 27, 1995 / Notices

SUMMARY: RUS and TVA published a Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement on alternatives for water supply development for the Catoosa Utility District and the upper Cumberland Plateau region of East Tennessee in the Federal Register on February 8, 1995. This original notice stated comments would be received on the scope of the EIS on or before March 10, 1995. RUS and TVA are today extending that comment period until June 5, 1995, and announcing the location of a public scoping meeting.

<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-1995-03-27/pdf/95-7459.pdf>

1995, April 4:

A public meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 4, 1995, at 6 p.m. Central Standard Time at Glenn Martin Junior High School, 314 South Miller Avenue, Crossville, Cumberland County, Tennessee.

I have no recollection of the happenings at this meeting in regard to Catoosa Utility District's proposed impoundment of Clear Creek and responding EIS to be conducted.

1995, April 17:

Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning, Newsletter No. 204

2. OBED AND BIG SOUTH FORK

A. SCOPING FOR REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY EIS

A. SCOPING FOR REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY PROJECT

Background: Pressure on the Catoosa Utility District (CUD) to build the Clear Creek dam has greatly increased. Currently, CUD has a contract to buy water from the City of Crossville, but the city recently gave CUD two years' notice of canceling this contract for the purpose of renegotiating it. It appears that Crossville plans to increase by about 60% the rate at which CUD pays for water.

Because there will be increasing water demands for the Cumberland Plateau, and because, in recent times, the damming of streams in the Obed or Big South Fork watersheds has been the answer that is locally being proposed at an alarmingly rising rate (NL203 1B), it is good news for everyone that the so-called Catoosa Utility District Regional Water Supply Project is now in full swing. RECD (Rural Economic &

Community Development Agency), after much public pressure from us and others, agreed to do a full-scale Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). [Incidentally, RECD, which used to be the Farmers Home Administration, is now named RUS, Rural Utility Service] It is especially good news that the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) is carrying out the process. TVA has a tremendous amount of expertise in water-resource issues and in taking regional and long-range approaches. In our dealings so far, we have been very favorably impressed by the quality of the TVA Staff assigned to the project.

The article continues. Please go to the link for further information.

https://trace.tennessee.edu/tcwp_news/173/

1995, May 18:

F3 Tornado Meadow Park Lake

“The path of damage on satellite imagery from Google Earth is also much wider than listed by Storm Data or Grazulis, and appears to be up to 1000 yards wide near Meadow Lake Park where tens of thousands of trees were blown down.”

<https://www.weather.gov/ohx/19950518>

1995, June 8:

Federal Register / Vol. 60, No. 110 / Thursday, June 8, 1995 / Notices

SUMMARY: This notice clarifies the Tennessee Valley Authority’s (TVA) Notice of Intent (NOI) that was published on February 8, 1995, at 60 FR 7623–7624. In that notice, TVA announced that it and the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) would be cooperating in the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), on a water supply development proposal for the Catoosa Utility District (CUD) and Upper Cumberland Plateau Region of East Tennessee.

One clarification is that the NOI issued by TVA was published on behalf of RUS, the lead agency. Also in today’s notice, the agencies clarify their roles in the preparation of the EIS and its focus.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: RUS has been asked by the CUD to provide financial assistance for a proposed water supply dam and impoundment on Clear Creek, a tributary of the Obed River. The CUD is considering the construction of a 100-acre water supply impoundment, a 1.5 million gallons per day treatment plant, and transmission lines that feed into existing water distribution systems. Subsequent to this request, RUS decided to prepare an EIS on the proposed action. Pursuant to RUS’s status as lead agency for this action, RUS requested TVA participate in the preparation of the EIS as a cooperating agency. TVA’s status as a cooperating agency is defined by two factors: TVA’s regulatory status in reviewing and approving impoundment structures in the Tennessee River and its tributaries under Section 26a of the TVA Act; and TVA’s specialized expertise in evaluating community and regional water supply needs, developing appropriate responses to defined needs, and the design and construction of dams and impoundments. RUS, as consistent with its lead agency status, shall supervise the preparation of the EIS. The primary focus of the EIS will be to analyze design and engineering alternatives for achieving the goal of providing a reliable source of water to

people utilizing CUD's services. A secondary focus of the EIS, as required by NEPA, is to consider and evaluate reasonable alternative water supply scenarios which, in this case, includes those supply options from a more regional perspective. The necessity to evaluate a more regional water supply perspective is prompted by numerous communities on the Upper Cumberland Plateau Region of eastern Tennessee who have expressed an interest to RUS for consideration of future financial assistance in developing reliable water sources for their citizens. This EIS will assist RUS in determining the economic feasibilities and environmental impacts of a range of water supply options. Alternatives that may be considered for both the primary and secondary forces of the EIS include: Construction of a water impoundment structure on Clear Creek or other water courses; installation of a water pipeline from Watts Bar, Center Hill, or Dale Hollow Reservoirs; and regional water supply options. TVA and RUS, also, issued a notice on March 27, 1995, at 60 FR 15810, that announced an extension of the public scoping period until June 5, 1995. The agencies will continue to accept written comments on the scope of the EIS through that date. In addition, the comments provided at the April 4, 1995, public scoping meeting will continue to be considered.

Dated: June 1, 1995.

Adam M. Golodner,

Acting Administrator Rural Utilities Service.

[FR Doc. 95-14004 Filed 6-7-95; 8:45 am]

<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-1995-06-08/pdf/95-14004.pdf>

1995, June:

Construction of Stone Lake (Otter Creek) dam utilized by the Crab Orchard Utility District as a water supply is complete and filled.

1995, September 30:

Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning, Newsletter No. 207

2. OBED WILD & SCENIC RIVER

B. CUMBERLAND PLATEAU WATER-SUPPLY STUDY PROGRESS

B. CLEAR CREEK DAM AND PLATEAU WATER-SUPPLY PROGRESSES

It's been a long road between the original proposal by the Catoosa Utility District to build a dam on Clear Creek (one of the main stems of the Obed) and the study that is currently under way (NL191 1B, NL192 2A, NL200 1B, NL201 2B, NL202 3A, NL203 1A, NL204 2A). TCWP can take pride in having transformed an imminent threat into what may turn out to become a long-term solution. In a nutshell, (a) the Rural Utilities Service (formerly, Farmers' Home Administration, USDA) agreed to do a full-fledged Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), (b) the work is being carried out by TVA (with RUS), and (c) the scope has been greatly broadened to include numerous alternatives, a larger area, and a longer time frame.

https://trace.tennessee.edu/tcwp_news/176/

1995, November 27:

Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning, Newsletter No. 208

1. OBED AND BIG SOUTH FORK

A. PLATEAU WATER-SUPPLY STUDY

A. PLATEAU WATER-SUPPLY STUDY UNDER WAY

https://trace.tennessee.edu/tcwp_news/177/

1996, February 5:

Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning, Newsletter No. 209

1. OBED

B. PLATEAU WATER-SUPPLY STUDY UNDER WAY

B. PLATEAU WATER-SUPPLY STUDY CONTINUES

https://trace.tennessee.edu/tcwp_news/178/

1996, April 19:

Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning, Newsletter No. 210

3. OBED

A. PLATEAU WATER-SUPPLY STUDY UNDER WAY

A. WHAT IS NPS'S COMMITMENT TO PRESERVING THE OBED'S WATERS?

https://trace.tennessee.edu/tcwp_news/179/

1996, June 24:

Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning, Newsletter No. 211

3. OBED AND BIG SOUTH FORK

C. CLEAR CREEK DAM STUDY

C. CLEAR CREEK DAM STUDY

https://trace.tennessee.edu/tcwp_news/180/

1996, September 8:

Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning, Newsletter No. 212

3. OBED AND BIG SOUTH FORK

C. STATE'S NEW WATERSHED APPROACH TO WQ PROTECTION: OBED AN EARLY CASE

C. STATE WATERSHED PLANNING FOR OBED WQ NEEDS YOUR INPUT

https://trace.tennessee.edu/tcwp_news/181/

1996, December:

TVA sends EIS preliminary findings to RUS for comment (Clear Creek EIS, Catoosa Utility District

https://trace.tennessee.edu/tcwp_news/183/

1997:

All utility districts signed a letter requesting assistance in finding a new water source. They promised to work together on a regional basis to obtain a long-term water supply solution through 2050.

County officials ask the state to withdraw the Obed Wild and Scenic River from consideration as an Outstanding National Resource Water, arguing that the designation could undermine the county's efforts to secure a water supply in the future.

From Obed Watershed Community Association (OWCA) "Timeline" document.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/13PbX7_GmDYJJjRItuO_KPRsO3iV-buDn/view

1997, January 1:

Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning, Newsletter No. 214

2. OBED WATER NEWS

A. CLEAR CREEK DAM STUDY NEAR END

A. CLEAR CREEK DAM STUDY

https://trace.tennessee.edu/tcwp_news/183/

1997, January 10:

Purple bean (*Villosa perpurpurea*) Federally listed as endangered.

<https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4125>

This is a species that must be addressed on the Obed River side. Here is another source from just a few years ago.

The park is also one of the last remaining refuges for several critically endangered freshwater mussels, including the Alabama lamp mussel (*Lampsilis virescens*), which occurs at only one other site in the world, and the purple bean (*Villosa perpurpurea*-known from only five streams range-wide), as well as the threatened spotfin chub (*Erimonax monachus*).

<https://www.nps.gov/im/aphn/obri.htm>

1997, July 18:

Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning, Newsletter No. 217

1. BIG SOUTH FORK AND OBED

B. STATUS OF CLEAR CREEK DAM PROPOSAL

B. STATUS OF CLEAR CREEK DAM PROPOSAL

The TVA regional water-supply study for the EIS on the proposed Clear Creek dam has now been complete for some months, and there is still no word from RUS (Rural Utility Service, formerly Farmers Home Administration) which had contracted with TVA for this study. RUS is the agency that would fund this dam proposed by the Catoosa Utility District (see NL210 3A, where earlier references are listed).

It is rumored that a recent meeting of Cumberland County and Crossville officials with 5 water utilities may result in a request for help to investigate establishment of a long-term, single regional water supply for that area of the Plateau. If so, the TVA study will have provided a good start for the solution to the Clear Creek dam threat (and similar dam proposals that would be sure to follow).

https://trace.tennessee.edu/tcwp_news/186/

1997, October 2:

Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning, Newsletter No. 217

2. BIG SOUTH FORK AND OBED

A. REGIONAL WATER-SUPPLY PROGRESS

A. REGIONAL WATER-SUPPLY FOR CUMBERLAND COUNTY?

Considerable progress has been made in looking at a regional water supply as an alternative to the proposed Clear Creek Dam. **The good news is that talks about regional planning have commenced.** Thanks in large part to the leadership exerted by the Cumberland County Executive, the 5 utility districts and the City of Crossville (which had all along been going their separate, uncoordinated ways) joined together to request assistance from the state government for a regional solution to their future water-supply needs.

https://trace.tennessee.edu/tcwp_news/187/

1997, November:

City Council votes to seek option for purchase of land to create new water resource.

From Obed Watershed Community Association (OWCA) "Timeline" document.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/13PbX7_GmDYJJjRItuO_KPRsO3iV-buDn/view

1998, April:

City hires engineers to conduct a preliminary study on City's Caney Fork Lake

From Obed Watershed Community Association (OWCA) "Timeline" document.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/13PbX7_GmDYJJjRItuO_KPRsO3iV-buDn/view

1998, April 15:

Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning, Newsletter No. 221

3. OBED AND BIG SOUTH FORK NEWS

A. OBED WATER-RESOURCE STUDY AND WATER QUALITY DESIGNATION

A. OBED WATER QUALITY DESIGNATION AND ITS RELATION TO WATER-RESOURCE STUDY

(Excerpt)

The study: Last summer, thanks in large part to the leadership exerted by the Cumberland County Executive Brock Hill, the 5 utility districts and the City of Crossville (which had all along been going their separate uncoordinated ways) joined together to request assistance from the state government for a long-term, regional solution to their future water-supply needs (NL218 2A). The state approached federal agencies, and the Corps of Engineers (CoE) offered to make this study their No. 1 planning priority. The US Geological Survey (USGS) offered to do a ground-water assessment.

The study is expected to cost \$150,000, of which the Corps will provide half. The US Geological Survey (USGS), the National Park Service, the state, and possibly other agencies will contribute varying amounts.

https://trace.tennessee.edu/tcwp_news/190/

1998, June:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) begins Preliminary Environmental Review study for a new water source.

From Obed Watershed Community Association (OWCA) "Timeline" document.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/13PbX7_GmDYJJjRltuO_KPRsO3iV-buDn/view

1998, July:

TN Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) and Cumberland County announce a model regional water planning partnership to demonstrate how utility districts can work together to minimize dam building and protect free flowing streams. The six utility districts agreed to the partnership and their willingness to share water resources and infrastructure to address future water supply needs. TDEC put up \$75,000 to match federal funds to pay USACE.

From Obed Watershed Community Association (OWCA) "Timeline" document.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/13PbX7_GmDYJJjRltuO_KPRsO3iV-buDn/view

1998, August 10:

Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning, Newsletter No. 223

3. OBED NEWS

A. WATER-SUPPLY STUDY: WE MEET WITH THE CORPS

(Excerpt)

.....The report of the earlier TVA water-supply study for the Cumberland Plateau (which has never been publicly released) has been turned over to the Corp as have other TVA files on the subject.

https://trace.tennessee.edu/tcwp_news/192/

1998, October 7:

Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning, Newsletter No. 224

1. OBED NEWS

A. WATER-SUPPLY STUDY UPDATE

A. THE WATER SUPPLY STUDY THAT GREW OUT OF THE LONG-AGO CLEAR CREEK DAM PROPOSAL: WE GOT AN UPDATE

(Excerpt)

There was a slide presentation on the technical alternatives to be studied, with the list now being more specific than the one presented in June. The alternatives are: (a) groundwater (5 potential sites along t the Western Toe, identified by USGS); (b) new impoundments (the Clear Creek dam, Caney Fork, or

3 below Meadow Creek Reservoir in the Obey or Caney Fork watersheds); (c) pipelines from large reservoirs (Center Hill, Dale Hollow, Watts Bar); (d) raising the height of existing small reservoirs (4 being considered); (e) water harvesting (small off-site detention areas filled by pumping from streams during high flow, or storage in Meadow Creek Reservoir of high-flow Caney Fork water); (f) water conservation (no specific plans--they propose to see how much water has been saved in comparable southeastern counties that have water-conservation plans).

https://trace.tennessee.edu/tcwp_news/193/

1998, December 9:

Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning, Newsletter No. 225

2. OBED NEWS

A. WATER-SUPPLY STUDY

A. CUMBERLAND COUNTY WATER-SUPPLY STUDY NEARLY COMPLETE

(Excerpt)

County Executive Speaks: Brock Hill, Cumberland County Executive, spoke at the recent TCWP Annual Weekend (1B this NL), about the area's water-supply situation. Since Hill became Executive in 1994, the county has experienced 23% growth (partly from new retirement communities), straining the infrastructure. Of five rural water districts, all except Crab Orchard are served by Crossville, and the contracts are coming up for renewal. He succeeded in getting the utility districts to sign a joint request to the state to assist in obtaining a water supply; and the state, in turn, hopes to use the process as a model for other areas in Tennessee. Brock Hill is working to form a consortium on regional water supply to continue dealing with the state. Sen. Thompson and Rep. Van Hilleary were approached to get water-supply funds for the Corps of Engineers.

https://trace.tennessee.edu/tcwp_news/194/

1998, December:

USACE completes Preliminary Environmental Review study.

From Obey Watershed Community Association (OWCA) "Timeline" document.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/13PbX7_GmDYJJjRItuO_KPRsO3iV-buDn/view

1998, December:

"Cumberland County Regional Water Supply Study", United States Army Corps of Engineers Nashville District. *I could not find this document, only a partial presentation made in 1999, (Session 1A-23). I think it is important to find this document. It is referenced in later government documents. According to the presentation, the only double positive, (engineering and regulatory) are "large scale pipelines" to reservoirs below the Cumberland Plateau.*

<https://img1.wsimg.com/blobby/go/12ed7af3-57dc-468c-af58-da8360f35f16/downloads/Proceedings1999.pdf?ver=1618503482180>

1999, February 21:

Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning, Newsletter No. 226

1. OBED ISSUES

A. CLEAR CREEK DAM RULED OUT

A. CUMBERLAND COUNTY WATER-SUPPLY STUDY RULES OUT CLEAR CREEK DAM

On December 15, the Corps of Engineers presented to us an excellent Cumberland County Regional Water Supply Preliminary Engineering Report. The thorough study investigated 6 alternatives, most of them with a number of sub-alternatives, altogether 17 items. These were compared with respect to (among other things): safe yield (in MGD, i.e., million gallons per day), cost per MGD, assessment of engineering feasibility, and assessment of whether required state and/or federal permits would or would not be obtainable.

By this last criterion, all of 5 new impoundment items - including the Clear Creek dam and a dam on the Caney Fork can be ruled out. **Thus, “ ... obtaining the required permits for the construction of a new impoundment is not likely due to the existence of other alternatives that have the potential to supply the same or greater quantity of water with fewer environmental impacts.”** Improvements to existing reservoirs (4 sites studied) was considered unfeasible from an engineering point of view. Of 4 large-scale pipelines studied, the grade on the basis of both the permit and engineering assessment; the least costly of these would use Watts Bar as the water source. **Also making the grade was water “harvesting” that would take water during high flow in the Caney Fork and transfer it to a raised Meadow Park lake (an existing reservoir).(emphasis added)**

https://trace.tennessee.edu/tcwp_news/195/

1999, March:

The Meadow Park treatment facility is renovated to expand treatment capacity to 3.5 MGD.

From Obed Watershed Community Association (OWCA) “Timeline” document.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/13PbX7_GmDYJJjRItuO_KPRsO3iV-buDn/view

1999, May 4:

Cumberland Plateau Regional Water Authority I

Private Act, “Cumberland Plateau Regional Water Authority”,

<http://sharetn.gov.s3.amazonaws.com/sos/acts/101/priv/pr0045.pdf>

I cannot recall if it was “Cumberland Plateau Regional Water Authority I” of 1999 or “Cumberland Plateau Regional Authority II” of 2004 but I am pretty sure that there was an elected Board, they held meetings, and took minutes of said meetings. I believe that former County Mayor Brock Hill was the Chairman at one point. During this time, whichever iteration of the CPRWA it was, the relationship between some of the Utility

Districts and County Mayor Brock Hill grew contentious and resulted in the abandonment of the CPRWA to the best of my recollection. I do not know if the Minutes of the meetings are still in existence.

1999, June:

TN Water Quality Control Board (TWQCB) designates 45 miles of the Obed River and its tributaries as an Outstanding National Resource Water because of and to protect its free flowing, scenic, and unpolluted condition. The Tier II boundaries are within the Obed Wild and Scenic River National Park. The Obed Wild and Scenic River is visited by 200,000 people a year and is home to eight federally listed protected species. TWQCB allowed the river to remain classified as Tier II: "If the current search for a regional water supply by the Cumberland Plateau Regional Water Authority results in a determination that it is necessary to utilize the Obed River as its source of drinking water, for that purpose the Obed River will be designated Tier II and any permit issued for that project shall be considered under the requirements for Tier II." Designation of it as a Tier III stream would have removed the argument that its degradation would be needed in the interest of social and economic development.

From Obed Watershed Community Association (OWCA) "Timeline" document.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/13PbX7_GmDYJJjRItuO_KPRsO3iV-buDn/view

1999, August:

Crab Orchard Utility District asks Fairfield Glade permission to link into its lakes.

From Obed Watershed Community Association (OWCA) "Timeline" document.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/13PbX7_GmDYJJjRItuO_KPRsO3iV-buDn/view

1999, December:

The City offers to take over rural utility districts.

From Obed Watershed Community Association (OWCA) "Timeline" document.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/13PbX7_GmDYJJjRItuO_KPRsO3iV-buDn/view

2000, January 11:

Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning, Newsletter No. 231

1. OBED AND BIG SOUTH FORK

A. CROSSVILLE REEXAMINES WATER-SUPPLY

A. CROSSVILLE REEXAMINES WATER SUPPLY OPTIONS

(Excerpt)

Water-supply needs of the Cumberland Plateau, whether real or perceived, are of continuing concern because some of the proposed solutions could be detrimental to river systems that are important to us --the Obed, Big South Fork, and Caney Fork. Because of this, the following news was most welcome.

On Nov. 17, the Crossville Chronicle covered a city council meeting at which a report pertaining to water-supply options was presented. Council had recently

commissioned a preliminary engineering study on pumping water from Watts Bar Reservoir and was told by its water engineer, Lamar Dunn, that this option “may not be as expensive as originally estimated” even if the cost figures were based on a ‘worse case scenario’—and as the pipeline is used to its full capacity and the more water the system sells, the cost per thousand gallons would drop.”

There is much more to read in this article. Follow the link.

https://trace.tennessee.edu/tcwp_news/200/

2000, April:

Resource Study Act of 2000: Senator Frist sponsored a \$1 million appropriation bill for a study of TN current water supply conditions and projected trends in order to address its future needs. The state in partnership with the ACE would conduct the study to assist local governments find a reliable and affordable existing water supplies.

Frist sponsors The Water Summit on TN’s water supply future

From Obed Watershed Community Association (OWCA) “Timeline” document.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/13PbX7_GmDYJJjRItuO_KPRsO3iV-buDn/view

2000:

GROUND BROKEN FOR NEW MEADOW PARK LAKE PLANT

(Editor's note: It has been 17 years since the groundbreaking for the new Meadow Park Lake water treatment plant to replace the one originally built in the late 1930's. That building still exists and the city has been talking about tearing the old plant down.)

“Our community is the fastest growing rural community in Tennessee. It must have a more than adequate potable water supply.”

Crossville Mayor J. H. Graham III made those remarks at last Friday’s groundbreaking ceremonies for the new Meadow Park Lake water treatment plant. The current Meadow Park Lake water treatment plant produces just under 2 million gallons per day. The new plant is designed to produce 3.5 million gallons of drinking water per day almost twice the old plant’s capacity. The original Meadow Park water treatment plant was built 60 years ago.

Councilman Gene Turner gave an invocation prior to the ceremony and prefaced it saying he hopes the doors to Crossville are never closed to those who want to make Crossville their home. Turner praised the city’s past leaders who made the decision to build Meadow Park Lake and was proud that Crossville was in a position to move the facility to the next level.

“This is a great day for everyone in Cumberland County and the City of Crossville, A day we’ve all been waiting for,” commented Councilman Boyd Wyatt, Sr. Wyatt led those gathered in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Graham described the long road to the groundbreaking as, “months of planning, months of design, months of approvals and months and months and months of meetings.” The last comment received a laugh from the small crowd gathered for the ceremony.

Mayor Graham summed up his comments about the water project saying, “our community must have water for fire protection for residents and industry as well. The industries we have now must continue to grow and prosper so as to provide jobs and their security for our future and our children’s future. Our policy is, was and forever shall be, to provide for and protect our children’s future.”

Graham recognized several of the attendees for their contribution to the process necessary to get the new plant moving including State Senator Lincoln Davis and former State Representative Shirley Duer. Graham also congratulated the city’s water engineer Lamar Dunn whose firm put the city’s water master plan together and designed the plant and assisted with the state loan application.

Dunn praised the involvement of the State Department of Conservation and Environment for their approval of a very low-interest loan. Through the department, the city received a \$7.5 million loan at 1.77 percent interest for 20 years. Crossville’s water plant is the largest single project funded by the revolving loan fund by almost four times. The largest previous amount funded was a \$2 million project. Randy Anglin represented the Department of Conservation and Environment and was asked to pass the city’s thanks on to his department’s Commissioner Milton Hamilton.

Some of the other special guests who attended and were recognized including new school board member Gordon Davis; County Commissioner Dr. Don Ivey; Judge Steve Douglas and members of the Meadow Park Lake Commission Dick Brady, Clark West and Elmo Lewis.

The contractor chosen by the city for the project is Building Crafts, Inc. of Blountville Tennessee. The cost of the water treatment plant was bid at \$5.3 million. The remaining funds from the \$7.5 million loan will be used for associated water system improvements. Construction on the water treatment plant is expected to take between 18 and 24 months.

<https://jimyoungreporter.blogspot.com/2017/11/crossville-flashback-ground-broken-for.html?m=0>

2000 June:

City declines joining the Cumberland Plateau Regional Water Authority, feeling that City would be at a disadvantage by having only one vote against the five rural water districts and County Mayor.

From Obed Watershed Community Association (OWCA) “Timeline” document.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/13PbX7_GmDYJJjRItuO_KPRsO3iV-buDn/view

2000, September:

City votes to seek permit to build a dam on the Caney Fork above the Bridgestone Firestone Centennial Wilderness Area.

From Obed Watershed Community Association (OWCA) “Timeline” document.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/13PbX7_GmDYJJjRItuO_KPRsO3iV-buDn/view

2000, December:

South Cumberland buys a well that produces 400,000 gallons daily

From Obed Watershed Community Association (OWCA) "Timeline" document.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/13PbX7_GmDYJJjRltuO_KPRsO3iV-buDn/view

2001, March 19:

Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning, Newsletter No. 238

3. OBED AND BIG SOUTH FORK

C. PLATEAU DAMS, WATERY-SUPPLY, AND OTHER ISSUES

C. THREAT OF CANEY FORK DAM

The City of Crossville is continuing to develop a feasibility study for the construction of a dam on the Caney Fork River, approximately 3 miles upstream of the Bridgestone-Firestone Centennial Wilderness Area. They have budgeted \$350,000 to pay for engineering design, attorney fees, and other costs connected with the permitting process (NL236 2A). The dam would create a 1,200-acre lake in western Cumberland County to provide drinking water for the Crossville area. TCWP has expressed strong opposition to the dam (NL237 2B) and requested that other options be evaluated further.

In February, Cumberland County Executive Brock Hill met with the Crossville City Council and asked them to reconsider joining the Cumberland Plateau Regional Water Authority that was created 18 months ago. The Authority, which consists of five rural water utility districts in the county (all districts except Crossville), has obtained a \$125,000 grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission to conduct a needs assessment for a regional water supply project. In mid February, the State announced that the grant would support an analysis by the Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation (TDEC). Also in mid-February, Sen. Frist announced that he had requested \$1 million funding for a state-federal study on water supply problems at the whole state level.

https://trace.tennessee.edu/tcwp_news/207/

2001, September:

The City engineer reports that the City's proposed dam on Caney Fork cannot sustain a sizable reservoir for water supply and that water harvesting of the Caney Fork River may not be feasible.

From Obed Watershed Community Association (OWCA) "Timeline" document.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/13PbX7_GmDYJJjRltuO_KPRsO3iV-buDn/view

2001, December:

The City pledges cooperation with the Cumberland Plateau Regional Water Authority in the locating and permitting of a new raw water source without being a member of the Authority.

From Obed Watershed Community Association (OWCA) "Timeline" document.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/13PbX7_GmDYJJjRItuO_KPRsO3iV-buDn/view

2002, June:

The Cumberland Plateau Regional Water Authority commissions Breedlove, Dennis, Young & Associates (BDY) to conduct a water supply study.

From Obed Watershed Community Association (OWCA) "Timeline" document.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/13PbX7_GmDYJJjRItuO_KPRsO3iV-buDn/view

2002, September 23:

Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning, Newsletter No. 247

2. OTHER OBED AND BIG SOUTH FORK ISSUES

C. ANOTHER WATER WITHDRAWAL THREATENS

C. YET ANOTHER THREAT OF WATER WITHDRAWAL FROM CLEAR CREEK

The Catoosa Utility District in Cumberland County is planning to withdraw 600,000 gallons per day from a tributary to Clear Creek. This withdrawal would be made from Caryonah Lake, which was created several decades ago by impounding Panther Creek, a northern tributary to Clear Creek, not far outside the Wild & Scenic River boundary. The water withdrawal would not start until after the construction of a treatment plant is completed. Currently, Panther Creek below the dam is fed by seasonal overflows (the dam has no discharge) and is thus an intermittent stream. These overflows participate in the seasonal water-level changes that are needed to sustain the ecology of the Clear Creek. Thus, any withdrawal that reduces this overflow will be harmful.

In addition, the Catoosa Utility District wants to raise the level of the existing dam, which would, of course, reduce natural overflows still more. The Obed system cannot stand any further addition to the cumulative water thefts from the numerous little impoundments in the watershed. Partly as a result of questions from TCWP, the Catoosa Utility District will be required to apply for a permit from the Water Pollution Control Division. We will notify you about the scheduling for public comments. Please be on the alert.

https://trace.tennessee.edu/tcwp_news/216/

2003, January:

The City funds an engineering proposal to study expansion of Meadow Park Lake.

From Obed Watershed Community Association (OWCA) "Timeline" document.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/13PbX7_GmDYJJjRItuO_KPRsO3iV-buDn/view

2003, February:

“Cumberland County Mayor Brock Hill, using a legal ruling from counsel for the Tennessee Association of Utility Districts, replaced all sitting commissioners on the Crab Orchard Utility District and appointed George Edgar Harrison, James (Jimmy) Pat Smith and Claude Leonard (Red) Turner to the board.”

<http://static.cnhionline.com/crossvillechronicle/flashpromo/OldStuff/News/2003inreview.html>

2003, March 30:

Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning, Newsletter No. 250

2. OBED NEWS

C. SLANTED WATER-SUPPLY QUESTIONAIRE

https://trace.tennessee.edu/tcwp_news/219/

2003, April:

Everett Bolin named new manager of the Crab Orchard Utility District.

<http://static.cnhionline.com/crossvillechronicle/flashpromo/OldStuff/News/2003inreview.html>

2003, July:

Engineer's and consultants told city officials that it could cost the city \$4.8 million to raise the dam to increase the Meadow Park Lake's reservoir and to increase storage capacity.

<http://static.cnhionline.com/crossvillechronicle/flashpromo/OldStuff/News/2003inreview.html>

2004, February:

The State of TN reports that Watts Bar reservoir can be used as a water source.

From Obed Watershed Community Association (OWCA) “Timeline” document.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/13PbX7_GmDYJJjRltuO_KPRsO3iV-buDn/view

2004, May:

Cumberland Plateau Regional Water Authority board membership changed from utility district general managers to appointees of County Mayor with approval of County Commission. Its membership was expanded from six to ten members, based on one appointee for every 2,500 customers.

This is one point at which the relationship between the Utility Districts and the County Mayor Brock Hill became contentious.

From Obed Watershed Community Association (OWCA) “Timeline” document.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/13PbX7_GmDYJJjRltuO_KPRsO3iV-buDn/view

2004, May 12:

Cumberland Plateau Regional Water Authority II

Private Act to amend “Cumberland Plateau Regional Water Authority”,

<https://www.capitol.tn.gov/Bills/103/Bill/HB3617.pdf>

I cannot recall if it was “Cumberland Plateau Regional Water Authority I” of 1999 or “Cumberland Plateau Regional Authority II” of 2004 but I am pretty sure that there was an elected Board, they held meetings, and took minutes of said meetings. I believe that former County Mayor Brock Hill was the Chairman at one point. During this time, whichever iteration of the CPRWA it was, the relationship between some of the Utility Districts and County Mayor Brock Hill grew contentious and resulted in the abandonment of the CPRWA to the best of my recollection. I do not know if the Minutes of the meetings are still in existence.

?2003-2004:

Catoosa Utility District begins construction of Water Treatment Plant on Lake Caryonah (Panther Creek), Plateau Road. *The City of Crossville retains ownership and keeps permits current from my understanding.*

?2004-2005:

County Mayor Brock Hill chooses two new members to the Catoosa Utility District Board of Commissioners. He appointed Russell Smith and Bob Bottoms, one of these two replaced John Crowder. Tom Kidwell remained.

?2004-2005:

New Catoosa Board of Commissioners cancels contract to build WTP (Water Treatment Plant) on Caryonah Lake.

2005, August:

The City annexes Catoosa Utility District, circumventing County Mayor’s veto of their merger.

From Obed Watershed Community Association (OWCA) “Timeline” document.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/13PbX7_GmDYJJjRItuO_KPRsO3iV-buDn/view

2005, August:

Catoosa Utility District signs over assets to City of Crossville. There is a contract with the City of Crossville and Caryonah Lake remains an asset.

2005, November:

The City signs agreement with Army Corps of Engineers to fund an EIS study of the water supply alternatives identified in the 1998 Regional Water Supply Study and engineering costs of recommended alternative.

From Obed Watershed Community Association (OWCA) "Timeline" document.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/13PbX7_GmDYJJjRItuO_KPRsO3iV-buDn/view

2006, March:

City approves raising Holiday Lake by nine inches.

From Obed Watershed Community Association (OWCA) "Timeline" document.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/13PbX7_GmDYJJjRItuO_KPRsO3iV-buDn/view

2006, June:

South Cumberland Utility District signs contract with Crab Orchard Utility District for water, cutting its purchase of City water by half.

From Obed Watershed Community Association (OWCA) "Timeline" document.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/13PbX7_GmDYJJjRItuO_KPRsO3iV-buDn/view

2006, August 25:

Federal Register / Vol. 71, No. 165 / Friday, August 25, 2006 / Notices

SUMMARY : The Corps of Engineers, Nashville District intends to prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for a regional water supply project in Cumberland County, TN. This DEIS is necessary to provide National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) coverage for a proposed regional water supply system capable of providing the county a reliable water supply for 50 years. The county is currently served by six water systems and development of individual water sources has been problematic from an environmental perspective. The county's current water supply capacity is approximately ten million gallons per day. A regional approach has been recommended to allow more efficient planning to develop future water supplies in an environmentally acceptable manner.

<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2006-08-25/pdf/E6-14144.pdf>

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2006/08/25/E6-14144/notice-of-intent-to-prepare-a-draft-environmental-impact-statement-for-a-proposed-cumberland-county>

2006-2007:

Environmental work began at Meadow Park Lake. ECE, DEPA

This is when I did some environmental work throughout the watershed.

2007, January 14:

Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning, Newsletter No. 271

3. OBED: EFFECTS OF IMPOUNDMENTS IN WATERSHED

(Excerpt)

The effects of impoundments in the upper Obed watershed, of which there is a large and growing number, has for some time been a subject of concern and has more recently become a subject of scientific study. On January 10, the USGS (US Geological Survey) and NPS (National Park Service, including the Water Resources Division, Denver) held a meeting to examine the status of available water-quantity data and to discuss the role of such data for supporting science-based comments about the impact of impoundments in the Obed Watershed.

https://trace.tennessee.edu/tcwp_news/235/

Follow the link for the entirety of the article.

2007, February 15:

“Problem with utility Districts, City may be over”

https://www.crossville-chronicle.com/news/local_news/problems-between-utility-districts-city-may-be-over/article_f8577ff3-5bcf-51d7-b9b0-63a29f43a849.html

2007, September 9:

Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning, Newsletter No. 275

1. OBED AND BIG SOUTH FORK

B. A CLEAR CREEK DAM IS PROPOSED

B. A BIG CLEAR CREEK DAM IS PROPOSED

The Crab Orchard Utility District (COUD), one of 5 Utility Districts in Cumberland County, is circulating a proposal for a large dam on Clear Creek. Their multi-colored map shows creation of a 5,798-acre lake (an area larger than the acreage authorized for the Obed Wild & Scenic River, WSR). On the originally circulated map, the proposed dam was actually located in the WSR boundaries, a legally impossible situation; we have been told that COUD has now moved the dam to just upstream of the boundary.

Crossville is experiencing major population growth and has been concerned about its water supply because the city is located essentially on top of a mountain and thus does not receive major water flows from elsewhere. Dam proposals surface repeatedly. In the 1990s TCWP (with NPCA) was heavily involved in fighting an earlier proposal for a dam on Clear Creek. (We found that a major driving force behind that dam was a real-estate development that had plans to sell lots on the shoreline lands.) Growing out of our earlier efforts, a Corps of Engineers study was conducted that analyzed several water-supply alternatives for the area. Among water sources identified in the Corps’ 1998 report were from nearby large existing reservoirs. There is strong local opposition to Watts Bar, which is perceived as having contaminated water. However, other nearby large reservoirs (Center Hill, Great Falls Lake) are feasible water sources, and there are numerous smaller impoundments scattered throughout the county. Also identified by the Corps were improvements to existing water storage impoundments. Furthermore, the need for water

could be dramatically reduced through elimination of waste from the existing infrastructure and through water conservation. The Corps was in the midst of conducting a water conservation study, initiated in 2005, but it recently ran out of money.

COUD is working to sell their idea of a new dam as a regional effort to provide water to utility districts not only in Cumberland but in additional nearby counties. As with all dam proposals on the Plateau, there is a strong possibility that a major motivating force is real-estate profit-making.

Other interested organizations have joined us in watching the Clear Creek dam proposal very carefully indeed. A bit more fact finding is needed before we will jointly decide on a course of action.

https://trace.tennessee.edu/tcwp_news/239/

2007, December:

TACIR (Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Affairs) presentation. "There is only so much water on this mountain."

Crossville city attorney Lanny Colvard

Crossville, the county seat of Cumberland County, the 5th fastest-growing county in Tennessee, faces conflict with its neighbors as it seeks to provide for its own future water needs. Its city council recently approved a plan to restrict further expansions by other utility districts that purchase city water.

Worried that its own sources of supply are barely adequate for anticipated needs, Crossville officials are seeking to limit the ability of neighbors to tap into local reservoirs. Meanwhile, Cumberland County has sought help in the form of a \$5 million federal grant to develop a regional pilot program and feasibility study of various water supply options and implement a long-term solution.

Crossville has been pinning hopes for additional water on a dam to be constructed on the Caney Fork River. As of this writing, there appears little chance that a permit will be issued for such a project due, in part, to environmental opposition. Enlargement of the city's current Meadow Park Lake Dam is another option being explored in lieu of the Caney Fork proposal. While the ultimate choice of water supply alternative remains uncertain, it appears likely that some combination of pumping water uphill from TVA's Watts Bar Reservoir on the Tennessee River, storing rainwater in new lakes and ponds, or building new dams on nearby creeks and streams may be adopted.

https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/tacir/other-years/2007_Dec_ASPA_Tennessee_Water_Resources.pdf

?2008:

Crossville places John Crowder back on the Catoosa Utility board after the death of Tom Kidwell.

https://www.crossville-chronicle.com/news/local_news/crowder-sworn-in-to-catoosa-advisory-board/article_ecff283a-6dbc-5d4a-84a1-102a797aa6a4.html

2008, July 14:

Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning, Newsletter No. 280

3. OBED AND BIG SOUTH FORK

B. CROSSVILLE WATER CONSERVATION

B. CROSSVILLE WATER CONSERVATION PRACTICES?

https://trace.tennessee.edu/tcwp_news/244/

2008, July 14:

Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning, Newsletter No. 287

1. OBED AND BIG SOUTH FORK

D. CROSSVILLE WATER SUPPLY

D. CROSSVILLE WATER CONSERVATION PRACTICES

Recently (according to the Crossville Chronicle of July 31), the Crossville City Council approved a resolution to take water from Lake Tansi by eminent domain. The City Attorney is to file a petition for condemnation in order to acquire “the water, property, and other rights . . . of Lake Tansi.” The city plans to pipe the water to the Meadow Park Lake, which is already used as a source for city water. Lake Tansi is a long-existing impoundment of Daddy’s Creek, one of the two largest tributaries of the Obed River.

https://trace.tennessee.edu/tcwp_news/251/

?2008-2009:

Lake Caryonah dam fails.

2009, September 4:

One Man’s Trash: Lake Tansi Water Harvesting, Opinion

https://www.crossville-chronicle.com/opinion/one-mans-trash-lake-tansi-water-harvesting/article_92a3df90-f204-52c9-a21d-3b44e9a35886.html

2009, October 2:

Water harvesting agreement between the City of Crossville and the Lake Tansi Village POA

http://brownlime.com/ccgov_documents/water/Water%20Harvest%20Agreement%20Tansi.pdf

2009, November 13:

City Frustrated Over Caryonah Dam Repairs

https://www.crossville-chronicle.com/news/local_news/city-frustrated-over-caryonah-dam-repairs/article_5e3316f1-7e80-58bc-b899-e75d9875c5e8.html

2010, May 16:

Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning, Newsletter No. 287

1. OBED AND BIG SOUTH FORK WATERSHEDS

C. MEASURING WATER QUANTITY AND QUALITY IN THE OBED SYSTEM

1C. MEASURING WATER QUANTITY AND QUALITY IN THE OBED SYSTEM

The National Park Service (NPS) and the US Geological Survey (USGS) recently installed a new stream-flow gage at Adams Bridge on the Obed River, and NPS equipped the gage to read water-quality, as well as-quantity, data.

https://trace.tennessee.edu/tcwp_news/255/

2010, September 1:

Kenney Carey becomes Cumberland County Mayor.

2011, February 14:

[Council Upset Over Water Harvesting Project Hold-up](https://www.crossville-chronicle.com/news/local_news/council-upset-over-water-harvesting-project-hold-up/article_cf78ce5a-79ab-587a-94b0-9431cd419b2f.html)

https://www.crossville-chronicle.com/news/local_news/council-upset-over-water-harvesting-project-hold-up/article_cf78ce5a-79ab-587a-94b0-9431cd419b2f.html

?2012:

Presentation by GKY and USACE to City of Crossville on Meadow Park Lake.

Water Supply Planning for Cumberland County, TN

The Situation

Recognizing that rapid population growth in Cumberland County may lead to a shortfall of potable water, the Nashville District of the US Army Corps of Engineers selected GKY to estimate future water needs and evaluate strategies for ensuring an adequate supply.

The Solution

In the absence of zoning or other land use plans, GKY met with officials from the county and other municipalities to assess county-wide GIS parcel data and historical water sales information. We used this data to develop population, commercial and industrial projections for a 50-year timeframe.

We then used IWR-MAIN software, an industry standard, to project water demand and quantify the potential benefits of alternative water conservation programs. In a follow-up phase, GKY evaluated the environmental, legal, economic, and yield implications of existing and potential water sources and recommended a robust, long-term plan for meeting the county's growing water demand.

<https://gky.com/project/water-demand-projection-and-conservative-analysis-for-cumberland-county-tn/>

2012:

Meadow Park Lake dam repair and encasement (Safe Dams Act).

2012, November 18:

Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning, Newsletter No. 306

1. BIG SOUTH FORK AND OBED NEWS

C. WATER-QUALITY MONITORING

1C. REAL-TIME WATER-QUALITY MONITORING FOR BOTH PARKS

The National Park Service (NPS), with the assistance of USGS partners, has installed real-time water-quality monitoring instrumentation at five locations. Three are in the Obed WSR: Adams Bridge on the Obed, Lilly Bridge on Clear Creek, and near Hebbertsburg on Daddys Creek.

https://trace.tennessee.edu/tcwp_news/271/

2013, July 21:

Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning, Newsletter No. 310

1. A THREAT TO THE OBED; OTHER OBED AND BSF NEWS

A. PROPOSAL TO USE WATER FOR CUMBERLAND COUNTY WATER SUPPLY

1A. YET ANOTHER PROPOSAL TO USE OBED WATERSHED FOR CUMBERLAND COUNTY WATER SUPPLY

Everett Bolin, the General Manager of the Crab Orchard Utility District (COUD), has proposed to “harvest” water from Daddy’s Creek at high flow, store it in the old county quarry at Crab Orchard, construct a water treatment plant nearby and use the water for COUD needs, which a recent study by the Corps said might outpace supply by 2036, based on the report’s projected population growth. Bolin’s idea has gone beyond the proposal stage: he has applied to the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) for a permit to take 5% of the flow of Daddy’s Creek.

This is a déjà vu situation. TCWP has fought several battles in the past to keep the Obed watershed protected from withdrawals for Cumberland County water supply. One battle we lost resulted in construction of a supply reservoir on Otter Creek (an Obed tributary). Part of a solution we won was the county’s use of Crossville’s Meadow Park Lake (not in the Obed watershed), which can supply 3.5 million gallons per day.

https://trace.tennessee.edu/tcwp_news/275/

2013, September 22:

Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning, Newsletter No. 311

1. CONTINUING THREATS TO THE OBED

A. OBED WATERSHED SHOULD NOT BE USED FOR CUMBERLAND COUNTY WATER SUPPLY!

1A. THE OBED WATERSHED SHOULD NOT BE USED FOR CUMBERLAND COUNTY WATER SUPPLY!

The Crab Orchard Utility District's proposal to "harvest" water from Daddy's Creek (NL 310 1A) at flows above 20 cubic feet per second (a pretty low flow) has been formalized in a permit application submitted to the Tennessee Dept. of Environment and Conservation (TDEC). Having fought several battles in the past to keep the Obed watershed protected from withdrawals for Cumberland County's water supply, TCWP has been concerned by this latest attempt.

- Regardless of what the harvesting threshold would be (and it would, actually, be quite low), there would be damage to the watershed at all flows. The seasonal high flows are essential to the ecology of the river corridor.
- Once COUD starts removing water, who is going to make sure they take it only at certain flows?
- What remedies do we have if COUD violates whatever limits get set?
- This could very well set a precedent that encourages water withdrawals from other parts of the watershed.

For these and other reasons, TCWP and several other groups have begun to conference on this topic about every 3-4 weeks. Our Exec. Dir. Sandra Goss reports that the groups collectively monitor the permitting process, the COUD Board meetings, and the Army Corps of Engineers water-supply report.

The National Park Service will meet with the COUD general manager on September 26. In the mean-time, NPS has written to TDEC, outlining a number of hurdles that the utility district's proposed project would encounter.

- It would require a TVA 26(a) permit as well as a Corps of Engineers permit.
- It is likely to require federal funding.
- By Sec. 7(a) of the WSR Act, NPS must determine whether the project will "unreasonably diminish" the Park's scenic, recreational, or fish and wildlife values.
- Daddys Creek is a designated Exceptional Tennessee Water, and the Obed River is a designated Outstanding National Resource Water (ONRW).
- The Obed WSR supports four federally protected species. Obed and Daddys Creek are critical habitat for two of these.

NPS points out that, in place of the past and present piece-meal approach taken to address regional water demands, the region needs a comprehensive water-supply plan that takes into account mandates of the Obed WSR System. COUD's proposal states that its variable withdrawal rate would be ~5% of stream flow. Together with water harvested from Lake Tansi, however, the proposed project could remove as much as 8% of Daddys Creek flow.

TDEC is still reviewing the COUD proposal to determine whether the permit application contains all the required information. If and when it does, the public participation phase of the permit application review will commence and a public hearing will be announced.

https://trace.tennessee.edu/tcwp_news/276/

2013, November 17:

Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning, Newsletter No. 312

1. OBED AND BIG SOUTH FORK

A. COUD PROPOSAL FOR WITHDRAWING DADDYS CREEK WATER

1A. THE CRAB ORCHARD UTILITY DISTRICT'S PROPOSAL FOR WITHDRAWING DADDYS CREEK WATER

As reported, the Crab Orchard Utility District's (COUD's) proposal to "harvest" water from Daddy's Creek has been submitted as a permit application to the Tennessee Dept. of Environment and Conservation (NL310 1A). The water would be stored in a quarry near Crab Orchard. We have identified several reasons why water withdrawal at any flow level would be harmful to the Obed system (NL311 1A).

The outcome of much testing, environmental surveys, and other reports will determine whether the COUD proposal becomes a reality. An ad hoc group of groups, including TCWP, is meeting regularly to analyze the effects of such a withdrawal on the Obed River system.

https://trace.tennessee.edu/tcwp_news/277/

2014:

Hydrologic Data for the Obed River Watershed, Tennessee

"The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act requires the NPS to preserve rivers of the WSR system in "free-flowing condition to protect the water quality of such rivers and to fulfill other vital national conservation purposes." To meet this responsibility, the NPS must evaluate conditions or factors with potential to alter the natural flow of streams in the WSR system. The legal responsibility of the NPS to mitigate threats to the natural flow regime of the Obed WSR requires an evaluation of the hydrologic effects of human activities in the Obed River watershed. In 1999, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) began a cooperative effort with the NPS to assemble historical datasets and collect hydrologic data in the Obed River and its tributaries to support an assessment of the hydrologic effects of human activities in the basin."

"Numerous small water-supply, recreational, and farm ponds have been constructed in headwater tributaries of the Obed River watershed and are collectively referred to as impoundments in this report. Recently, concern has risen over the potential effects of these impoundments on the hydrologic environment of the Obed WSR (Pringle, 2000). The water-resources management plan for the Obed WSR (Forester and others, 1998) notes that stream impoundment generally reduces natural physical and biological variability and promotes conditions of constancy within a stream system. In 1975, there were 388 impoundments in the Obed River watershed (Forester and others, 1998). By 1997, the number of impoundments had increased to 2,423 (table 2). After 1998, the rate of new impoundment construction slowed, probably reflecting a combination of economic conditions, increasing scarcity of suitable sites, greater public awareness of permitting requirements, and concerns about possible adverse environmental effects (R.D. Baker, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, written commun., 2008). As of March 2002, impoundments in the Obed River watershed had a combined water-surface area of 5.46 mi² (table 2).

Aerial photographs and digital elevation models indicate that about 13 percent (69 mi²) of the Obed River watershed drains to impoundments, primarily in the headwaters (Jacob Morgan, National Park Service, written commun., 2007). About 80 percent of the impoundments are for farm and private recreational purposes, with individual water-surface areas generally less than 1 acre and a combined water-surface area ranging from 1 to 1.5 mi², depending on weather conditions. These small ponds receive runoff from a combined watershed area of about 38 mi². About 15 percent of impoundments in the Obed River watershed have surface areas of 1 to 10 acres, with a combined surface area ranging from 1.5 to 2.5 mi², depending on weather conditions, and combined drainage areas represent 10 percent of the Obed River watershed (roughly 52 mi²). Impoundments with a surface area greater than 10 acres compose about 2 percent of the impoundments in the Obed River watershed. The largest of these impoundments is Lake Tansi near Crossville (fig. 1), which has a designed surface area of 425 acres (0.66 mi²) and a design volume of 12,300 acre-feet (acre-ft; Lyle Bentley, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, written commun., 2007). Larger impoundments in the Obed River watershed have a combined surface area ranging from 2.5 to 4 mi², depending on weather conditions, and receive runoff from about 76 mi². Many tributary watersheds have multiple impoundments.

<https://www.nps.gov/obed/learn/nature/upload/ofr2014-1102.pdf>

2014, June 18:

City Seeks Timeline on Corps Study

https://www.crossville-chronicle.com/news/local_news/city-seeks-timeline-on-corps-study/article_8b877304-50a0-5c92-a1fa-b387fa850c64.html

2014, December 18:

City to Study Regional Water Board

https://www.crossville-chronicle.com/news/local_news/city-to-study-regional-water-board/article_7f3e8e6e-86f1-11e4-9b06-57ae4ba68ec6.html

2017, October:

City of Crossville OKs sale of water to West Cumberland Utility District.

<https://jimyoungreporter.blogspot.com/2017/10/crossville-council-oks-water-sales-to.html?m=1>

2017, November:

J.R. Wauford Raw Water Study. This study gives a list of numerous historical documents that address our water supply needs since 1988. However, I do not think this is an all inclusive list of studies that have been performed. This document can be obtained from the City of Crossville website from the February 6th 2018 Work Session. The following is the list of documents provided by the City of Crossville to J.R. Wauford.

“Engineering Report for Cumberland County Water Supply”, May 1988, Barge, Waggoner, Sumner and Cannon

“Cumberland County Rural Water Improvement Plan”, November 1997, Cumberland County Regional Planning Commission

“Cumberland County Regional Water Supply Study”, December 1998, United States Army Corps of Engineers Nashville District

“Securing Watts-Bar Reservoir Water for Crossville”, November 1999, Lamar Dunn & Associates, Inc.

“Investigating the Feasibility of Constructing Raw Water Impoundments Downstream of Meadow Park Lake”, December 2001, Lamar Dunn & Associates, Inc.

“Report on the Expansion of Meadow Park Dam and Lake for the City of Crossville”, April 2003, Environmental & Civil Engineering Services

“Land-Use Assumption for Phase II of the Cumberland County Regional Water Supply Study”, December 2006, GKY & Associates, Inc.

“Crossville City Council Meeting Minutes” (excerpt), May 2007, City of Crossville

“Water Supply Assessment letter to Jerry Kerley”, November 2007, Environmental & Civil Engineering Services

“Lake Tansi Water Harvesting Project – Preliminary”, January 2008, Environmental & Civil Engineering Services

“Tansi Water Analysis”, February 2008, Field’s Engineering Consultant Services

“Cumberland County Drought Identification - Standardized Precipitation Index Analysis of Monthly Rainfall”, September 2008, GKY & Associates, Inc.

“Water Conservation Plan for the Cumberland County Regional Water Supply Study”, September 2008, GKY & Associates, Inc.

“Water Needs Assessment for the Cumberland County Regional Water Supply Study”, September 2008, GKY & Associates, Inc.

“Water Needs Assessment and Water Conservation Plan - Final Report”, March 2009, GKY & Associates, Inc.

“Drinking Water Facilities Plan - ARRA Raw Water Harvesting Project”, September 2009, Environmental & Civil Engineering Services

“Cumberland County Regional Water Supply Plan – Assumptions”, July 2012, GKY & Associates

“Cumberland County Regional Water Supply - Task 1 Technical Memorandum”, October 2012, GKY & Associates

“Meadow Park Lake Usable Storage - Yield Curve”, Unknown, Unknown

“Fox Creek Lake Usable Storage - Yield Curve”, Unknown, Unknown

“Crossville Utility Service Area Map”, February 2013, City of

Crossville

“Annual Utility Rate Survey”, 2014, East Tennessee Development District

“Cumberland County Regional Water Supply Plan Scope of Work”, August 2014, United States Army Corps of Engineers

“Cumberland County Regional Water Supply - Task 3: Water Needs Summary Memo”, September 2015, GKY & Associates

“Cumberland County Regional Water Supply Plan – Presentation”, October 2015

“Aquatic Resources Alteration Permit (ARAP) Application - Daddys Creek Raw Water Intake”, May 2017, Fields Engineering Consultant Services, LLC

2017, November

Natural Resource Condition Assessment

Obed Wild and Scenic River

Changes in Water Demand/Effluent Volume, page 253

The discussion of Crossville and Crab Orchard UD begins on page 253.

<http://npshistory.com/publications/obed/nrr-2017-1554.pdf>

Regional Concept/Regional Planning Revisited

2018, January-December:

Tennessee H2O PLAN

This is an excerpt from TN H2O (Page 24) that describes where the “Regionalism” occurs:

RECOMMENDATIONS-WATER’S INSTITUTIONAL ENVIRONMENT

Below are the summarized recommendations from the Institutional and Legal Framework Working Group:

- Implement the planning provisions of Tennessee’s Water Resources Act, including those related to maintaining an accurate inventory of the state’s water resources and to estimating existing and future water use.
- Consider amending the Water Resources Act to establish a multidisciplinary and multi-stakeholder task force or similar agency for water supply planning, allocation, management of flow regimes, and conflict resolution.
- Formally recognize the inherent relationship between water quality and water availability by integrating and coordinating policies and actions under the state’s Water Quality Control Act with those established under the Water Resources Act.
- Consider using the Watershed District Act, modifying it if necessary, to facilitate a system of regional water supply planning, building on the work of the commissioner’s Water Resources Technical Advisory Committee, which created guidelines for regional water supply planning supported by comprehensive data collection, management, and analysis and implemented through voluntary incentives.

https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/environment/water/tn-h2o/documents/plan-%26-appendices/wr-tnh2o_plan-report.pdf

2018, April:

Crossville City Council approves merger talks with South Cumberland Utility District
<https://jimyoungreporter.blogspot.com/2018/04/crossville-city-council-approves-merger.html>

2018, September 1:

Allen Foster becomes Cumberland County Mayor

2018, October 2:

Obed Wild and Scenic River Park celebrates 50 years of federal protection
<https://www.wbir.com/article/news/local/obed-wild-and-scenic-river-park-celebrates-50-years-of-federal-protection/51-600213919>

2019, February 19:

Details of Caryonah Lake (Panther Creek)
<https://data.usatoday.com/dam/tennessee/cumberland/caryonah-lake/tn03561/>

2019, May:

A Mix of Surface and Groundwater Sources Keeps This Tennessee City Well-Supplied
“As for water supply, the Crossville system did a study to look at future needs. One option was to draw water from the Tennessee River about 20 miles east, but that would require significant cost for lifting and pumping. Instead, the city has settled on raising the Meadow Park Lake dam by 20 feet, expanding the lake to 500 acres, enough to meet projected demand for the next 75 to 100 years. With all the attention on restoring rivers to their natural flows, raising the dam is no slam-dunk. “We’ve been working it for probably 10 years, and we’re still getting the permits for it,” Kerley says. “It’s a huge undertaking.” Or maybe just another challenge for which there will be a solution. <https://www.tpomag.com/editorial/2019/05/a-mix-of-surface-and-groundwater-sources-keep-this-tennessee-city-well-supplied>

2019, May 20:

TDEC Stream Mitigation Guidelines
<https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/environment/water/policy-and-guidance/dwr-nr-g-01-stream-mitigation-guidelines-052019.pdf>

2022, February 14:

Environmental Committee of CCBOC discussion on “Regional Water Authority”. Quote from Everett Bolin:

"They're [regulators] looking for somebody to get a big enough impoundment for the future of the area up here — and some of the counties around us need water, also," Bolin continued. "They want us to build one that's big enough to handle everybody with the least environmental impact we can and an economic impact for the community."

<https://finance.yahoo.com/news/panel-advances-regional-water-authority-021600143.html>

2022, March 7:

Interview with Everett Bolin, 94.1 Talk Radio

Everett Bolin has served as the Crab Orchard Utility District General Manager for 19 years. He said county leaders have been working on a regional concept to solve the issue since 1995. “The former mayor back then Brock Hill seen it before I ever came here and in 95’ he tried to get a regional water authority started,” Bolin said. “Lamar Alexander gave him some money for the Corp of engineers to do the studies and all that.” Bolin said for a long time, TDEC has indicated that another impoundment would not come to the Cumberland Plateau. Bolin said since then former Governor Bill Haslam did a statewide study on water needs and shared that establishing a new water source could come through a regional water authority board. Working with TDEC and everybody trying to get it, and they’ve told me now there is a possibility,” Bolin said. “Bill Haslam’s study showed that you need a regional concept. Not so many little utilities. They don’t want to give a little utility a little water. They want us to all work together. Bolin said the water issues of Cumberland County are due to its geography. Bolin said the county rests on a mountain, so rain water usually runs to lower land. At the same time, the area lacks bodies of water. We get ours from Stone Lake close to Fairfield, and we have a treatment plant out there,” Bolin said. “The lake will produce about 2 million gallons a day and we have a treatment plant that will do 4 but our water supply will just produce 2. So, when it gets dry and droughts it gets low.” Bolin said the most recent case of drought was in 2018 when water supply was low causing limits on residential use. <https://newstalk941.com/officials-have-tried-solving-cumberlands-water-issues-for-several-years/>

Cumberland Plateau Regional Water Authority III

2022, May 9:

Private Act, “Cumberland Plateau Regional Water Authority”,
<https://www.capitol.tn.gov/Bills/112/Bill/HB2907.pdf>

2022, May 19:

Work Continues on raising Meadow Park Dam

<https://news.yahoo.com/continues-raising-meadow-park-dam-035900722.html>

2023, March:

Crab Orchard Utility District loans \$500K to Cumberland Plateau Regional Water Authority

<https://money.yahoo.com/coud-loans-500k-fund-water-001700574.html>

2023, June 19:

Regional Water Board Planning Water Summit for Supply Plan

<https://news.yahoo.com/regional-water-board-planning-water-001700882.html>

2023, August 24:

Tennessee Antidegradation Statement, Section 0400-40-03-.06, current through August 24, 2023

<https://casetext.com/regulation/tennessee-administrative-code/title-0400-environment-and-conservation/subtitle-0400-40-water-resources-wpc/chapter-0400-40-03-general-water-quality-criteria/section-0400-40-03-06-antidegradation-statement>

2023, August 24:

“Cumberland Plateau Regional Water Authority III” holds Summit.

Water summit Everett Bolin related that the TDEC Commissioner told him “don’t give up on Clear Creek”. Everett said he himself suggested that (paraphrase) “we create a lake and build a State Park”.

2023, September 4:

Utility Districts Share Challenges at First Authority Summit

County resident Randall Kidwell noted the water situation on the Cumberland Plateau had been "studied to death." He recommended compiling that information. "Different utility districts all did their own studies. There's no collective," Kidwell said. He said it would be valuable to have all that information and to understand projects that have been pursued in the past. "If you had all that stuff together, you might get a little bit better picture," he said.

<https://news.yahoo.com/utility-districts-share-challenges-first-001600745.html>

Actions by other Utility Districts:

I do not believe this is an all inclusive list of actions, studies etc, taken by the following Utility Districts. Some of these I participated in as a Consulting Biologist and others are from recollections and they may not be completely accurate.

? **2006-2007:** West Cumberland Utility District, Water Harvesting from Wilkerson Creek, Water Treatment Plant on Lake Alice, ECE Engineers and DEPA

? Crab Orchard Utility District: Raw water withdrawal from former limestone quarry on Bat Town Road

?**2018** Crab Orchard UD, Impound Clear Creek II, Water Harvesting Daddy’s Creek, Field’s Engineering

? South Cumberland UD, Water Wells

Critical Documents:

1. The TVA portion of EIS on proposed Clear Creek impoundment by the Catoosa Utility District from 1996. This document could possibly be obtained from: RUS, TVA, USACE, or the Catoosa Utility District.

2. USACE Preliminary Engineering Report from 1998 and any other documents relating to it. This document could possibly be obtained from: TVA, USACE, and maybe others.

3. There are also numerous documents held by the City of Crossville that need review and consolidation.

Options:

History tells us what they are, from the most likely to least likely:

1. Raise Meadow Park Lake dam
2. Raw water pipeline to TVA or USACE reservoir
3. Utilize water resources already available here, private lakes
4. Water harvesting from streams
5. Build new reservoir
6. Moratorium on new water customers

Suggestions for Cumberland County Utility Districts and the City of Crossville:

Add to this timeline and consolidate studies, reports, and actions.

Suggestions for the Cumberland Plateau Regional Water Authority III:

1. Please find and review the documents mentioned in “Critical Documents” above.
2. Conslidate studies, reports, and actions.
3. Please learn from history! Please do not repeat it! If you choose to go down the “Obed River watershed impoundment path” you are doomed to failure. I do not believe you have any idea of the “environmental gauntlet” that lies there. It will be like entering the ocean from a beach with “no lifeguard on duty sign” and you will be stepping directly into a riptide! The evidence presented above speaks loud and clear!
4. As I stated in the August 24, 2023 Water Summit, “this mountain has been studied to death”. The options are limited and history tells us what they are.
5. Limit agencies that you must interact with. Abandon thoughts of impounding streams in the Obed River watershed.
6. If you choose to pursue stream impoundments, it would probably be best to pursue them in the Caney Fork watershed, in my opinion. Wilkerson and Duncan might be worth considering. Duncan already has a large impoundment in the upper reaches. If you want to go big, go headwaters of Caney Fork River north of Highway 70W. However, I think pursuing a new impoundment is a lost cause regardless of the watershed.
7. As to “water harvesting”, it is unlikely to happen. Streams large enough to harvest from are most likely protected or you will face opposition.
8. As to raw water pipelines to TVA or USACE Reservoirs, I think that this is what regulatory agencies want and have since the 1990s.
9. Review databases of “Exceptional Tennessee Waters & Outstanding Natural Resource Waters”.

<https://dataviewers.tdec.tn.gov/dataviewers/f?p=9034:34304:::>

Personal Remarks

I am ambivalent about the latest iteration of the “Cumberland Plateau Regional Water Authority”. As I stated in the August 24, 2023 meeting, this is the third iteration of the “Cumberland Plateau Regional Water Authority”. Additionally, various Utility Districts and the City of Crossville have been seeking additional water supplies since the late 1980s on prognostications of growth, those efforts have been thwarted by State and Federal regulatory agencies on almost all occasions.

The remarks by State regulators that “you don’t get any water until you combine all water and sewer systems” is a classic Carrot and Stick coercion tactic. The “Carrot”: the carrot is presenting the delusion that they MIGHT allow a new reservoir on the Cumberland Plateau. The “Stick”: they will punish you for any attempt to do something they do not choose for you. Frankly, I don’t even pull this crap on my 15-year old son anymore. It is time to find some adults at TDEC, if there are any. This is the reason I stopped doing environmental work. I was sick to death of being lorded over by State and Federal environmental regulatory agencies. They sit in ivory towers and say nothing but, NO!

In regard to the CPRWA (Cumberland Plateau Regional Water Authority III), I think it is important for members to have a full understanding of how we got here.

I do not believe that putting a new name on an old problem will solve anything. The combining of utilities serves the State’s and other interests, not the citizens. It is a centralization and consolidation of power which I generally abhor. However, I do not sit in direct opposition and I hope that my decision to not speak out earlier as well as this document shows that.

As I also stated, “this mountain has been studied to death”. It is illustrated by the history above and it is likely that this is a partial list. The time for studies has expired as far as I’m concerned. For those who choose to move forward with the CPRWA or other method, it is way past time to move this to our Legislators. Sadly, our Legislators have become little more than letter writers as they let the “administrative state/regulatory agencies” run amok.

As stated in the meeting, I believe that the environmental regulatory agencies and environmental groups want to halt all growth on the Cumberland Plateau. I believe that raising the dam on Meadow Park Lake is the best solution to our water needs but I believe the environmental regulatory agencies will ultimately stop that as well. They will either make it cost prohibitive or stop it for “environmental reasons”.

Speaking of Meadow Park Lake and its watershed, it is not a pristine environment. The watershed has been impacted by the reservoir itself, highway and road construction, residential development, agriculture, silviculture, logging, coal mining, a tornado, and likely more. The vast majority of streams are intermittent in nature and we found no endangered species. Increasing the size of Meadow Park Lake by raising the dam should have been completed 10-years ago.

For those who believe the fantasy of a new water supply reservoir on the Cumberland Plateau, the calculation of size needed should not be too difficult. We can easily calculate the size of watersheds and volumes of existing reservoirs, some are already known, and use that data to calculate the size needed. Then simply ask the

regulatory agencies to show us where they want it. Surely they have a location in mind after all these years, don't they?

I believe that the environmental regulatory agencies will suggest a raw water pipeline from a TVA or USACE reservoir as they have in the past and they will settle for nothing else. In their minds, they would much rather we not capture the water here, we must let it flow off the plateau and then pump the dirty Tennessee River water back up the mountain for us to drink.

As for me, I will not be drinking Tennessee River water. If it gets bad enough, I have two good water wells on my farm, I'll get my water from there if I must. As an aside, please get rid of those damn resident geese on our water supplies.

All that being said, there are only a few options as I see it: 1. Increase the size of Meadow Park Lake which I think will ultimately be stopped by regulatory agencies. 2. Pump toilet water from Watts Bar or a Cumberland River reservoir. 3. Seize control of existing reservoirs here (eminent domain) and pump raw water from them. 4. Stop the increase in demand for water by a moratorium on new water customers.

Personally, I love clean streams, I'm a Fisheries Biologist after all, and I do not like to see streams degraded. It is a balancing act between human activity and conservation. That balancing act is why I see the expansion of Meadow Park Lake as our best solution.

Frankly, I could care less if we "grow", I liked it in the 1980s. However, many people want growth and some see it as a way to provide opportunities for our youth so they don't have to go somewhere else. I certainly understand that sentiment and it is one reason I stayed away from this issue until invited. Another reason is because I spent 6 long years playing "Whack-A-Mole" with the CHCP (Cumberland Habitat Conservation Plan). I did not want to see the creation of another Cumberland County bureaucracy that forced property owners to get a permit to cut a tree on their property in the name of "bats". I had no intention of getting involved in another contentious issue. Do with this document as you please. Use it as a springboard for the gathering of information, refreshing memories, or movement on the water issue. For questions or concerns, email me or call me, I'm in the phone book.

Closing Statement

***"Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."* – George Santayana, *The Life of Reason*, 1905.**

Best Regards,
Randall H. Kidwell
Crossville, TN 38571

I have sent or attempted to send this document to the following people:

Tennessee U.S. Senator Marsha Blackburn
Tennessee U.S. Senator Bill Haggerty

Tennessee U.S. Representative John Rose
Tennessee State Senator Paul Bailey
Tennessee State Representative and Speaker of the General Assembly Cameron Sexton
TDEC Commissioner David Salyers
Cumberland County Mayor Allen Foster
Cumberland County Board of Commissioners Member Dewey Walker
Cumberland County Board of Commissioners Member Sue York
Cumberland County Board of Commissioners Member Tom Isham
Cumberland County Board of Commissioners Member Nancy Hyder
Cumberland County Board of Commissioners Member Rebecca Stone
Cumberland County Board of Commissioners Member Darrell Threet
Cumberland County Board of Commissioners Member David Gibson
Cumberland County Board of Commissioners Member Charles Seiber
Cumberland County Board of Commissioners Member Jack Davis
Cumberland County Board of Commissioners Member Terry Lowe
Cumberland County Board of Commissioners Member Joe Sherrill
Cumberland County Board of Commissioners Member Wendell Wilson
Cumberland County Board of Commissioners Member Mark Baldwin
Cumberland County Board of Commissioners Member Jerry Cooper
Cumberland County Board of Commissioners Member Greg Maxwell
Cumberland County Board of Commissioners Member Deborah Holbrook
Cumberland County Board of Commissioners Member Colleen Mall
Cumberland County Board of Commissioners Member John Patterson
City of Crossville Mayor R.J. Crawford
City of Crossville Council Member Art Gernt
City of Crossville Council Member Rob Harrison
City of Crossville Council Member Mike Turner
City of Crossville Council Member Scot Shanks
City of Crossville Manager Greg Wood
Cumberland Plateau Regional Water Authority Chairman Greg Hanson
Cumberland Plateau Regional Water Authority Member Sean Stephens
Cumberland Plateau Regional Water Authority Member Kevin Chamberlin
Cumberland Plateau Regional Water Authority Member Greg Tabor
Cumberland Plateau Regional Water Authority Member Jeff Freitag
Cumberland Plateau Regional Water Authority Member Thom Hassler
Cumberland Plateau Regional Water Authority Member Missy Sliger
Heather Mullinix of the Crossville Chronicle
Jim Young