Little Tennessee Watershed Association

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I am writing to update you on the progress of the deliverables from the Little Tennessee Watershed Association's Miller-Coors grant. Please consider this letter and the attached financial detail our final report. Our proposal detailed several short term goals that would help move our Biological Monitoring Program's long term goals forward. These short term goals and proposed accomplishments are:

1. Improve our participatory habitat assessment activity cards for classroom use,
2. Perfect the format and increase the number of mini-reports distributed in the community in 2009,
3. Reorganize our entire body of biomonitoring data and make it publically available.
4. Update and strengthen the Erosion and Sediment Control Ordinance,
5. Help promote and suggest the passage of a post construction stormwater runoff ordinance,
6. Work with State Senator John Snow and the Duke University Nicholas School for the Environment to pass a Little Tennessee River Bi-State Commission.

The first three goals were proposed as specific tasks that our new Biological Program coordinator would help us accomplish. Due to the economic situation this year, our coordinator decided to move on to find more permanent, full time work after his contract with us was finished. Fortunately, a colleague of Dr. McLarney's in Costa Rica (also a Biologist) was looking for a long-term volunteer opportunity to study English and help out at a non-profit organization. With her help, we were able to still do a very thorough job of improving the Stream Visual Assessment (SVAP) cards (attached) and reorganizing Dr. McLarney's data.

At the time that our coordinator left, he had started the preliminary reorganizing of Dr. McLarney's 20 year old data set so that it could be quality checked and imported into a new publically available online database. This quality check was a massive job; in sum, the current Biomonitoring data set encompasses 7,722 individual observations of 196,238 distinct fish – distributed across 80 unique species and species hybrid classes.

Our volunteer completed the arduous task of quality checking each piece of information in the Access database that will be imported into the web-based portal. This was absolutely necessary because it will ensure that the search functions that enable a user to get detailed information about species, monitoring sites, catch rates, etc. will provide correct information. This work is complete and we are now just finishing minor changes to the look of the website before the data is imported and the site goes live.