

Restoration of the West Branch Davidson, NC

Project Update to Town of Davidson Board
August 23, 2022



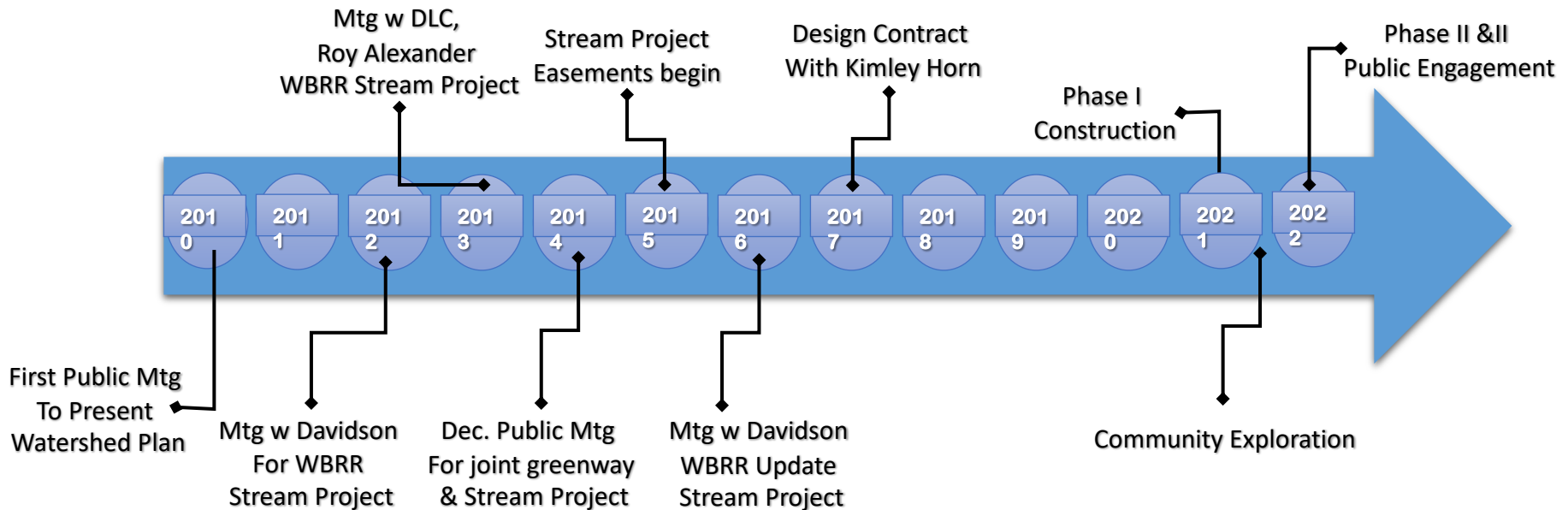
Purpose of Tonight's Discussion

- Facilitate TOD grant of storm water easement on Fisher Farm
- Highlight community engagement & resulting design revisions & recommendations
- Share how the project will impact the West Branch corridor & Fisher Farm / Abersham Park
- Address questions or concerns



Set Up & History

- NC State restoration project at Fisher Farm is unrelated
- Legal Structure:
 - Fisher Farm owned by TOD, County holds conservation easement which is stewarded by DLC
 - Abersham owned by County, co-managed with TOD



Community Exploration: Purpose

- Understand project & impacts
- Explore alternatives
- Reach consensus on project modifications
- Reach consensus on areas of continued collaboration



Community Exploration: Organizations

- Residents, park users
- Property owners
- Town of Davidson staff
- Mecklenburg County Storm Water Services
- Davidson Lands Conservancy
- Mecklenburg County Park & Recreation
- Davidson College



Community Exploration: Participants

- Janet Andersen
- Margot Leydic-Boyd
- Hayden Boyd
- Dave Cable
- Dave Canaan
- Lydia & Britt Dayton
- Cathy Denham
- Jason Diaz
- Pam Dykstra
- Ryan Fay
- Paul Freestone
- Ed Harris
- Pam Hay
- Brad Johnson
- Jamie Justice
- Chris Matthews
- Cindy McIntosh
- Autumn Michael
- Don Morris
- Chris Paradise
- Rusty Rozzelle
- Tim Trautman
- Tom Watson
- Leslie Willis
- David Woodie

Community Exploration: Process

- Collaborative process w/ broad reach of stakeholders
- Initial consensus: West Branch is compromised
- 7-month duration
- Multiple meetings & subgroups to explore issues
 - Wildlife & aquatics
 - Project design
- Final group discussion



Community Exploration: Focus

- Project concerns
 - Impacts on trees, habitat, park ecosystems & users, carbon
 - Project recovery & timing – water quality, habitat, trees
 - Lack of control of 90% of headwaters
 - Overall cost vs benefit
- Project alternatives & modifications
- Long-term needs, including monitoring

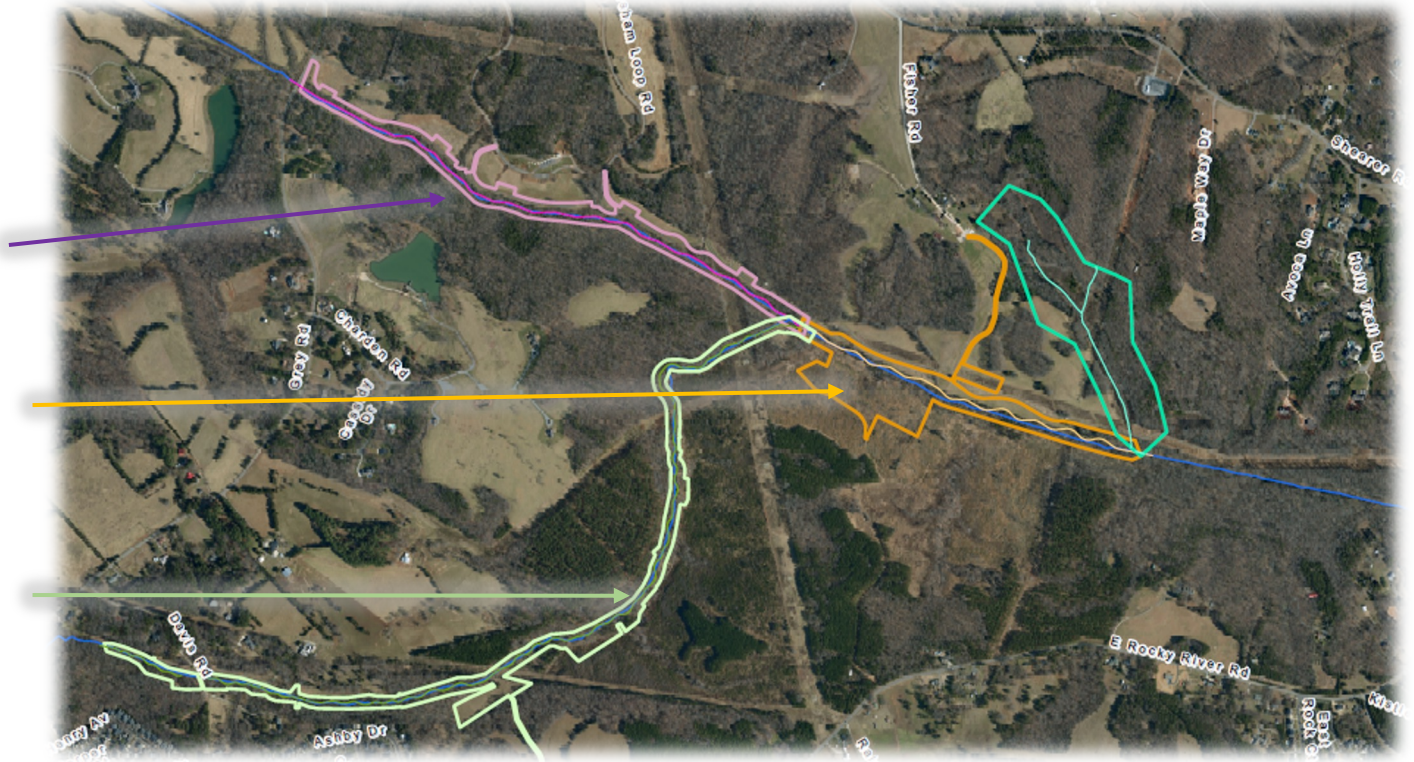


Overview – West Branch Restoration

Phase II:
1 mile, \$2.9M
(est.)

Phase III:
0.7 mile, \$2.1M
(est.)

Phase I:
1.7 miles, \$2.3M
May 2022



- Restoration of the West Branch is one of the largest projects undertaken by the County

Project Overview

- Storm Water Fee – Major System
- Need Storm Water Easement & Temp Easement
- Benefits:
 - Ecological uplift
 - Long term stability & WQ improvements
 - SRRS – County Goal



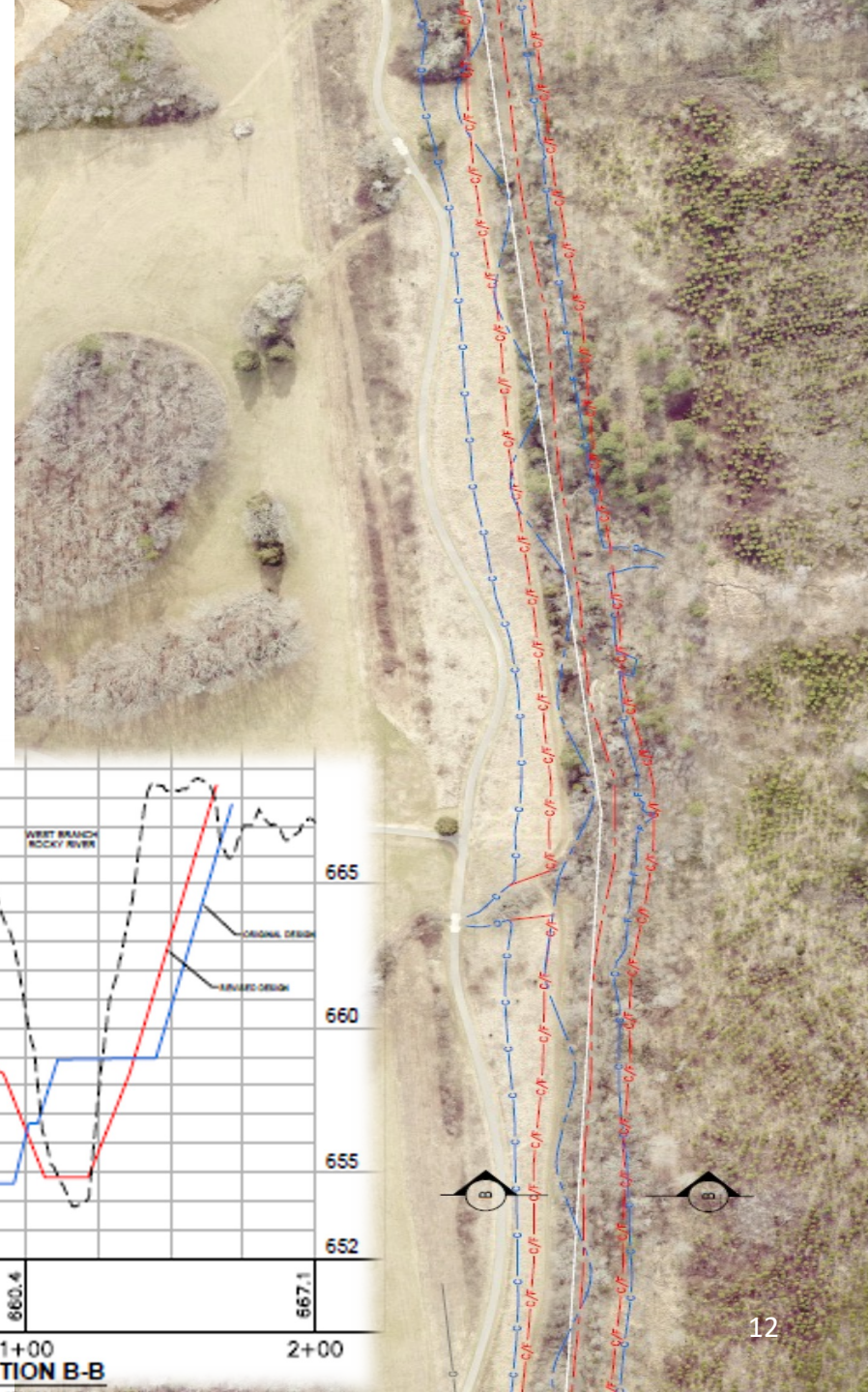
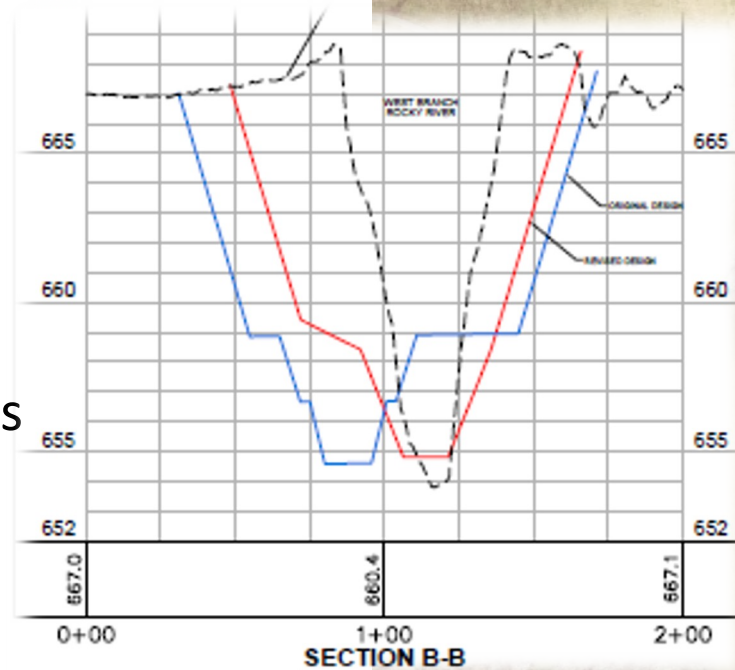
Project Changes from Community Exploration

- Reduce sinuosity of the new stream bed
- Field adjust bench limit to save larger trees on edge (where possible)
- Upgrade replanting plan
- Modify & reduce soil spoils placement areas & access during construction



Details & Impacts – Stream Design

- Reduce sinuosity of the new stream bed
 - Reduces bank cut/earth work by 30%
 - Reduces carbon footprint
 - Reduces project cost by \$1M
- Field adjust bench cut to save larger trees on edge (where possible)



Details & Impacts - Planting

- Plant larger trees resulting in quicker recovery & wildlife value
 - 1 to 3-gallon containerized trees & shrubs vs tubelings
- Added a couple species of milkweed to the spoils areas seed mix
- Contributes to the goal of re-wilding of Fisher Farm



Details & Impacts – Soil Spoils

- Prioritize private property
- Reduced potential spoil areas for Abersham and Fisher Farm
- Avoided filling on higher quality soils
- Site selected locations for possible disturbance in Park
- Quality topsoil to be scraped and reused over any spoil areas in Park



On-going Collaboration

- Long term area use/maintenance plan
- Permanent conservation of Abersham
- Proper seeding & planting of spoil areas
- Post-project educational signage
- Coordinate further wildlife enhance
- Monitoring – 10-year collaborative efforts by Davidson College, County Storm Water, & DLC

Path Forward

- Sept – Davidson Storm Water Easement approval
- Sept - permit updates
- Oct – County bids for construction
- Oct/Nov - Communication updates
- Dec - County Commission approves construction contract
- Jan/Feb – Construction begins (12-18 month duration)

