

Thank you for including Dog River Clearwater Revival in this very important undertaking for comprehensive statewide water management.

We have looked at this and have gotten a few responses from our members. We can add a few items and ideas to think about and consider:

- **Statewide bottle bill**; we understand the economic impact on the actual manufacturers & bottlers may meet with some resistance and we can provide data in regards to that end and hopefully facilitate a positive and economically beneficial agreement that could pass before our legislature. The premise behind this is that in our watershed, litter is the number one pollutant. As bottles are made from plastic, aluminum, and glass – most of these are commodities traded on the open market and to install a deposit system would help dissuade and in some cases eliminate that type of litter. People would see a shiny nickel on the ground and pick it up rather than let it be washed into our rivers, out to Mobile Bay then into the Gulf of Mexico where it may then be washed back on shore.
 - Benefits to economics could be diverse- employment for sorters, new recycle centers or remodeled centers, manufacturers who can reuse the materials, less transportation costs to existing manufacturers. Initial grants to be secured at state level could include “green” infrastructure, restore act for garnering new permanent employment, and more. Also the state could offer tax breaks to the existing manufacturers/ bottlers/resources companies to help redesign their current infrastructure.
- Utilize and promote **new drainage technologies for storm water runoff and management** that could refill the aquifers, prohibit debris from entering creeks and rivers, as well as beautify city streets in addition to protecting public health and safety through clean water.
 - **Bio swales and rain gardens** are in current use in some cities and along interstate bridges, here is a link to the [Portland Green Streets program](#) and I have included a picture for your reference below. This link also have many great resources including legislation, plans, success and maintenance.
 - Implement stricter laws and fines for those in violation of litter laws, chemical spills, oil spills, and construction site neglect.
 - Retro fit certain springs and headwaters located in now urbanized areas/ find those natural spring sources and protect them. In 2004 a local University of South Alabama student located the headwaters of Spring Creek in Mobile AL- it is actually in a very urbanized neighborhood. We are not asking that already established neighborhoods be changed so much as look at the options of creating a way for the water to be reabsorbed into land to help facilitate a healthier aquifer and long term water cycle health.
 - In Mobile, we have paved with concrete most of our watershed in addition to channelization, elimination of riparian zones and overall dramatic growth. A significant amount of our creeks are now considered ditches by the general public because of the pavement. We suggest green spaces and trails for public use in heavily congested and paved areas alongside major creeks. An example would be the creeks that run near Bel-Air and Springdale Mall-this could also be a great way to have an outdoor classroom as well as responsible development and reclaiming of the natural water cycle by allowing for reabsorption into the

area where runoff is most heavily occurring- and the ultimate thought is this could also help reduce flooding downstream. In fact, historically, Springdale Mall was a 'swamp' as well as Eslava Creek being cutoff for the construction of I-65. As far as education goes, we could help facilitate the historical and environmental significance of areas and utilizes these areas for scientific research and outreach for area schools.

- **Ecotourism** is on a major upswing as we have fewer and fewer natural spaces to easily get to and enjoy. I venture to guess the majority of citizens of Alabama do not know of our natural water resources and the actual diversity we enjoy. For example, the different fish species alone is staggering not to mention reptiles, birds and more. Yet, when I tell folks, folks who are educated and connected to their land, they are surprised. **We should try to incorporate in our water management to include active urban and rural eco-tourism sites.**
 - In Mobile, it is almost possible to navigate the city by way of water- via a kayak or canoe. We also have certain areas in the watershed that have never been developed so there are rare but certain old growth forests that border the creek/ headwaters. Identifying these areas are important to do now, before they are developed to the point of extinction.
 - One way to encourage private industry to become more ecotourism friendly is a BMP for cities, hotels, rental car agencies, outdoor outfitters restaurants to get a type of Eco- certification at the state level. It would be wonderful to have a clearinghouse of ecotourism companies and to advertise those, places to market and to also promote the state's natural beauty. Along with this ecotourism we could promote the states dedication to preserving the land with Forever Wild, Alabama Water Trail, & State Parks.

Again, thanks for including us in this important endeavor and please call me to discuss any of these topics and more.

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Bio swale examples in Portland, OR

