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Western Piedmont Council of Governments

Creative Regional Solutions Since 1968

October 2017



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Workforce Development **30 Years of Workforce Impact**

This year North Carolina celebrated its 30th Workforce Development Partnership Conference. North Carolina's premier workforce conference attracted approximately 1,000 Workforce Development Professionals from across the state. Attendees represented labor, state and federal government, education, community-based organizations, community colleges and the private sector. In its 30th year, the Conference continued to offer timely topics and networking opportunities. Workshops included Opportunities in the Next Tech Tsunami; Regional Support for Young People Aging out of Foster Care; Creating a Culture of Ethics and Accountability; Urban Camouflage; Next Gen Sector Partnerships, and this only lists a few of the hundreds of workshops available to the workforce professional attendees.

Article by [Wendy Johnson](#)



Area Agency on Aging

Resident's Rights Month - "It's All About Me: My Life, My Care, My Choices"



October is Resident's Rights Month! This year's theme is "It's All About Me: My Life, My Care, My Choices." The theme highlights the resident's right to make choices such as what activities to participate in, what doctor they want to see, and choosing their schedule.

Resident's rights month not only serves to educate the resident of their right to make choices but also informs residents about their right to always be treated with dignity and respect. The following are the rights established by the Residents' Bill of Rights:

- To be treated with consideration, respect, and full recognition of personal dignity and individuality.
- To receive adequate care, treatment, and services that are adequate and appropriate, and in compliance with relevant federal and state rules.
- To receive at the time of admission and during stay, a written statement of services provided by the facility and of related charges. Charges for services not covered by Medicare and Medicaid shall be specified.
- To have on file a physician's orders with a proposed schedule of medical treatment. Written, signed evidence of prior informed consent to participation in experimental research shall be in patient's file.
- To receive respect and privacy in his medical care program. All personal and medical records are confidential.
- To be free of physical and mental abuse. To be free of chemical and physical restraint unless authorized for a specific period by a physician according to clear and indicated medical records.
- To receive from the administrator or staff of the facility a reasonable response to all requests.
- To receive visitors or have access to privacy in phone use at any reasonable hour. To send and receive mail promptly and unopened, with access to writing materials.
- To manage his/her financial affairs unless other legal arrangements have been so ordered.
- To have privacy in visits by the patient's spouse.
- To enjoy privacy in his/her room.
- To present grievances and recommend changes in policies and services without fear of reprisal, restraint, interference, coercion, or discrimination.
- To not be required to perform services for the facility without resident's consent and written approval of the attending physician.
- To retain, to secure storage for, and to use his/her personal clothing and possessions, where reasonable.
- To not be transferred or discharged from a facility except for medical, financial, or their own or other patient's welfare. Any such transfer shall require at least five days' notice, unless the attending physician orders immediate transfer, which shall be documented in the patient's medical record.
- To be notified when the facility's license is revoked or made provisional. The responsible party or guardian must also be notified.

This month is an opportunity for nursing homes, adult care homes, and family care homes to recognize and celebrate the rights of residents. It is a time to focus on resident-directed care. If you have questions about resident's rights, contact your regional Ombudsman at (828) 485-4213.

Community & Economic Development

Notice of Urgent Repair Loan Funds - Alexander, Burke & Caldwell

The Western Piedmont Council of Governments is receiving applications for Urgent Repair loan funds. This program is sponsored by the NC Housing Finance Agency with funds provided by the NC Housing Trust Fund. Alexander, Burke and Caldwell County will receive \$50,000 each of this multi-county loan to assist at least 9 homeowners in each county. This loan must alleviate housing conditions, which pose an imminent threat to life or safety. An eligible household must have very-low income and special needs. Special needs include households with members who are at least 62 years old; or handicapped or disabled members; or a single parent with at least one dependent child in residence; or households with five or more persons; or a Military Veteran or the household has a child or children below the age of six whose blood lead levels are elevated. This program can also enable frail elderly homeowners, and others with physical disabilities living in the home, to remain in their homes by providing essential accessibility. If you have any questions, call Lisa Helton for Caldwell or Burke County, or Laurie Powell for Alexander County at 322-9191.

Article by Lisa Helton

Community & Regional Planning

WPCOG Hosting LUCA Training Session



In preparation for the 2020 Census, local governments are invited to review the US Census Bureau list of addresses for their area through the Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) program. LUCA training sessions will be held across the North Carolina to demonstrate the LUCA process, and local government management are encouraged to attend the most convenient session. Workshops are presented by the US Census Bureau Atlanta Regional Census Office staff and hosted by North Carolina Councils of Government, affiliates of the North Carolina State Data Center network.

The Western Piedmont Council of Governments will host a Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) Program training session on **Thursday, November 2, at 9:00 AM**. Training sessions last approximately 3 hours. Other locations and dates for LUCA training in North Carolina can be found at www.osbm.nc.gov/luca-training-north-carolina.

Frequently Asked Questions Concerning LUCA:

What's LUCA?

LUCA is the only opportunity offered to tribal, state, and local governments to review and comment on the U.S. Census Bureau's residential address list for their jurisdiction prior to the 2020 Census. The Census Bureau relies on a complete and accurate address list to reach every living quarters and associated population for inclusion in the census.

What's new for LUCA?

- Pre-2020 LUCA activities provide more opportunities to submit address information and receive feedback through the continuous Geographic Support System (GSS) Program;
- Streamlined participation through the Full Address List Review;
- The Census Bureau's digital address list is available in a new, convenient standard software format;
- Availability of the Census Bureau Geographic Update Partnership Software (GUPS), a self-contained Geographic Information System (GIS) tool;
- Access to comprehensive data that includes residential structure latitude/longitude coordinates and ungeocoded census residential addresses; and
- Digital participants may submit residential structure coordinates as part of their address

updates.

What's the LUCA Schedule?

July 2017: Invitation letter and registration forms mailed to the HEO or TC of all eligible governments.

October 2017: Training workshops begin. Self-training aids and Webinars will be available online at the LUCA website.

December 2017: Deadline to register for LUCA.

February 2018: Participation materials mailed to registered participants.

August 2019: Feedback materials offered to participants with the results of address canvassing.

April 1, 2020: Census Day.

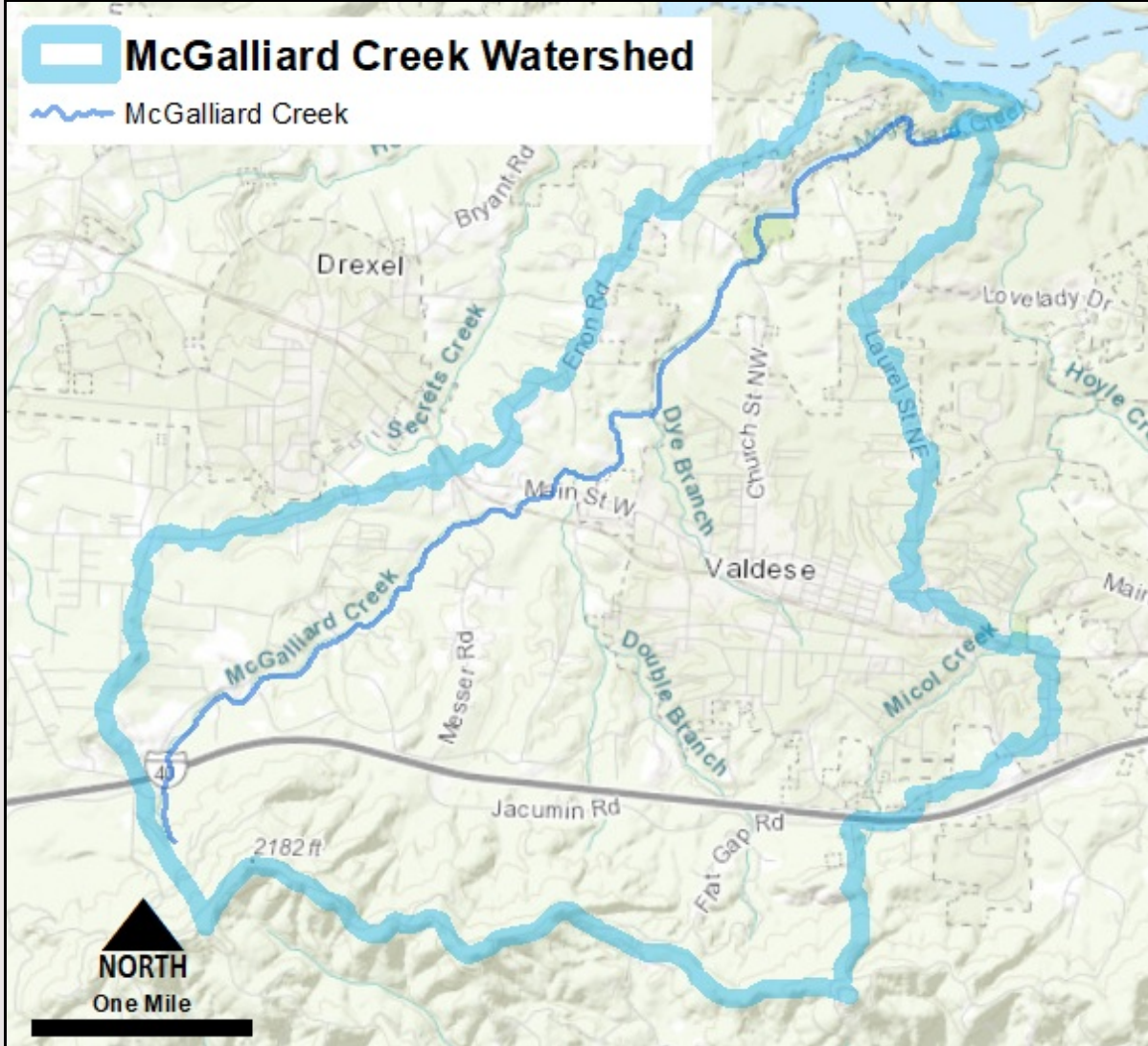
Additional information concerning LUCA can be found at the Census Bureau's LUCA website: www.census.gov/geo/partnerships/luca.html

Article by Taylor Dellinger

IT/GIS

Mapping a Watershed Plan for McGilliard Creek

Serving the Town of Valdese earlier this year, the Western Piedmont Council of Governments (WPCOG) IT/GIS Services and Environmental Planning Departments provided planning, technical and geographic information system (GIS) services in the development of the McGilliard Creek Watershed Plan. McGilliard Creek is designated a 303(d) impaired stream and as such is eligible to receive future creek restoration funding from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) 319 Grant. In addition to general map production for the Plan, the team also delineated a proposed McGilliard Creek watershed area using the Environmental Systems Research Institute's (ESRI) Spatial Analyst GIS Hydrology tools.



According to the United States Geological Survey, a watershed is an area of land that drains all streams and rainfall to a common outlet such as the outflow reservoir, mouth of bay, or any point along a stream channel. To generate the McGalliard Creek watershed boundary, the project team applied the Spatial Analyst GIS Hydrology tools to the project area's stream network and surrounding topography. The result of the process is a new GIS polygon layer for the watershed boundary as illustrated in the accompanying map.

McGalliard Creek and its tributaries combine to total approximately 16 miles of streams with elevations ranging between 1,100 and 1,900 feet above sea level. Various parameters for the hydrology analysis tool inputs included flow direction (water downslope behavior), flow accumulation (water accumulated areas), and pour points (points on a surface which water flows out of an area).

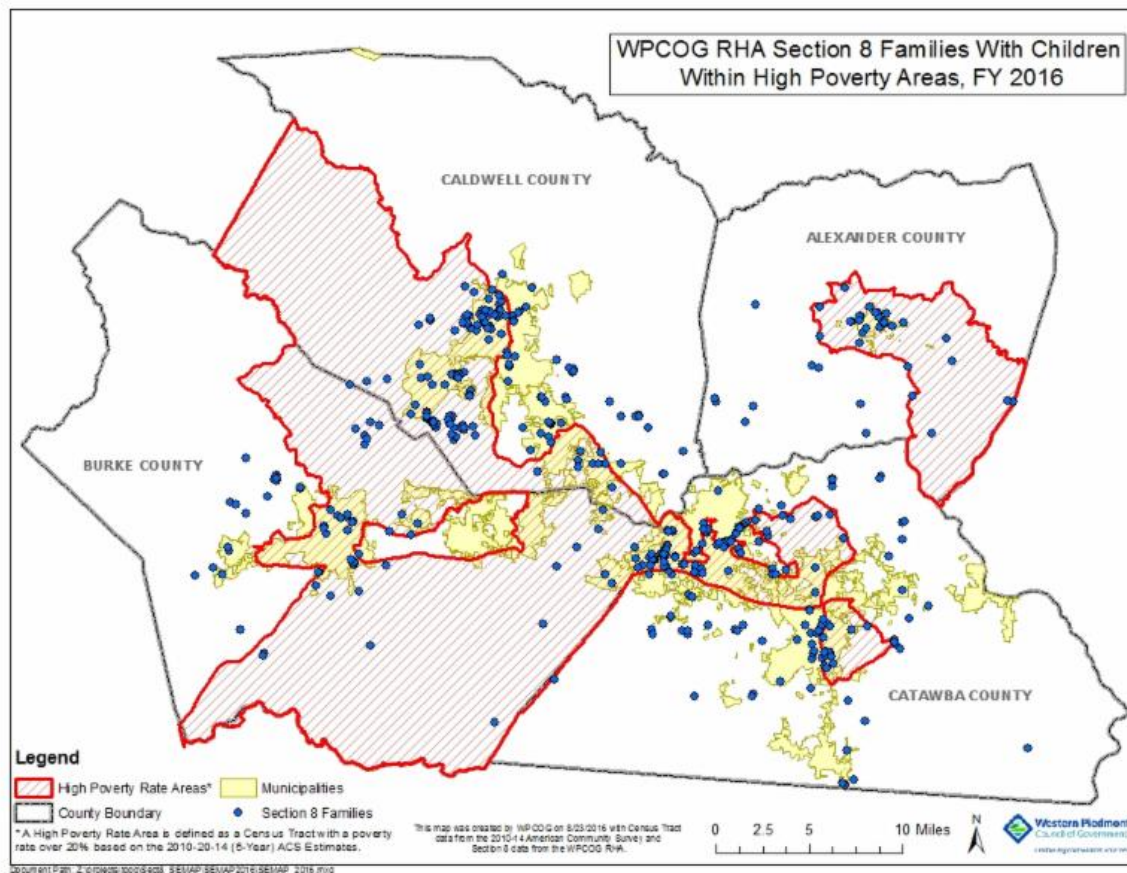
The McGalliard Creek watershed area covers almost 10 square miles in and around the Town of Valdese and Burke County. The watershed boundary follows the ridgeline around the McGalliard Creek area from Lake Rhodhiss in the north, to Hauss Ridge Rd (of Valdese) in the east, to below Interstate 40 in the south, and to Interstate 40's Exit 107 in the west. The resulting watershed boundary is the project area for the McGalliard Creek Watershed Plan, which wrapped in August.

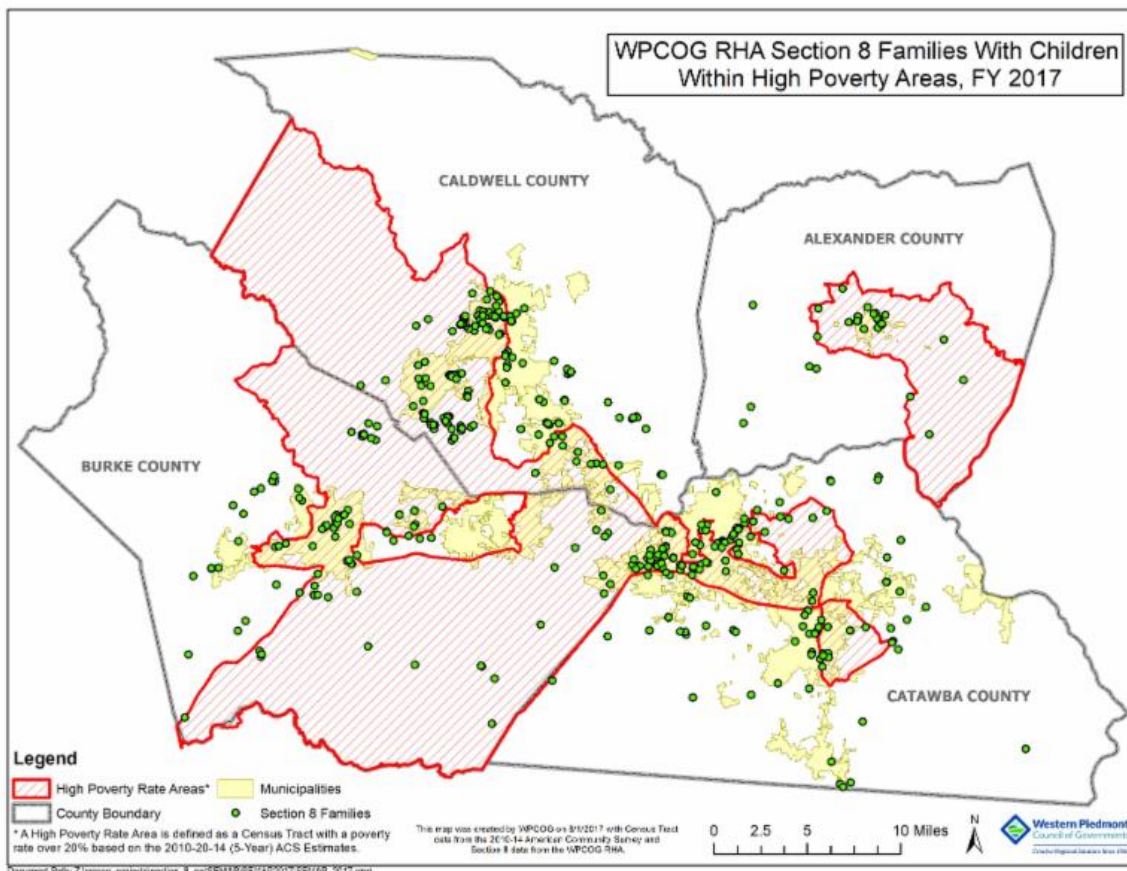
For more information regarding this project or GIS services in general, please contact IT/GIS Services Director GIS - Scott Miller, Senior Planner & Natural Resource Administrator - John Wear, or GIS Technician - Todd Stroupe.

Article by Scott Miller & Todd Stroupe

Each year the Regional Housing Authority (RHA) is required to submit a Section Eight Management Assessment Program (SEMAP), a performance assessment, to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). SEMAP measures the performance of the public housing agencies that administer the Housing Choice Voucher program using 14 key indicators. SEMAP helps HUD target monitoring and assistance to public housing agencies that need the most improvement. The RHA submits the SEMAP certification within 60 days of its fiscal year-end.

In addition to the 14 key indicators, HUD allows public housing agencies the opportunity to earn 5 bonus points. Again this year, the RHA in collaboration with the WPCOG IT/GIS department, tracked Section 8 families with children within high poverty areas for the end of fiscal years 2016 and 2017. Each year, the data is compared to show percentages on these demographics. The maps and chart below were submitted to HUD, demonstrating those percentages.





Fiscal Year	Number of Section 8 Families Within High Poverty Areas	Total Number of Section 8 Families	Percentage of Number of Section 8 Families Within High Poverty Areas
2016	332	581	57.1%
2017	407	640	63.5%

The RHA submitted these maps along with the 14 required indicators to HUD in August of 2017. In September, HUD responded with our score of 100%. Public Housing Authorities (PHA) with SEMAP scores of at least 90 percent shall be rated high performers under SEMAP. PHAs that achieve an overall performance rating of high performer may receive national recognition by HUD and may be given competitive advantage under notices of fund availability.

Article by Kala Guido

WPCOG Calendar of Events

October	November	December
06 - Scam Jam (10 AM)	02 - LUCA Training (9 AM)	05 - Western Piedmont Air Quality Committee (10 AM)
18 - Water Resources (12 PM)	03 - ACAP Caregiver Conference (9 AM)	07 - Workforce Board (8:30 AM)
19 - Regional Managers		

Meeting (12 PM)

20 - Taking Charge! Know Your Options for Long-term Care (11 AM)

24 - Executive Committee Meeting (6 PM)

25 - MPO TCC (2 PM) & TAC (3:30 PM)

26 - Workforce Board (8:30 AM)

26 - Mayors/Chairmen/Managers Meeting (6 PM)

13 - Regional Aging Advisory Committee/Senior Tar Heel Legislature/Regional Aging Providers meeting (12 PM)

15 - MPO TCC (2 PM) & TAC (3:30 PM)

28 - Policy Board (6 PM)

20 - MPO TCC (2 PM) & TAC (3:30 PM)

21 - Executive Committee Meeting (6 PM)

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