

**Madison County Partnership  
Implementing Hurricane Creek Watershed Project  
8/29/13**

The Madison County Soil and Water Conservation District was recently awarded a Section 319 grant from the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM). The 319 grant for Hurricane Creek, located on the eastern side of Madison County will be utilized to implement conservation practices on private land that will benefit water quality and hopefully remove Hurricane Creek from the 303(d) list of impaired waters.

Hurricane Creek, a tributary to Flint River, was initially listed as impaired from pathogens (fecal coliform) according to past data. An ongoing partnership continues between ADEM, Madison County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Flint River Conservation Association, and many private landowners to create management plans, apply for funding, and to implement “on the ground” conservation practices.

The Hurricane Creek project initially kicked off on July 18, 2013, with a public meeting within the watershed at the Hurricane Creek Community Center. The audience was presented information regarding history and water quality data for Hurricane Creek, 319 program eligibility and requirements for cost share assistance, and available conservation practices for their private land that could benefit local water quality. The meeting was catered by Ole Hickory Barbecue of New Market, AL.



Above: Sam Sandlin with Madison County SWCD explains program guidelines for the Hurricane Creek 319 public meeting. The grant was advertised throughout the watershed in advance. Seven applications were taken at the meeting to participate.

Conservation planning is available from NRCS/SWCD staff for all participants who apply. Approved conservation practices that treat grazing land, animal waste, or erosion issues may receive cost share through the local SWCD and the 319 program. \$266,000 is available for cost-share assistance within the watershed through 2016.

Madison County SWCD, local partnership members, and local watershed stakeholders have successfully implemented past 319 grants since 2000 within Flint River Watershed and have had two success stories for stream segments being de-listed from the 303 (d) list since that time meaning water quality was improved.

For additional information contact Sam Sandlin, Flint River Watershed Coordinator with the Madison County Soil and Water Conservation District at 256-532-1677 ext. 3.

*“This project was fully or partially funded by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management through a Clean Water Act Section 319 (h) nonpoint source grant provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – Region 4.*