

The Need for a Sedimentation Threat Assessment

Rivanna River Basin Project, State of the Basin

(Rivanna River Basin Roundtable, 1998)

Recommendations:

“Develop a Corridor Plan to guide decision making related to preservation and use of the Rivanna River.

The plan should be developed by an oversight group, possibly as continuation of the Rivanna River Roundtable, with a charge approved by the local jurisdictions and funds for development of the plan.

The plan should address mechanisms to incorporate watershed management planning into local land use plans; best management practices, including buffers, riparian owner and community issues; recreation areas, uses and access points; historic and archeologically significant sites; redesign of commercial and industrial uses and other development; special designations of certain rivers and streams; integration of policies and ordinances to protect and preserve the River; exploration of the potential for a regional or state Rivanna River Corridor Linear Park.

Develop a comprehensive, systematic and coordinated data base of all information related to the Rivanna River.

Include consistent protocols for data collection and expand the Save Our Streams (SOS) protocol and monitoring by volunteers, work with the Department of Environmental Quality to develop multiple sample protocols and with the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries to collect more frequent fish and bird data; identify the nature and source of toxins, metals and non-point source pollution, and develop more complete information on hydrology and morphology.

Establish a comprehensive, multi-disciplinary, interagency data collection and monitoring program, which brings together all interested parties under one umbrella, and names the responsible lead group charged with oversight and stewardship of the River and its Basin.

Request state and federal agencies to co-locate sampling sites and coordinate sampling done at the sites, thus efficiently maximizing the amount of data.

Request Rivanna Water and Sewer Authority adopt biological and habitat goals in managing water resources and establish minimum instream flow to protect all uses, include that for fish and wildlife habitat.

Request local governments work together on streambank restoration, erosion control, storm water management, and education of themselves and the public.

Implement design practices that promote, preserve, and protect the Rivanna River.

Request local government to incorporate design practices into site plan review and other land use plans and incentives to use vegetated buffers and other best management practices; to mitigate impacts of

existing impervious surfaces, and reduce impervious surfaces in new development; restore stream banks; reduce sedimentation. Review local ordinances and practices as well as work with the Virginia Department of Transportation toward the goal of stream protection.

Expand stewardship of the River.

Local governments should lead the way to involve the public in education and protection of the Rivanna River by providing information about best management practices and economic support such as cost share programs; developing a public education program and literature on the State of the River; and instituting water conservation practices and practicing water reclamation, and a watershed-based focus for stewardship.

Non-profit groups, such as the Environmental Education Center should be supported in their efforts to continue monitoring and providing a focus for stewardship.”

South Fork Rivanna Reservoir and Watershed: Reflecting on 36 Years, Anticipating 50 Years

(Stephen Bowler, Albemarle County Watershed Manager, 2003)

“A major issue is sedimentation which fills the reservoir at a rate of 0.93% of original volume annually.”

“The sources of accelerated sedimentation are poorly understood. Nobody knows what portion of sediment comes from the landscape versus the stream banks or what the most appropriate reduction strategies should be.”

Sediment Sources and Mitigation Strategies, South Fork Rivanna Reservoir Watershed: Analysis and Recommendations

(Thomas Jefferson Water Resources Advisory Committee, 2001)

“The feasibility of reducing the sedimentation of SFRR, through either engineering or nonstructural means, rests on identifying the sources of sediment.”

“It seems appropriate that an existing local institutional entity, or partnership of local entities, serve as umbrella to orchestrate the project. The umbrella organization(s) would secure funding and manage the project, bringing in technical expertise and manpower as indicated from local, State and Federal government agencies, private sector consultants, and citizen groups.”

Rivanna Water & Sewer Authority Revised Staff Recommendation: A Multi-Step, Integrated Water Supply Strategy, Urban Water Service Area

(Rivanna Water and Sewer Authority, 2002)

RRBC Sedimentation assessment need 07Apr25

“RWSA, working with others, will identify the significant sources of sediment currently entering the SFRR. It is thought to be mainly a result of streambank erosion during high flows, but we need to understand our watershed better and identify the actual sources of sediment entering the SFRR.”