

FINAL

Thursday, October 18, 2007

To: The Rivanna River Basin Commission

From: The RRBC Technical Advisory Committee

Subject: TAC October 15 meeting summary

The focus of Monday's Technical Advisory Committee meeting was to discuss potential next steps for the TAC and the Commission, now that the Commission has identified altered hydrology as the threat to focus on. There were two main items discussed at the meeting: 1) field trips for the Commission and 2) next steps for the TAC.

Field Trips

We discussed ideas for field trips Commission members might take to see firsthand a healthy stream, manifestations of altered hydrology, and management practices to address altered hydrology. Ivy Creek was discussed as a potential site to see streambank erosion. There is also likely a healthy stream near Ivy Creek that can be visited. There are several locations to see management practices, including rainwater harvesting at residential and commercial buildings and innovative stormwater management at the Albemarle County office building and at UVA. We decided to further discuss field trip options over the next few months and will come back to the Commission early next year with a plan for the trips.

TAC Next Steps

We also discussed next steps the Commission should take to address the threat of altered hydrology. We feel that the first step should be to synthesize what is known about management practices to address altered hydrology. We would like to produce a report for the Commission that compiles what is known about effectiveness, cost, and community acceptance of various practices. Once this information has been synthesized, we will be able to identify gaps in our knowledge and determine which management practices need to be tested.

We discussed two ways of synthesizing what is known and preparing a summary report: 1) the TAC could form a sub-group that is charged with compiling information and preparing the report, or 2) the TAC could recommend that the Commission hire someone to conduct a literature review and prepare the report. We decided that at the next TAC meeting, we will begin to compile information on what we know about management practices. This should help us identify gaps in our knowledge and help us determine if it is necessary to hire someone to conduct a literature review and prepare the report. We also talked about perhaps working with a local development to install and test management practices in the field. Biscuit Run was discussed as a potential site for testing management practices.

We decided that the TAC should continue to meet monthly for the foreseeable future.

Other

There were two additional items that were added to the agenda at the meeting, as well as an item that came up after the TAC meeting, that should be mentioned.

Rivanna TMDL

John Murphy suggested the TAC discuss the Rivanna TMDL and its relevance to the Commission's work. Several of the TAC members also serve as members of the Rivanna TMDL Steering Committee. John gave an update of the most recent TMDL meeting, and said that he is concerned that there is not enough review by local experts of the TMDL consultant's work and he feels the consultant is rushing to complete the TMDL.

We discussed whether or not the TAC should get more engaged in the TMDL and perhaps conduct an expert review of the consultant's work to date. We decided to request additional information on the TMDL process from DEQ and the consultant, and make that information available to all TAC members. If we review the information and decide we would like to submit comments, we can then discuss whether or not the Commission should make a formal comment to DEQ. Since the Commission will not be meeting for several months after their October meeting, the TAC may make a recommendation to the Executive Committee (which will likely be created at the October Commission meeting) that they submit formal comment.

Web Tool

Kristel Riddervold with the City of Charlottesville has set up a Web tool for the TAC members. This is similar to a listserve, and is a site where the TAC can communicate with each other and documents such as agendas and meeting minutes can be placed. The TAC decided it would be useful to allow the Commission members to access this tool as well, if they are interested in following the TAC's work and communications. TNC will continue to email all TAC and RRBC members the minutes and agendas from TAC and RRBC meetings. Kristel has created a user name and password for each Commission member. Members should have received an email from Kristel with this information. If you didn't, contact Kristel and she can help get you set up.

New Charlottesville TAC Member

Chris Gensic, one of the Charlottesville staff TAC members, requested that he be removed from the TAC and replaced with someone from the Department of Neighborhood Development Services or Planning. He thinks that, given the direction the TAC and Commission are heading, it is more appropriate and would be more beneficial to have a staff member from one of these departments included. Chris's experience is in trail and park planning and he feels he does not have as much relevant technical expertise as an engineer or neighborhood planner has. He suggested the City consider appointing Marty Quinn (engineer), Khadija Abdur-Rahman (engineer), Brian Haluska (planner), or Missy Creasy (planner).

The Commission needs to vote to appoint a replacement TAC member. In order to ensure the City is represented on the TAC over the next several months, Ridge Schuyler suggested that the Commission consider voting tonight to appoint whomever Mr. Lynch and Ms. Hamilton identify as a replacement TAC member. This will ensure that once Mr. Lynch and Ms. Hamilton have

identified a replacement for Chris, that person will be a member of the TAC and will be involved in TAC discussions while the Commission is on hiatus.

Respectfully submitted by Samuel H. Austin, TAC Chair.

Attachments:

A. FOR presentation 07Oct15

B. Water cycle 07Oct15