

FINAL

Thursday, April 16, 2008

To: The Rivanna River Basin Commission

From: The RRBC Technical Advisory Committee

Subject: TAC April 16 meeting summary

The main purpose of the April Technical Advisory Committee meeting was to discuss next steps and develop a recommendation for the Commission. The group also briefly discussed appointing new TAC members and public access to the TAC Weblog.

Presentation – Rivanna ScoreCard

Representatives of Rivanna Conservation Society, UVA's Environmental Law Clinic, and Southern Environmental Law Center (SELC) gave a presentation on the Rivanna ScoreCard project they have been working on. This work expands on a recent project done by James River Association (JRA) for the localities in the James River watershed. JRA reviewed municipal codes and ordinances based on 28 principles in relation to their impact on water quality and low impact development. The Rivanna ScoreCard project is taking a closer look at the scores JRA developed for Rivanna watershed localities and identifying opportunities for improvements in codes and ordinances. The group recently completed their review and report for Charlottesville and will be presenting their findings to City Council and the Planning Commission in the next month. The report for Charlottesville can be downloaded from the SELC website. The next steps for the group are to finish the Albemarle County report and then move on to the counties of Greene and Fluvanna.

Discuss Next Steps

Dave Hirschman updated the group on the status of the Center for Watershed Protection's report on runoff reduction for stormwater management practices. He said the report should be finished in a week or so. Dave will post the report to the TAC Weblog when it is finished. Greg Harper proposed delaying his report on the level of effort required to conduct a basic runoff modeling exercise until the next meeting.

The group then walked through the flow chart of possible next steps that The Nature Conservancy prepared based on notes from previous TAC meetings. The group discussed various options for next steps based on the TAC's knowledge of management practices to abate the threat of altered hydrology. The consensus among the group was that the TAC knows enough about effectiveness of management practices, but they need to know more about: 1) the cost, acceptance, feasibility, and multiple benefits of practices, and 2) whether implementation of these practices at the site scale could restore the hydrology of the whole watershed.

The TAC discussed the need for some sort of modeling exercise to determine how implementation of practices might affect watershed hydrology. There are several different types

of land uses contributing to the problem of altered hydrology, such as existing development, new development, and agricultural land. A modeling exercise could help the TAC understand what proportion of the altered hydrology problem is coming from each of these different sources and the impact that installing practices on various land uses would have on overall watershed hydrology. Rochelle Garwood mentioned that the recently completed TMDL study may have done a similar modeling effort. Ridge Schuyler added that The Nature Conservancy has built a hydrologic model for the watershed that they can share with the TAC.

The TAC decided to form two subcommittees to address these knowledge gaps:

- 1) Practice Subcommittee – Dave Hirschman has done some work compiling information on cost, acceptance, feasibility, and multiple benefits of practices. Dave offered to work on a matrix with this information for the TAC.
- 2) Watershed Model Subcommittee – This subcommittee will be comprised of Dave Hirschman, Greg Harper, Ridge Schuyler, Rochelle Garwood, and Sam Austin. Greg Harper volunteered to be the subcommittee Chair. This group will look into data needs and level of effort required to complete a modeling exercise to determine the contribution of various land uses to the altered hydrology problem and the impact of implementation of site-level practices on overall watershed hydrology.

Both subcommittees will report back at the next TAC meeting, and the TAC will use the Weblog to communicate findings in the interim.

Discuss Preparation of Document/Memo for Commission

The subcommittees will report back at the next TAC meeting. The information they provide will form the basis for a document/memo the TAC will develop for the Commission containing recommendations on how to proceed to address the problem of altered hydrology.

Review and Approve Goal Statement

The group reviewed the goal statement developed at the last TAC meeting and made some minor refinements to the language. The TAC voted to approve the following goal statement:

The goal of Rivanna watershed land-use management is to replicate the hydrologic condition¹ of a forest to: 1) prevent further degradation, and 2) restore stream health.

¹volume, velocity, frequency, duration, and peak flow rate

Discuss Appointing New TAC Members

The TAC discussed the process for appointing new staff and non-staff TAC members. There are two vacancies on the TAC for staff members – one for Charlottesville and one for Greene County. Recommendations for appointment of a new Charlottesville and a new Greene County TAC member should be brought to the Commission by the Commission members representing those localities. TAC members from Charlottesville (Kristel Riddervold) and Greene County (Stephanie Golon) can assist Commission members in identifying potential new TAC members.

There is one vacancy on the TAC for non-staff members. To fill this vacancy, the TAC decided that citizens interested in serving on the TAC should submit resumes or a form to the TAC. The TAC can then review applications and make a recommendation to the Commission on any new appointments. Diane Frisbee volunteered to be the point of contact for interested citizens and develop a form for applications based on one used by Albemarle County. Those interested in serving on the TAC will need to submit the form to Diane 1 week in advance of the next TAC meeting, and Diane will circulate forms to TAC members to review prior to the meeting. The TAC also thought it would be a good idea to tell the Commission about this vacancy and the process to apply in case Commission members know of anyone that may be interested in serving on the TAC.

Discuss Public Access to TAC Weblog

The TAC had a brief discussion about whether or not to provide the public with access to the TAC Weblog. For a variety of reasons, the TAC decided that the Weblog should remain internal to the TAC. The website that the Commission is working on developing will be available to the public and will have a lot of information that interested citizens can access.

The next meeting was set for July 2 at 9:30 am at TNC.

Compiled by Diane Frisbee and respectfully submitted by Samuel H. Austin, TAC Chair.

Attachments:

- A. Next Steps Flow Chart 08Apr16
- B. Reducing Runoff 08Apr16