

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE SUMMARY REPORT

Rivanna River Basin Commission Meeting – 4/24/08

The TAC has held 3 meetings since the last RRBC meeting. Below is a summary:

- Since the TAC and Commission agreed to address the threat of altered hydrology, the TAC has held several meetings to discuss possible next steps. To facilitate the discussion and decision-making about next steps, TNC reviewed the minutes of TAC meetings and compiled the questions, ideas, and goals that have been suggested by TAC members. TNC prepared a flow chart comprised of this information to help the TAC make a decision about next steps.
- At the April TAC meeting, the group walked through the flow chart and 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. However:
 - The TAC needs to know more about the cost, acceptance, feasibility, and multiple benefits of practices. This will help the TAC determine which practices are most cost effective and will achieve the greatest benefit in the Rivanna watershed.
 - The TAC needs to know whether implementation of these practices at the site scale could restore the hydrology of the whole watershed. 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 the contribution of various land uses to the altered hydrology problem and the impact of implementation of site-level practices on overall watershed hydrology
- The TAC formed two subcommittees to address these knowledge gaps. The subcommittees will report their findings to the TAC at their July 2 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.
- The TAC developed the following goal statement to guide their work:

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

- There are two vacancies on the TAC for staff members – one for Charlottesville and one for Greene County. There is also one vacancy on the TAC for non-staff members. The TAC recommends that appointment of a new Charlottesville and a new Greene County TAC member be made by the Commission members representing those localities. The non-staff vacancy should be filled by a technical expert, and interested parties should submit an application form to Diane. The TAC will review applications and make a recommendation to the Commission at their July 24 meeting about who to appoint to fill the non-staff vacancy.