

**FINAL Meeting Minutes
Rivanna River Basin Commission**

August 14, 2008
6:00 pm
Odum Room, Clark Hall, University of Virginia
291 McCormick Road, Charlottesville

Attendance

Rivanna River Basin Commission (Commission) Members

Present:

Mr. John E. Easter II, Thomas Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Directors
Mr. John Martin, Albemarle County Citizen
Mr. Marvin F. Moss, Fluvanna County Board of Supervisors
Mr. Robert Runkle, Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Directors
Ms. Roberta Savage, Greene County Citizen
Mr. Carl Schmitt, Greene County Board of Supervisors
Ms. Sally Thomas, Albemarle County Board of Supervisors
Mr. Andy Wilson, Fluvanna County Citizen

Absent:

Mr. Lindsay Dorrier, Albemarle County Board of Supervisors
Ms. Holly Edwards, Charlottesville City Council
Mr. John Gooch, Fluvanna County Board of Supervisors
Mr. Satyendra Huja, Charlottesville City Council
Mr. Clarence Peyton, Greene County Board of Supervisors

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6 pm by Ms. Thomas.

2. Roll Call

Attendance was taken.

3. Determination of Quorum

It was determined a quorum was present.

4. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved.

5. Comments from the Public

There were no comments from the public.

6. Approval of the Minutes of the Preceding Meeting

The minutes from the April 24, 2008 Commission meeting were approved without revision.

7. Report of the Chair

Ms. Thomas reported that as Chair she sent a letter to support a StreamWatch grant.

8. Report of the Fiscal Agent

Diane Frisbee provided the fiscal agent report.

Balance as of April 14, 2008	=	349,426.10
Interest Earned (Apr. – June 2008)	=	876.63
Donations	=	2,800.00

Balance as of July 31, 2008 = \$353,102.73

Total Interest Earned to date = \$8,948.89.

The group also discussed transferring the funding from The Nature Conservancy (TNC)’s account to the Thomas Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District (TJSWCD), who serves as the fiscal agent. The funding was raised for the Commission by TNC through private donations before the Commission was formed and as the initial donee, TNC has a continuing fiduciary obligation to those donors. TNC’s internal auditor requested that there be some oversight into how the funding is spent to ensure that donor’s contributions are being used for their intended purposes. TNC suggested that rather than transfer the entire sum to TJSWCD at one time, funding be transferred to TJSWCD upon authorization of an expenditure by the Commission. This would provide the oversight needed. Commission members agreed that this process made sense.

9. Reports of Committees

The Technical Advisory Committee’s report consisted of a presentation further described below.

10. Presentation – Technical Advisory Committee

TAC members Tamara Ambler and Dave Hirschman gave a presentation on best management practices for stormwater. Since the Commission decided to focus on altered hydrology, the TAC has been working to determine what practices can help replicate the forested condition in terms of hydrology. The presentation consisted of a description of various practices to address altered hydrology and recommendations from the TAC on how the Commission might proceed with working to abate this threat.

Ms. Ambler gave an overview of the practices. She emphasized that it is important to look at the effectiveness of practices on the site scale but also how individual practices can help abate altered hydrology on the larger watershed scale. It is necessary to look not only at new development, but also at rural lands and at retrofits for existing development. The practices described in the presentation included: green roofs, impervious disconnection, raintanks & cisterns, permeable pavement, grass channels, bioretention, water quality swales, infiltration, extended detention ponds, soil amendments, filtering devices, stormwater wetlands, wet ponds,

and riparian buffers. The TAC ranked each practice in four categories: ability to reduce runoff quantity, cost effectiveness, effectiveness at removing phosphorus, and ability to provide additional benefits (such as water conservation). A stop light was used for this ranking – green being a high score, yellow an average score, and red a low score. An overall score for each practice was also included. The presentation highlighted local examples of the practices. Ms. Ambler emphasized that while some practices may not score highly, that doesn't mean they are not good practices. Not all practices will work on all sites, and there isn't a silver bullet or one practice that always works well on a site.

Mr. Hirschman continued the presentation with a discussion of integrated site planning to reduce runoff. Integrated site planning involves using multiple practices in streetscapes, landscapes, parks, schools, etc. to achieve multiple benefits. He gave several examples of sites where integrated site planning has been used and provides additional benefits such as opportunities to engage and educate the public and incorporate artistic elements into stormwater management.

Mr. Hirschman then shared with the Commission three recommendations the TAC has developed for the Commission's consideration on how to move forward to address the threat of altered hydrology. The TAC's recommendations include:

1. Based on confidence that these BMPs are effective at the site scale, the RRBC should encourage/support their use.
 - a. Utilize on all new local government facilities, especially practices that REDUCE RUNOFF and have MULTIPLE BENEFITS.
 - b. Investigate opportunities to retrofit existing public lands
 - c. Cooperative agreements with development community/ incentive programs/RRBC funded grant opportunities for private retrofits.
 - d. Proffers, permit conditions, incentives for new development
 - e. Develop technical specifications for rainwater harvesting systems so developers can easily calculate system size and use
 - f. Convene a workshop with developers, engineers and planners to educate about these practices and identify obstacles to their implementation
2. RRBC could partner with academia to conduct monitoring of existing and new BMPs to further support expectations regarding BMP performance.
3. Investigate use and effectiveness of BMPs beyond local project scale, in more rural/non-urbanizing areas to work towards broader watershed goals
 - a. further research
 - b. modeling exercises
 - c. identification of influencing/limiting factors

A discussion followed the TAC presentation. Mr. Hirschman mentioned that the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) program, a third party certification program for design, construction, and operation of green buildings, has really become a driving force for implementation of these types of practices. Ms. Thomas added that developers are now incorporating some of these practices into site plans and will get quicker approvals and also anticipate community buy-in. Mr. Hirschman also pointed out that recommendation 3 stems from the fact that the TAC has learned that it is not possible to unalter the hydrology in the

watershed by looking at urbanization alone, but there is a gap in knowledge about practices to use in non-urban areas. The Commission felt that recommendation 1 is something Commission members could take to their localities now, while recommendations 2 and 3 are items that the TAC should continue to work on. The group also discussed the fact that the localities in the watershed are different, and some localities may be more comfortable with moving forward with the recommendations than others. Mr. Moss offered to develop a letter based on the first recommendation, and the Commission can review the letter at the next meeting and further discuss next steps for sharing this with the localities. One idea is to share the letter with the Boards of Supervisors and City Council along with the presentation that describes the practices, and perhaps have a TAC member such as Ridge Schuyler give a presentation on this as well.

There was also some discussion of the need to examine existing ordinances and modify them where needed to enable and encourage developers to use these practices. It was suggested that perhaps the Commission could consider providing ordinance or other language to localities regarding these practices. Ms. Savage mentioned that Rivanna Conservation Society, in partnership with Southern Environmental Law Center and the UVA Environmental Law Clinic, have been working on a review of codes and ordinances for the localities in the watershed and are writing reports with recommendations on improvements that can be made in the codes and ordinances. They are working right now with Greene and Fluvanna County, and will help rewrite the ordinances when they are finished with their analysis. Mr. Martin suggested that the RRBC consider developing a model ordinance and sharing it with the localities to compare to their own ordinances.

At the next meeting, the Commission will discuss the letter and next steps for sharing this with the localities. They will also discuss how the Commission may get involved in contributing funding to accomplish these recommendations, such as through supporting implementation, hosting a workshop, or developing a model ordinance.

11. Old and Unfinished Business

1. Field trip review and plans for next field trip

Jeff Sitler, Environmental Compliance Manager for UVA and a member of the Commission's TAC, led a field trip before the meeting to tour the innovative stormwater management and stream restoration projects UVA has completed at the John Paul Jones Arena and the Dell. Commission members agreed that it was a great field trip. Dave Hirschman, a member of the TAC in attendance, stated that the state is working on developing a handbook to allow developers and engineers to use innovative practices (e.g., LID) such as those UVA has used to meet the requirements under the state stormwater regulations. The state is working on new stormwater regulations which will probably be adopted in about a year.

The group decided not to hold a field trip with the next meeting but members should continue to think about possible field trips and email Ms. Thomas with field trip ideas.

2. Follow up on rainwater harvesting letter

Several months ago, the Commission sent a letter to the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) regarding the rainwater reuse regulations they were supposed to develop. The TAC and

Commission are working on removing obstacles to rainwater harvesting, and the letter was a part of that effort. Ridge Schuyler followed up with Duane Roadcap at VDH who had sent a response to the Commission's letter. Ridge learned from Mr. Roadcap that the restrictions on rainwater harvesting depend on the use of the rainwater. There are three uses: 1) use in the home for drinking water, 2) use in the home for non-potable uses (e.g., toilet flushing, laundry), and 3) use outside the home (e.g., irrigation). VDH and local health departments regulate the use of rainwater for drinking water, building inspectors are responsible for in-home uses for non-potable purposes, and there are no regulations or restrictions on uses outside the home. Mr. Roadcap suggested that the first area the TAC and Commission might consider addressing is the in-home use of rainwater for non-potable purposes. There are requirements that rainwater brought into the home be dyed a different color or special piping be installed to differentiate between potable water and non-potable water. Mr. Roadcap offered to bring together agencies to see if these issues can be addressed, and perhaps develop a statewide memorandum of understanding that can help remove this obstacle. Commission members agreed that this was a good place to start, and Ridge offered to take the lead in working with Mr. Roadcap on this.

3. Website update

Due to time constraints, discussion of this item was postponed.

4. Brochure update

Due to time constraints, discussion of this item was postponed.

5. Land/impervious cover map update

Due to time constraints, discussion of this item was postponed.

6. Discuss role of the TAC and RRBC in future of South Fork Rivanna Reservoir and water conservation

Mr. Martin is a member of the South Fork Rivanna Reservoir Task Force and gave a summary of their first meeting. He thinks that the real interest for the Commission in this is to provide input to the discussion of what the future uses of the reservoir should be. Mr. Schuyler is also a member of the Task Force and added that one of the things a lot of the members mentioned at the meeting was the need to stop excessive sedimentation and that is very much related to the work of the Commission and TAC. Ms. Thomas, also a member of the Task Force, mentioned that the Task Force is supposed to prepare a report by the end of the year and will soon be taking a field trip.

12. New Business

1. Appoint new members to the Technical Advisory Committee

Commission members from the City of Charlottesville notified Ms. Frisbee that they would like to appoint Missy Creasy, Planning Manager, to fill the Charlottesville staff member vacancy on the TAC. Commission members from Greene County suggest Dan Ratzlaff, Erosion and Sediment Inspector, for the Greene County staff member vacancy. Commission members voted to approve these nominations.

There is also currently a vacancy on the Commission itself for a citizen member from Charlottesville. Joanna Curran, Assistant Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering at UVA, has expressed interest in serving on the Commission or the TAC. City Council has not yet decided who to appoint to fill the Commission vacancy. The Commission voted to go ahead and appoint Joanna Curran to fill a non-staff TAC vacancy, subject to TAC approval of the appointment. If Council decides to appoint Joanna to the Commission, she can decide if she would prefer to serve in that role instead.

2. Discuss and act on TAC recommendations

See TAC presentation above.

13. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Attachments:

A_RRBC_Agenda_08Aug14
B_Field_trip_logistics_08Aug14
C_RRBC_Minutes_o8-Apr24_FINAL
D_RRBC_fiscal_summary-08Aug08
E_RRBC_TAC_summary_08Jul02_FINAL
F_Charlottesville_water_supply_plan
G_Stormwater_BMPs_Rivanna_Basin_08Aug13
H_Eco-Logic_article_June-08