



“Protecting the Rivanna River Watershed: A Confluence of Interests”

March 19, 2008

Name  
Address  
Address

Dear :

On behalf of the Rivanna River Basin Commission, I wanted to let you know that your gift to the Commission is appreciated by all of us working to protect the health of the Rivanna River. I also wanted, in a few words, to give you a progress report so you will know that your gift is being put to good use.

As you may remember, in 1998, the community within the Rivanna watershed issued the State of the Basin Report. The report summarized two year’s worth of data-gathering and thought by citizens about how best to protect the Rivanna from its greatest threats. The top recommendation was to create an oversight group comprised of the localities in the watershed focused solely on how to improve the health of the Rivanna watershed.

Aided significantly by your generosity, the recommendations of the State of the Basin Report are becoming a reality. On April 25, 2007, we had our inaugural meeting of the Rivanna River Basin Commission. The Commission—comprised primarily of local elected officials from the four localities that incorporate the vast majority of the watershed—has met regularly since that first meeting to hone in on the greatest threats to the watershed, with an eye toward developing solutions that will abate them.

With the assistance of a technical advisory committee, we have identified excessive sedimentation as an overriding threat to the continued health of the watershed. And as a preliminary matter, we have identified scouring streamflows and the streambank erosion they create as the major source of the sediment. These high-velocity streamflows result from the hardening of landscape that was formerly blanketed by forest. We are developing strategies that will try to arrest these unnatural flows by infiltrating rain into the ground rather than having it run with great force into our streams.

None of the work of the Commission would be possible without the kind of support you have provided. We are excited about our work, and we are grateful to you for your willingness to invest in the long-term health of the Rivanna watershed.

Sincerely,

Sally Thomas

**Albemarle County**  
Sally H. Thomas (Chair)  
Lindsay G. Dorrier, Jr.  
John C. Martin

**City of Charlottesville**  
Holly Edwards  
Satyendra Huja  
Paolo D’Odorico

**Fluvanna County**  
Marvin F. Moss (Vice-Chair)  
John Gooch  
Andy Wilson

**Greene County**  
Clarence Peyton  
Carl Schmitt  
Roberta Savage

**Culpeper SWCD**  
Robert Runkle

**Thomas Jefferson SWCD**  
John E. Easter, II