

**RIVANNA RIVER BASIN COMMISSION CHARTER**  
**(As amended April 25, 2007)**

Note: Italicized text is drawn from the statute authorizing the establishment of the Rivanna River Basin Commission

ARTICLE 1. ESTABLISHMENT

1. The establishment of the Rivanna River Basin Commission (the Commission) is authorized pursuant to Title 62.1, Chapter 5.6, Sections 62.1-69.45 through 62.1-69.52 of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, enacted by the General Assembly and approved by the Governor of Virginia on April 12, 2004.
2. *The Commission shall be established as an independent local entity without political subdivision status.*
3. *The Commission shall be established upon the passage of a resolution by three-fourths of the Rivanna River Basin's localities, in which not less than three percent of the jurisdiction is found wholly or partially within the Rivanna River Basin, that commits them to participation in the Commission as described in Title 62.1, Chapter 5.6, Sections 62.1-69.45 through 62.1-69.52 of the Code of Virginia (1950). Localities located in the Rivanna River Basin include the Counties of Albemarle, Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa, Orange and Nelson, and the City of Charlottesville. The resolution shall contain the following language: "The (governing body) of this jurisdiction hereby agrees to become a member of and participate in the Rivanna River Basin Commission as described in Chapter 5.6 (§ 62.1-69.45 et seq.) of Title 62.1 of the Code of Virginia." [Note: The Counties of Orange, Louisa, and Nelson have less than three percent of their locality within the Rivanna River Basin.]*
4. The following localities adopted the required resolution on the following dates:
  - a. County of Albemarle: July 12, 2006
  - b. City of Charlottesville: July 3, 2006
  - c. County of Fluvanna: April 5, 2006
  - d. County of Greene: May 6, 2006

ARTICLE 2. PURPOSE

1. *The purpose of the Rivanna River Basin Commission shall be to provide guidance for the stewardship and enhancement of the water and natural resources of the Rivanna River Basin.*
2. *The Commission shall be a forum in which local governments and citizens can discuss issues affecting the Basin's water quality and quantity and other natural resources.*

3. *Through promoting communication, coordination, and education, and by suggesting appropriate solutions to identified problems, the Commission shall promote activities by local, state, and federal governments, and by individuals, that foster resource stewardship for the environmental and economic health of the Basin.*

### ARTICLE 3. POWERS AND DUTIES

*The Commission shall have the following powers and duties:*

1. *Develop a plan to promote the coordination of water management within the Basin to maintain flow conditions to protect instream beneficial uses and public water supplies for human consumption;*
2. *Provide guidance and make recommendations to local, state, and federal legislative and administrative bodies, and to others as it deems necessary and appropriate, regarding the use, stewardship, and enhancement of the Basin's water and other natural resources;*
3. *Undertake studies and prepare, publish, and disseminate information in reports and in other forms related to the water and natural resources of the Basin and to further its purposes and mission, including but not limited to studies to determine the flow conditions necessary to protect instream beneficial uses and public water supplies for human consumption;*
4. *Enter into contracts and execute all instruments necessary or appropriate;*
5. *Perform any lawful acts necessary or appropriate;*
6. *Establish a nonprofit corporation as an instrumentality of the Commonwealth to assist in the details of administering its affairs and in raising funds;*
7. *Seek, apply for, accept, and expend gifts, grants, and donations, services, and other aids, from public or private sources. Other than those from member jurisdictions and those appropriated by the General Assembly, funds may be accepted by the Commission only after an affirmative vote by the Commission or by following such other procedure as may be established by the Commission for the conduct of its business;*
8. *Establish balanced advisory committees that may include representation from agricultural, environmental, resource-based, industrial, recreational, riparian landowner, development, educational, and other interests as it deems necessary and appropriate; and*
9. *Develop rules and procedures for the conduct of its business as necessary to carry out its purpose and mission, including but not limited to, selecting a Chair and Vice Chair, rotating chairmanships, calling meetings and establishing voting procedures. Rules and procedures developed pursuant to this subdivision shall be effective upon an affirmative vote of a majority of the Commission's members.*

#### ARTICLE 4. MEMBERSHIP

1. *The Commission shall consist of 14 nonlegislative members as follows: two members each of the local elected governing body of the Counties of Albemarle, Fluvanna, and Greene, and the City of Charlottesville; two nonlegislative citizen members, one each from the Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District and the Thomas Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District; and four nonlegislative citizen members at-large, one member each appointed by the local elected governing body of the Counties of Albemarle, Fluvanna, and Greene, and the City of Charlottesville, upon the recommendation of the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission.*
2. *All members recommended by the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission and appointed to the Commission by the relevant local elected governing bodies shall be citizens who demonstrate interest, experience, or expertise in water-related Basin issues.*

#### ARTICLE 5. TERMS

1. *Members of the Commission who are local elected governing body officials or members of the soil and water conservation districts shall serve terms coincident with their terms of office.*
2. *Initial appointments of the four nonlegislative citizen-at-large members shall be staggered as follows: two members for a term of two years; and two members for a term of four years. Thereafter, nonlegislative citizen members shall be appointed for a term of four years.*
3. *Appointments to fill vacancies, other than by expiration of a term, shall be for the unexpired terms.*
4. *All members may be reappointed. However, no nonlegislative citizen member shall serve more than two consecutive four-year terms. The remainder of any term to which a nonlegislative citizen at-large member is appointed to fill a vacancy shall not constitute a term in determining the member's eligibility for reappointment.*
5. *Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointments.*

#### ARTICLE 6. OFFICERS

1. *The officers of the Commission shall consist of a Chair and Vice Chair.*
2. *The Commission shall elect a Chair and Vice Chair from among its membership.*

3. The initial Chair and Vice Chair shall be chosen by the following process. A Nominating Committee composed of three members shall be elected by majority vote of the Commission members. The Nominating Committee shall recommend a Chair and Vice Chair and voting shall occur at the beginning of the second meeting. In the event that the slate is not elected, the Nominating Committee shall recommend another slate. Members of the Nominating Committee may be nominated as Chair or Vice Chair.
4. The Chair and Vice Chair to be chosen for the ensuing term shall be elected by a majority vote held during the May meeting.
5. The term of the Chair and Vice Chair shall be two years or, if the Chair or Vice Chair is a local elected governing body official or member of the soil and water conservation districts, the term shall be coincident with their term of office, whichever is less.
6. Vacancies of the position of Chair and Vice Chair shall be filled in the manner stated above except that such election shall occur at the next meeting following the date the vacancy was created. Elections to fill vacancies, other than by expiration of a term of office, shall be for the unexpired terms.
7. The duties of the Chair shall include:
  - a. Preside at all Commission meetings.
  - b. Prepare agendas for Commission meetings.
  - c. Appoint someone to take meeting minutes at each Commission meeting.
  - d. Ensure that the minutes of each Commission meeting are adopted at the subsequent meeting and that they are maintained in a centralized location.
  - e. Act as Commission spokesperson.
  - f. Issue findings of Commission.
  - g. Ensure that all decisions and resolutions of the Commission are carried out effectively.
  - h. Serve as point of contact for Technical Advisory Committee.
  - i. See that all books, reports and certificates required by law are properly kept or filed.
  - j. Sign written instruments on behalf of the Commission.
  - k. Carry out other duties as may be assigned by the Commission.
8. The duties of the Vice Chair shall include:
  - a. Issue findings of Commission.
  - b. Serve as point of contact for Technical Advisory Committee.
  - c. In the event of the absence or inability of the Chair to exercise his office, become acting Chair with all the rights, privileges and powers as if s/he had been the duly elected Chair.
  - d. Carry out other duties as may be assigned by the Commission.

## ARTICLE 7. COMMITTEES

1. The Commission can establish committees as desired. All committees of this organization shall be appointed by members of the Commission and their terms of office shall be for a period of four years.
2. The Commission shall have a Technical Advisory Committee which shall be comprised of the members of the Commission, staff of the entities represented by the Commission, and others appointed by the Commission (non-staff members).
  - a. All members of the Commission shall be members of the Technical Advisory Committee.
  - b. Each entity represented by the Commission (Albemarle County, Fluvanna County, Greene County, City of Charlottesville, Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District, Thomas Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District) shall appoint a minimum of one staff member each to the Technical Advisory Committee.
  - c. The Commission may appoint additional members to the Technical Advisory Committee, but there shall be no more than 12 non-staff members.

#### ARTICLE 8. MEETINGS

1. Meetings of the Commission shall be held not less frequently than quarterly.
2. Written notice of every Commission meeting shall be mailed to each member at the address registered with the Commission not less than two weeks prior to the meeting. Notices shall include an agenda for the meeting and minutes from the previous meeting.
3. Commission members desiring to include items on an agenda must submit the agenda item, as well as any supporting information to the Chair at least fifteen days prior to the scheduled meeting.
4. Special meetings of the Commission can also be held at the call of the Chair. Notice of special meetings may be made by electronic mail.
5. Notice of meetings shall be posted on the calendar of events of each locality, the Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District, the Thomas Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District and the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission.
6. All meetings of the Commission and its committees shall be open to the public, except those that are exclusive sessions which are called in accordance with those purposes specified in Section 2.1-344, Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, and following those procedures as required by the Code of Virginia.

#### ARTICLE 9. QUORUM; VOTING

1. *A majority of the voting members shall constitute a quorum.*

2. *Each member of the Commission shall have an equal vote* and must be present to vote.
3. All business conducted by the Commission shall be by a vote of the majority present and voting.

#### ARTICLE 10. ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. The order of business for each Commission meeting shall be:
  - a. Call to order
  - b. Roll call
  - c. Determination of quorum
  - d. Approval of the agenda
  - e. Comments from the public
  - f. Approval of the minutes of the preceding meeting
  - g. Report of the Chair
  - h. Report of fiscal agent
  - i. Reports of committees
  - j. Old and unfinished business
  - k. New business
  - l. Adjournment
2. The Chair has the right to rearrange the order of business or content of the agenda where circumstances indicate the need for such change.
3. The Commission may add or delete items from the agenda by majority vote of the Commission at the meeting.

#### ARTICLE 11. FUNDING

1. *The Commission shall adopt annually a budget that includes the Commission's estimated expenses. A process for distributing the costs for the support of the Commission among the relevant local governing bodies, based on each jurisdiction's proportional share of the population within the Rivanna River Basin, shall be determined by the Commission's local elected governing body members, unless such members choose otherwise.*<sup>1</sup>
2. *The Commission shall designate a fiscal agent annually.*<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> For the first two years after the Commission is established, funding will come from privately raised money and grants.

<sup>2</sup> Option 1 – The Commission shall establish a nonprofit corporation to serve as the fiscal agent and raise funds for the Commission.

Option 2 – The Commission shall serve as its own fiscal agent.

Option 3 – The Commission can appoint an existing entity, such as one of the localities or soil and water conservation districts to serve as the fiscal agent.

## ARTICLE 12. FISCAL AGENT

1. The fiscal agent shall have the care and custody of all monies belonging to the Commission and shall be solely responsible for such monies or securities of the Commission.
2. The fiscal agent may sign checks or drafts of the Commission. No special fund may be set aside that shall make it unnecessary for the Chair or the fiscal agent to sign the checks issued upon it.
3. The fiscal agent shall render at stated periods as the Chair shall determine a written account of the finances of the Commission and such report shall be physically affixed to the minutes of such meeting.

## ARTICLE 13. COMPENSATION

1. *Members of the Commission may receive compensation and may be reimbursed for reasonable and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties as the Commission may deem appropriate.*
2. *The costs of compensation and expenses shall be paid from such funds as may be available to the Commission.*

## ARTICLE 14. STAFFING AND SUPPORT

1. *The local governing bodies, soil and water conservation districts, and planning district commissions found wholly or partially in the Rivanna River Basin may provide staff support to the Commission as the localities determine appropriate. Additional staff support may be hired or contracted for by the Commission through funds raised by or provided to it. The Commission shall determine the duties of such staff and fix compensation within available resources.*
2. *All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the Commission, upon request.*

## ARTICLE 15. AMENDMENTS

This charter may be altered, amended, repealed or added to by a majority vote of the Commission members.

## ARTICLE 16. WITHDRAWAL; DISSOLUTION

1. *A locality may withdraw from the Commission one year after providing written notice to the Commission of its intent to do so.*
2. *The Commission may be dissolved:*
  - a. *Upon three-fourths vote of its members,*
  - b. *If the membership falls below three-fourths of the number of localities eligible for membership in the Commission, or*
  - c. *By repeal or expiration of the statute establishing the Commission.*
3. *Upon the Commission's dissolution, all funds and assets of the Commission, including funds received from private sources, shall be divided and distributed on a pro rata basis to the member local governing bodies. All state funds and assets, if any, shall be transferred to the Office of the Secretary of Natural Resources for appropriate distribution.*