



January 23, 2009

Ms. Holly Hatcher, Director of Grant Programs
Charlottesville Area Community Foundation
P.O. Box 1767
Charlottesville, Virginia 22902

Re: TJ Soil & Water Conservation District Proposal:
“Make Your Own Rain Barrel” Workshop Series

Dear Ms. Hatcher,

On behalf of the Rivanna River Basin Commission, I am writing to support the request from the Thomas Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District to the Charlottesville Area Community Foundation for “Make Your Own Rain Barrel” Workshop Series. This extremely timely and worthwhile program will encourage and give tools to citizens to harvest rainwater from household rooftops – an essential component of stormwater management.

The Commission has identified that the greatest threat to the health of the Rivanna River is the excess sedimentation that results from the extreme river flows during storms – flows that carry sediment that chokes our streams and further scours their banks. This altered hydrology results from rainwater flowing over landscapes, including yard and streets, rather than being absorbed in place to recharge the groundwater. The Commission is working with its member localities to encourage best management practices that include rainwater harvesting and other techniques of slowing the flow of stormwater into area streams.

This workshop series proposed by the Thomas Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District, thus, complements the work of the Commission. We have every confidence that it will be executed effectively by the District, especially because the District has worked the minor, but inevitable, kinks out of the training through trial workshops held in 2008.

We strongly encourage you to fund this program for the health of the Rivanna River and its watershed.

Sincerely,

Ms. Sally Thomas,
Chair, Rivanna River Basin Commission

cc: Alyson Sappington, District Manager, TJ Soil & Water Conservation District

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

City of Charlottesville
Holly Edwards
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