

**FINAL Summary**  
**Technical Advisory Committee**  
**Rivanna River Basin Commission**

May 19, 2008 9:00 – 12:00 am  
The Nature Conservancy  
490 Westfield Road, Charlottesville

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Present: Kristel Riddervold, Missy Creasy, Greg Harper, Stephanie Golon, Darren Coffey, Alyson Sappington, Rochelle Garwood, Tamara Ambler, John Murphy, Joanna Curran, Jeff Sitler, Leslie Middleton, Carol Wise (TNC), Sally Thomas (RRBC), John Martin (RRBC)

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**NFWF Grant Funding for Localities.**

The first portion of this meeting was devoted to a discussion about how to apportion the \$480,000 of NFWF grant funding for localities. Leslie Middleton explained this total includes, in addition to some reimbursement funding for the actual BMPs, funding for change orders to design specifications to accommodate monitoring equipment, consistent signage for the project (at each BMP) and studies for Fluvanna and Greene counties to identify retrofit opportunities to improve stormwater management. The apportioning process to date had not been based on a specific methodology and had gone through several rounds of proposals. In addition, since the original proposal, some projects have been further refined or progressed through design and better total cost estimates have been received which affect the ratio of cost to funding reimbursement. Greg Harper suggested that a methodology be applied to justify the apportionment and offered an option based on the founding fathers' method of representation in the US Senate and House of Representatives. The TAC members discussed options at length and eventually agreed upon the following:

Albemarle County	\$120k for engineered wetlands in Crozet and signage
Charlottesville	\$90k for rainwater harvesting/bioswale at Charlottesville HS including any change orders required and signage for the project
Fluvanna County	\$200k for rainwater harvesting/bioswale at new Fluvanna HS including any change orders required and signage for the project and including approximately \$35k for Inventory Retrofit study
Greene County	\$70k for BMPs at Greene County Park, signage, and including approximately \$25k for Inventory Retrofit study

In the final analysis, there is no totally defensible methodology to apportion "evenly" or even fairly between localities. One way to think about this project is that it is the sum of all its parts. Each locality project offers different benefits (the technology, visibility, the match that it brings to the grant) – and it is difficult to take a "watershed approach" to making these decisions given each locality project manager's accountability to that locality. The TAC members (Kristel, Greg, Stephanie, and Darren) were congratulated

for coming to agreement on a particularly sensitive and challenging issue, especially in these tight economic times.

### **Discussion TNC Fundraising for the RRBC.**

Carol Wise, Associate Director of Philanthropy for the Nature Conservancy, introduced herself to the TAC and explained that she wanted to sit in on meetings from time to time to get a better sense of how the River Basin Commission was proceeding. She congratulated TAC and the RRBC on its successful grant application to NFWF and explained that, while the donors to these project were pleased to provide start-up funds for the RRBC, they felt that in the long run the RRBC needs to receive funding from the locality members. The NFWF grant, which leverages both the private TNC/RRBC funding with public dollars in match from the localities, provides a good stepping stone towards that possibility.

### **Election of Chair and Vice-Chair of the TAC.**

Alyson Sappington explained that Sam Austin could not be at this meeting, and that Sam had asked Alyson to act as Chair for the meeting. The TAC unanimously re-elected Sam Austin as the Chair of the RRBC TAC for another year and Alyson Sappington as Vice-chair for one year. The duty of the Vice-chair is to fill in for the Chair when s/he is unable to plan for and/or attend a TAC meeting.

### **Workload and expectations of the TAC.**

Leslie explained that she understood that now that the RRBC has a new Executive Director and the RRBC has projects starting to unfold there is additional work that is expected of TAC members. At the same time it is natural, when staff for a previously unstaffed organization is first hired, for committee members to expect that their workload will decrease – and it has been just the opposite. Leslie asked for feedback from TAC members about this. The following points were offered:

- There has been a sharp increase in workload for some TAC members, especially with regard to assisting with the NFWF grant proposal and now with starting the planning and implementation. It is not always possible to respond to requests from the RRBC when one's existing organizational workload must take primacy.
- The more successful the RRBC is the more it is likely we will all have more work to do related to the RRBC.
- The program described by the NFWF grant is moving the TAC forward out of the discussion of the problem phase to actually implementing solutions.
- The RRBC, through the TAC Monitoring Sub-committee has now assumed some new involvement for the monitoring BMPs, which is a very inexact science.

Generally, TAC members also felt that the TAC must stay true to its role as a technical committee – one that advises the RRBC. Now that the NFWF grant has been secured, it is probably time to revisit the "watershed threats" and provide guidance to the RRBC about next steps. In addition, the TAC should continue to take advantage of the technical expertise of its membership.

The following ideas were suggested to help address the new challenges:

1. Email messages from the RRBC staff should be designated (in the header) as "Info Only" and "Action Needed".
2. Leslie will connect more regularly with the chairs of the sub-committees to help with activities of those committees.
3. TAC meetings will resume presentations from technical experts (from the outside or from within membership of the TAC). Technical focus of the upcoming meetings could be:

July	Rainwater Harvesting
September	Update on the Land Cover map project

Most agreed that it was time to step back and refocus the TAC on the original questions facing the Commission and challenges to the watershed. All agreed that it is important to keep the scientific and technical questions central to the deliberations of the Technical Advisory Committee.

#### **Timing and frequency of TAC meetings.**

It was suggested that TAC meetings be held once a quarter and approximately half-way in-between the quarterly meetings of the RRBC. In addition, Greg Harper explained that he could rarely attend the TAC meetings due to a conflict with a regularly scheduled staff meeting at the County. Leslie agreed to follow up on scheduling upcoming TAC meetings based on input from TAC members via a Doodle scheduling poll. There was discussion about changing the upcoming July 21 TAC meeting to a date earlier in July. [Note: Sam Austin, Chair, later requested that the meeting be on Tuesday, July 14, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.]

John Martin, RRBC member in attendance, further suggested that the Commission host once a year a "state of the science" symposium that might be scheduled at the same time as the RCS Teachers Watershed Summit. Such a symposium could have multiple tracks and include presentations by StreamWatch, DCR, and others. Leslie reported that the NFWF grant provides some funding for hosting a watershed-wide symposium geared at elected officials, planners, and engineers regarding stormwater, and that perhaps these two events could be combined.

#### **Update on Developer Roundtables and draft letter to forward comments to DCR.**

Alyson reported that DCR/Eric Capps felt that the roundtables were important and effective in providing a forum for giving feedback to DCR, although there was little feedback that was new to DCR. It was suggested that perhaps it would be helpful to host a roundtable specifically for members of the various boards of supervisors as they approach the decision about whether or not to administer their own stormwater programs. One outcome of the April 15 Roundtable is that Albemarle County's Planning Commission will be discussing the proposed regulations at their June 12 meeting.

Once the comments from all the Roundtables have been transcribed, the RRBC will forward these to DCR, with little comment except perhaps to note the overlapping comments about such things as economic impacts.

**Update on proposed stormwater regulations, including RRBC comment letter.**

Leslie Middleton reported that she expects that the RRBC will provide written comments once the public comment period is noticed. The TAC discussed whether the RRBC should offer comments in addition to comments coming from the various localities. Leslie reported that at least one County will likely "copy" the RRBC letter. Sally Thomas (RRBC, Chair) suggested that the process of getting the RRBC to agree on comments would likely result in a "lowest common denominator" type of letter, however it would be a good place to endorse the need for stronger stormwater regulations and funding to support localities in implementing these regulations. Leslie Middleton requested an ad-hoc team of TAC members to work with in drafting letter from RRBC to DCR when the time comes. Darren Coffey offered to review a draft letter.

**Update on Healthy Watershed Initiative (HWI).**

Leslie Middleton reported that work is underway to scope the healthy Water Initiative will include about \$20k coming to the RRBC to help with assessment and some implementation (comprehensive plan/codes work). RRBC plans to contract with StreamWatch to do the biological monitoring portion of the assessment work in the Rivanna in conjunction with VCU habitat assessment and fish sampling.

**Coordination with RCS/SELC/UVA on stormwater scorecard project.**

Leslie Middleton reported that she will be meeting with the "scorecard" project team from RCS, UVA Environmental Law Clinic, and SELC later in the week to discuss ways of working together, between the "codes" work of their project and the proposed NFWF-funded work with planning/zoning departments of member localities as well as HWI work on introducing "healthy waters" language in to comprehensive plans. Leslie also reported that she is starting to work with Bill Wanner (TJPDC) on the Greene County comprehensive plan update.

Reports from Sub-committees

**Monitoring Sub-committee.**

Tamara Ambler (Chair) reported that much of the work of this sub-committee has focused on helping define the data needs for monitoring the stormwater BMPs of the NFWF grant. In addition, the subcommittee wants to keep in mind its task of taking a synoptic look at the whole watershed with respect to monitoring activities, data needs, gauges, etc. and looks forward to continuing this discussion.

Leslie Middleton reported that StreamWatch is being hired by RRBC to coordinate the monitoring for the grant. John Murphy reported that he is working with each of the localities to make sure that infrastructure is either in place or properly designed to utilize monitoring equipment aimed at getting flow, nutrient, and sediment reduction data for each BMP. Greg Harper offered to help with engineering solutions, especially for the

immediate need to define requirements for the Charlottesville HS project, which went out for bid this week.

Tamara reported that she will be on maternity leave for three months starting in the beginning of August. John Murphy agreed to assume temporary leadership of the subcommittee in her absence.

**Rainwater Harvesting Subcommittee.**

Kristel Riddervold (Chair) reported that she spoke with Delegate David Bulova (Fairfax County) at a meeting about the effort to encourage state-level coordination about requirements for use of rainwater harvesting in public facilities. Delegate Bulova affirmed that Mr. Wes Kleene will be organizing a meeting to get state level parties (DCR, DEQ, VDH) in agreement and then host a meeting of stakeholders, to which we would likely be invited. Leslie Middleton affirmed that she had gotten the same information from Jack Frye of DCR.

Sally Thomas reported that the High Growth Coalition of Virginia counties is having a meeting this summer at which various topics will be discussed including alternative septic systems. Local governments cannot prohibit the use of alternative septic systems – and with the advent of wind turbines and rainwater harvesting for individual homeowners, there will be little localities can do to prevent sprawl. Traditionally, growth management has been dependent upon geography and the limits of infrastructure, but this is changing. She cautioned that the current enthusiasm for rainwater harvesting may have unintended consequences.

**Watershed Modeling Subcommittee.**

The Modeling Subcommittee is poised to make use of the land cover map when it becomes available in late summer.

Next TAC meeting date: July 14, 2009 from *9a.m. to 12 p.m. at The Nature Conservancy downstairs conference room.*

Next Rivanna River Basin Commission meeting is July 23 from 6 – 8 p.m. in Fluvanna at the Old County Office Building Conference Room.

Compiled by Leslie Middleton and respectfully submitted by Samuel H. Austin, TAC Chair.

**Attachments:**

A. RRBC TAC agenda 09May19