

**Executive Director's Report
April 6, 2010**

GRANT PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Rivanna Regional Pilot Program for the Chesapeake Bay TMDL

- RRBC and its partners selected as one of two Virginia pilot projects
- Partners are TJPDC, Culpeper SWCD, Thomas Jefferson SWCD, and StreamWatch
- Project goal is to develop a local process that engages diverse stakeholders on the Chesapeake Bay TMDL to provide input for the Watershed Implementation Plan: What are the impediments? What additional resources are needed (e.g. funding, staff, enabling legislation, etc.)?
- Stakeholders include: local government officials and staff, homebuilders, real estate, public water and sewer rate payers and providers, permit holders, environmental groups, agricultural and forestry interests
- Goals will be finalized late April in conjunction with DCR and the partners
- Close communication and participation with Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), the state agency charged with developing and managing the Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs)
- Timeframe: April through December 2010 (in order to inform EPA and DCR of challenges and lessons learned)
- Resources include support from two from EPA contractors: TetraTech (technical) and CPRC (facilitation)
- Facilitation assistance will be from the Institute of Environmental Negotiations (IEN), specifically Mr. Frank Dukes, who is also assisting the TMDL process at the state level
- Funding is being sought for the RRBC and its partners

Benefits for the Rivanna local governments and RRBC:

- Opportunity to craft a local response to impending regulatory process
- Opportunity to compare existing local land use and water quality data with data used for Chesapeake Bay Model (from which pollution load targets are derived)
- Support in designing local comprehensive monitoring program
- Undertake components of a watershed planning document for the Rivanna to guide local conservation and restoration efforts
- Stakeholder involvement process undertaken with expert assistance that will serve future RRBC work

National Fish & Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Stormwater Grant Update

- Contracts are in place with
 - TJPDC (Monitoring Stormwater BMPs in Charlottesville and Crozet) – final monitoring plan being reviewed and monitoring equipment RFP issued
 - Center for Watershed Protection (Greene County Bioswale design, Inventory of Opportunities for Stormwater Retrofit studies for Greene and Fluvanna) – design of bioswale underway

- Rivanna Conservation Society (outreach and volunteer engagement for projects at Greene County Community Park) – first planting event on April 3 was a success
- Finalizing contract with StreamWatch (for monitoring at Fluvanna and Greene) – baseline work done by StreamWatch with payment by invoice
- Signage being developed for demonstration sites
- The project is on schedule and within budget

Dept. of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Healthy Waters Grant Update

- Contracts are in place with
 - StreamWatch (benthic monitoring and consult with project team on communicating the results)
 - Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) (biological/fish and habitat assessment, data development and identification of Rivanna healthy stream segments)
- Meeting April 19 with DCR, VCU, StreamWatch and RRBC to discuss preliminary results
- Grant project includes identifying planning tools to increase protection of existing healthy waters
- The project is on schedule for completion on June 30, 2010, and within budget

Rivanna Regional Land Cover Map Layer

- Ready for distribution
- Late delivery, but within budget

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Rivanna Coordination Meeting, March 4

- TJPDC, StreamWatch, Rivanna Conservation Society, RRBC met to discuss roles and mutual interests
- General agreement that a unique role of the RRBC amongst its Rivanna partners is watershed planning and watershed policy development and promotion

Progress on Statewide Rainwater Harvesting Guidelines, March 12

- RRBC with two TAC members (Alyson Sappington, TJSWCD, and Kristel Riddervold, Charlottesville Environmental Administrator) met with representatives from Virginia Department of Health (VHD), Dept. of Environmental Quality (DEQ), DCR, and Dept. of Housing and Community Development (DHCD)
- RRBC team is offering the state team suggested content for a statewide guidance document (with help from staff of *WaterStreet* Studio and Cabell Brand Center, both of whom are devoted to promoting rainwater harvesting in Virginia)

COMMUNICATIONS

- Monthly e-newsletter has been inaugurated and will be distributed to RRBC Commissioners, all local governments' elected bodies, Planning Commissioners,

- local government executives, and planning and environmental staff
- RRBC now has in-house capacity to update the RRBC website
- Website has meeting calendar
- Additional work on website to be completed by June 30, 2010 includes social networking feeds, updated content pages, and other features.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

- FY 2011 Budget Preparation and Approval schedule depends upon RRBC meeting dates:
 - Schedule A** (next RRBC meeting as planned on July 15, 2010)
 1. Draft to Executive Committee by June 1.
 2. Approved by Treasurer and/or Executive Committee before July 1.
 3. Final approval by full Commission at July 15, 2010, meeting.
 - Schedule B** (if next “bi-monthly” RRBC meeting is June)
 1. Draft to Executive Committee by May 15
 2. Approved by Treasurer and/or Executive Committee before June 1
 3. Final approval by full Commission at June 2010 meeting for start of fiscal year on July, 1, 2010.
- Funding Agreement between RRBC and The Nature Conservancy for FY 2011 is being developed

ADMINISTRATION

- Rose Brown’s contract concludes on June 30, 2010, and will not be renewed since she will be returning full-time to StreamWatch at that time. Plans are underway to advertise for a Program Coordinator to start around July 1st. This position will be at least 25 hours a week, possibly more, pending review of the FY 2011 budget.
- Administrative systems are being developed for office procedures and recordkeeping.
- RRBC will develop the Personnel Handbook, Procurement Policy, and Conflict of Interest Policy prior to June 30, 2010.

RRBC Participation in Meetings and Conferences

- February 4 – Presentation to TJPDC on the Chesapeake Bay TMDL
- February 26 – Chesapeake Bay TMDL Virginia Stakeholders Advisory Group (Richmond)
- March 3 – Advocates for Sustainable Albemarle Population (ASAP) workshop “Our Community’s Sustainability and Carrying Capacity”
- March 9-11 – Stormwater Workshop hosted by Center for Watershed Protection and Chesapeake Stormwater Network (Staunton, VA)
- March 12 – Rainwater Harvesting Meeting (VDH, DEQ, DCR, DHCD) (Richmond)
- March 16 – StreamWatch Transition Committee (transition to 501-c-3)

- March 17 – StreamWatch Rivanna Database meeting of partners and users
- March 23 – Thomas Jefferson Water Resources protection Foundation panel discussion on conservation easement tools
- March 29 - Roll-out of UVA's Bay Game to group of state policy makers
- March 31 – Forests to Faucets project committee meeting
- April 7 – Environment Virginia (Lexington, VA)
- April 8-9 – NFWF hosted retreat for NFWF grantees (Shepherdstown, WV)
- April 15 - Chesapeake Bay TMDL Virginia Stakeholders Advisory Group (Richmond)

Activities Planned for Upcoming Quarter

- Prepare FY 2011 budget
- Interview auditors for 2011
- Execute Memorandum of Agreement with Albemarle County for NFWF project
- Execute Grant Agreement with The Nature Conservancy
- Finalize web site and integrate with monthly e-Newsletters
- Contact Commonwealth Attorneys regarding Commissioner liability issues
- Contact Attorney General regarding “tax exempt donations” to the Commission
- Offer presentations to each locality (Boards of Supervisors, City Council, and Planning Commissions) on RRBC mission and activities (to be coordinated with Commissioners and TAC members)
- Support May 18 RRBC Technical Advisory Committee meeting
- Assure effective introduction of Land Cover Map to all localities
- May 7 Grant Proposal to NFWF: Watershed Planning (pending RRBC approval) –
(See **New Business, TAB 7**)