



## Meeting Highlights from August 9, 2010 Rivanna River Basin Commission

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### Chesapeake Bay TMDL

- Virginia DEQ and DCR are developing the Phase I Watershed Implementation Plan for Virginia's portion of the Bay TMDL for submission to EPA by September 1, 2010, with input from sector working groups of the Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG), on which Ms. Middleton serves.
- EPA will develop the draft TMDL from input from Virginia and the other five Bay jurisdictions and submit for 45-day public comment starting September 24, 2010.
- To get updates about the Bay TMDL from Virginia, contact Gary Waugh (DCR) at [Gary.Waugh@dcr.virginia.gov](mailto:Gary.Waugh@dcr.virginia.gov). Information about the Chesapeake Bay TMDL is available [HERE](#).
- EPA has been working with Virginia and the other Bay states and Wash DC to develop allocations of nitrogen, phosphorous, and sediment for each major Bay tributary. These are based on the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model that predicts water quality results for the main stem of the Chesapeake Bay and the tidal James River based on input from pollution generating activities on land by agriculture, forestry, urban landscapes, wastewater treatment plants and other land uses.
- Virginia's draft Phase I Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) will outline the strategies (including legislation) for achieving pollution reductions from each source sector between now and 2017 (when 60% of the final 2025 goal must be reached). The WIP will also identify the resources needed to achieve these goals. Nutrient and sediment reductions required in the James River watershed are significantly more than outlined in the 2005 Tributary Strategies and go well beyond the "low hanging fruit." It will be necessary for all sectors to make substantial changes to meet the necessary reductions, which must also account for anticipated growth in the Bay watershed.

### Piedmont Regional Pilot Project for the Chesapeake Bay TMDL

- RRBC is part of the Pilot Project, one of seven in the Chesapeake Bay, which is developing strategies to engage local governments in the Bay TMDL during 2010 and providing recommendations to Virginia DCR and EPA for developing the Phase II Watershed Implementation Plans in 2011. Local governments, watershed groups, and regional entities such as the SWCDs will be required to implement water quality initiatives for the Bay TMDL.
- The focus of the Pilot Project is to encourage interest in local water quality goals and encourage a proactive, and possibly regional, approach to the Bay TMDL in our region.
- The Pilot Project will provide information to and gather feedback and suggestions from those who will be most affected by the Bay TMDL using focus groups to be held in late August through September with representatives from local governments, agriculture (of all kinds), the building/development community, and permit holders (MS4 and wastewater).
- RRBC provides coordination for the Steering Committee, which consists of Carl Schmitt (Greene County BOS), Connie Brennan (Nelson BOS), Leslie Middleton (RRBC & Virginia SAG member), Sally Thomas (CBP LGAC & Virginia SAG member), Rick Parrish (SELC & Virginia SAG member), Steve Williams (TJPDC), Alyson Sappington (TJSWCD) and Greg Wichelns (Culpeper SWCD). RRBC staff is also coordinating (EPA-funded) contractor support.
- The Institute for Environmental Negotiations is providing meeting facilitation and management and will help develop the draft report that will be presented to each of the six localities in Planning District 15 in late October and early November 2010.
- Contractor support from TetraTech includes analysis of existing TMDLs in the Rivanna region compared to Chesapeake Bay model runs to evaluate how local clean water initiatives may compare to the "pollution diet" for our region of the Upper James watershed.

### Other RRBC Commission Updates

- RRBC will undertake a joint RRBC-TAC strategic planning process in November.
- Commissioners and TAC members are encouraged to sign up for RRBC-sponsored float trips on the Rivanna in late October to "get to know your river."



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- The RRBC TAC Monitoring Subcommittee is working with USGS, DEQ, and StreamWatch to identify a comprehensive monitoring approach for the Rivanna to assist the RRBC in identifying and prioritizing strategies for watershed protection.
- The Chair, Vice Chair, and Executive Director met with Virginia Delegate David Toscano to update him on work of the Commission. Additional meetings will be scheduled with the other district legislators and will include the appropriate (RRBC) Commissioners based on locality.
- The final report of the Rivanna Healthy Waters Pilot Project (due September 30, 2010) will include discussion of how to protect existing healthy waters and how the Rivanna healthy waters project data complements StreamWatch assessments. See the [INSTAR website](#) for all the Rivanna data.
- The Center for Watershed Protection completed NFWF stormwater grant funded field days in Greene and Fluvanna counties, evaluating opportunities for retrofitting stormwater facilities. Findings will be presented to the localities in September and October.
- The BMP stormwater monitoring at Charlottesville High School is underway, coordinated by TJPDC under contract to RRBC, with site and lab assistance from UVA students and faculty. Biological and geomorphological assessment continues at Greene County Community Park and (new) Fluvanna HS.
- The rainwater harvesting system at Fluvanna HS suffered catastrophic failure, which is under evaluation. RRBC contributed \$153,000 towards this and other stormwater features at the site.

### Commission Decisions:

- Approved supporting Greene County's funding request to the Perry Foundation for the comfort station at Greene County Community Park.
- Approved RRBC request to Luck Stone Corporation for donation of materials for bioswale at Greene County Community Park.
- Approved RRBC commitment of in-kind match of up to \$10,000 for Sustainability Project proposal to HUD from TJPDC-MPO/Charlottesville/Albemarle/UVA .
- Approved delaying (by one month) the presentation of monthly and quarterly financial reports at RRBC meetings due to the recent change in RRBC meeting schedule.

### Staff Action Items and Requests from Commissioners

- Continue to distribute RRBC public meeting notices to all Commissioners.
- Solicit input from Commissioners on attendees for Piedmont Regional Pilot Project focus groups.
- Create map of Rivanna watershed with state and federal legislative districts.
- Track development of DCR Steering Committee for state park at Biscuit Run and request RRBC TAC input on how park might be developed to showcase RRBC recommendations.
- Develop and recommend a plan for RRBC to provide comments on the draft Chesapeake Bay TMDL during the public comment period (September 24 – November 8).

### Upcoming RRBC Meetings

- September 12** *Explore Your Park: Natural Attractions at Greene County Community Park* (1 pm- 5 pm)  
Co-hosted by Greene County and RRBC (NFWF grant), with support from RCS
- September 21** RRBC Technical Advisory Committee, 9 am – 12 pm (Alb-COB, McIntire, Room 241)
- October 22** RRBC Rivanna Float Trip #1 (*weather date October 31*)
- October 25** Rivanna River Basin Commission, 12-2 pm (Alb-COB, McIntire, Room 241)
- October 29** RRBC Rivanna Float Trip #2 (*weather date October 31*)
- November 16** RRBC Technical Advisory Committee, 9 am – 12 pm (Alb-COB, McIntire, Room 241)
- November 19** *tentative* RRBC and TAC Joint Retreat, 8:30 am to 4 pm (location TBA)
- December 13** Rivanna River Basin Commission, 12-2 pm (Alb-COB, McIntire, Room 241)