

Executive Director's Report

RRBC Programs

Please refer to **RRBC Grant-funded Programs** (dated January 13, 2010), which provides summary descriptions of the four grant programs underway (including the TNC “start-up” and “operational” funding/grant).

Other Programs

- 2010 Rivanna Scenic River Celebration.
The RRBC may co-chair (and co-staff) the organization of this yearlong celebration of the first river to gain Virginia State Scenic River status. The RRBC may wish co-host a watershed-wide symposium in the fall 2010 with different tracks for scientists, elected officials, development community, students, and citizens.
- Chesapeake Bay TMDL 2010.
EPA's largely voluntary approach to cleaning up the bay, spearheaded by the Chesapeake Bay program out of Annapolis, MD. As a result, EPA is developing a Bay-wide TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) for nutrients and sediment that will be implemented by each Bay state, with two-year incremental goals and consequences for not achieving these goals. The Virginia team is being led by staff from the Office of the Secretary of Natural Resources with support from DEQ and DCR staff. RRBC has been named to Virginia's TMDL Stakeholder Advisory Group (“the SAG”). Please see the FAQs on the Chesapeake Bay TMDL for further information.

Staff has been working with Region III EPA staff to obtain early and accurate information about what this means for local governments and to explore the possibility of initiating a “bottom up” local response in the Rivanna watershed (and associated localities). EPA intends to fund at least 6 local pilot programs to get a head start on developing watershed implementation plans, and the Rivanna River Basin Commission is well positioned to be a recipient of one of these early grants. Staff is meeting with TJPDC, TJSWCD, TNC, StreamWatch, and the two other local SAG members (Rick Parrish from SELC and Sally Thomas representing the CBP Local Government Advisory Committee) to evaluate options for such a local response.

- VDOF Forests to Faucets.
The Virginia Department of Forestry has received a grant from the US Endowment to explore the development of a “Rivanna Exchange” that would set up market-driven incentives for landowners in the South Fork Rivanna watershed to plant and maintain trees in order to reduce sedimentation into the South Fork Rivanna

Reservoir. RRBC supported this initiative in the proposal phase and will be part of the South Fork Rivanna Forests to Faucets Advisory Council, which will include Virginia Department of Forestry, Rivanna Water and Sewer Authority, Albemarle County Service Authority, Rivanna River Basin Commission, Thomas Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District, Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission, rural watershed landowners, urban watershed landowners, watershed businesses, City of Charlottesville, County of Albemarle, and The Nature Conservancy of Virginia. Mr. Michael Collins of *Conserv* will be the Project Manager for this work.

RRBC Highlights

1. **Welcome new hire, Ms. Rose Brown**, Program Coordinator for RRBC (part-time). As volunteer recording secretary for the RRBC during 2009, Ms. Brown completed the organization and updating of all RRBC meeting minutes and meeting materials so that they could be uploaded to the RRBC website.
2. **March 9, 2010 Workshop in Staunton, VA**. Commissioners are encouraged to register for the March 9 1-day workshop in Staunton, VA being hosted by the Center for Watershed Protection (“From Rooftops to the Bay”) on stormwater management strategies with a special track for municipal officials.
3. **RRBC Website**. www.rivannariver.org We welcome feedback on the website and suggestions for additional information. Information on each RRBC locality still needs to be added. Phase II will include a calendar function, workshop registration capability, RSS and other social networking tools. RRBC staff will be trained on Adobe software in order to easily make updates to the website (events, meetings, content, photos).
4. **New Commissioner Packet**. We welcome feedback on the contents of the New Commissioner Packet. All of these materials are downloadable from the RRBC website. The roster with contact information will be updated at the meeting on January 21, 2010, and then distributed to Commissioners. The Executive Director hopes to meet with each Commissioner over the next few months.
5. **Quarterly Meeting Packets**. The majority of meeting materials will be available a week ahead of the meeting and distributed in one of four ways:
 - by US mail
 - by picking up packet at RRBC office
 - by email with downloadable attachments
 - email notification to visit the RRBC website for documents to downloadStaff will note Commissioner preference. Staff will bring to each meeting a complete printed packet for each Commissioner who has not already received a

hard copy the week before. Commissioners are asked to bring their RRBC notebooks to each meeting.

6. **Commissioner Bibliographical Sketch.** We will be contacting each Commissioner to work with us to craft a 2-paragraph biographical and professional sketch for sharing with each other and for the RRBC web site.
7. **Meeting Summaries after Each RRBC Meeting.** We distributed in December a 2-page quarterly update for Commissioners after the October 2009. This is included in your packet. However, Commissioners have asked for different kinds of materials for use with their elected bodies, and staff needs guidance on what will be most useful.

Question for Commissioners:

What kind and frequency of updates from RRBC staff would be most helpful to Commissioners in communicating with their colleagues on their respective elected bodies and (citizen representatives) with their constituencies?

Participation at Meetings and Conferences

October 27	RRBC co-hosted Rainwater Harvesting webinar and Workshop with CWP and McKee-Carson
November 17	RRBC TAC
November 20	RRBC Executive Committee
November 30	StreamWatch Steering Committee meeting
December 9	Rappahannock Exchange Workshop in Fredericksburg
December 11	Virginia Certified Planner Course *
December 14	RRBC TAC monitoring subcommittee
December 15	Rivanna Scenic River Celebration planning meeting
December 16	Prepared comments to Greene County P.C. on the draft Greene County Comprehensive Plan
December 17	Virginia TMDL Stakeholders Advisory Group (SAG)
December 17	EPA Region III for Chesapeake Bay TMDL information session in Albemarle County
December 29	RRBC Chairs meeting regarding Executive Director performance review
January 8	Co-hosted Virginia Rivanna TMDL meeting with representatives of Sec. of Natural Resources, DEQ, and DCR
January 12	TAC Planning Retreat
January 12	StreamWatch Steering Committee meeting

* Leslie Middleton is now certified by Virginia Certified Planning Commissioners Program (CPVEA)

Activities Planned for Upcoming Quarter

- Website Phase II and RRBC update capability (with software & training)
- Administrative procedures and organization
- Orientation of Treasurer and Finance Committee meeting
- Interview auditors for 2011
- Contact Commonwealth Attorneys regarding Commissioner liability issues
- Contact Attorney General regarding “tax exempt donations” to the Commission
- Obtain RRBC Insurance (D&O, liability, workers compensation)
- Offer presentations to each locality (Boards of Supervisors, City Council, and Planning Commissions) on RRBC on mission and activities (to be coordinated Commissioners and TAC members)
- Assure effective introduction of Land Cover Map to all localities
- Participate on Virginia SAG (for Chesapeake Bay TMDL)
- Support February 16 RRBC Technical Advisory Committee meeting
- Plan for RRBC and or RRBC/TAC “retreat”
- Partnership to develop “local TMDL” [See “New Business”]