

Rivanna River Basin Commission Staff
January 2009

Leslie Middleton was hired by the Commission as transitional staff in January 2009 and as the Commission's first Executive Director in April 2009. Leslie grew up in Massachusetts and spent a decade working at sea in commercial fisheries and oil production maritime support before returning to the University of Rhode Island to obtain a BS in Mechanical and Ocean Engineering in 1983. Leslie became a research engineer for the US Navy, developing systems specifically for the emerging field of remotely-operated vehicles (Port Hueneme, CA); facilitating the development and deployment of fiber optic cable systems (Arlington, VA); and developing shipboard solid and plastic waste handling and processing equipment for deployment on Navy ships (Annapolis, MD). Upon moving inland to the Rivanna watershed, Leslie founded the Rivanna Watershed Center, a community-based non-profit promoting watershed conservation and collaborative watershed education and protection. Prior to coming to the Rivanna River Basin Commission, Middleton was the Virginia Director of the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, coordinating multiple programs in Virginia. As the Commission's first Executive Director, Leslie is responsible for the strategic development of the organization and building partnerships within the basin, the Commonwealth, and the Chesapeake Bay watershed. In her spare time, Leslie can be found volunteering (outside) for Rivanna Master Naturalists and StreamWatch or sailing with her husband on the Bay and its tidal tributaries.

Rose Brown joined the Rivanna River Basin Commission in 2009 as its volunteer recording secretary and was hired as part-time Project Coordinator in January 2010. Rose grew up in New York and Arkansas, and in 2000 she received a BA in International Studies from Nazareth College in Rochester NY. She moved to Virginia in 2003 and worked for The Nature Conservancy of Virginia as the Land Protection Coordinator for TNC's conservation activities and projects in Virginia. In 2007, Rose became the Program Manager for StreamWatch, the community-based water quality monitoring program for the Rivanna. As the StreamWatch Program manager she has been responsible for the data collection from over 32 sites around the watershed and for the training and development of a solid volunteer base that is essential for execution of the StreamWatch program. It is likely that Rose knows this watershed on the ground and in the streams better than almost anyone. As Project Coordinator for the RRBC, Rose is responsible for developing and maintaining the Commission's administrative processes and recruiting and training volunteers and interns for the Commission, as well as undertaking components of the various grant programs of the Commission. When not working for StreamWatch or the Commission, Rose undertakes education and stewardship projects around the watershed as a volunteer Master Naturalist.