

**Rivanna River Basin Commission  
Executive Director's Report**

**GRANT PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS**

**National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Stormwater Grant**

**1. *Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs) in localities:***

- **Charlottesville:** Charlottesville High School bioswale.  
The bioswale is complete and operational. Rooftop rainwater-harvesting system is complete and operational. MOA between City and RRBC has been executed. The City will complete final invoicing to RRBC by July 2010. There is ongoing project coordination, especially regarding monitoring.
- **Albemarle:** Crozet Stormwater Engineered Wetlands.  
The land has been purchased and the design is complete. Bids expected to be solicited this summer with construction this fall. MOA between County and RRBC being drafted in June for presentation to BOS July 7.
- **Fluvanna:** Fluvanna HS (new) stormwater management (Rainwater Harvesting and Filterra<sup>®</sup> systems).  
Several RainTank<sup>®</sup> systems installed. MOA executed has been executed between County and RRBC.
- **Greene:** Stormwater management at Greene County Community Park.  
On April 3, RCS (under contract to RRBC) coordinated a planting day to stabilize a critical slope. We are developing invasive plant removal plan for the park. The design of large biofilters is almost complete (Center for Watershed Protection). VT's Community Design Assistance Center is under contract to do stormwater master plan for the park this summer.
- **Educational Signage:** Two outdoor (NPS-standard) signs for each site.  
Competitive procurement undertaken for design and installation. Contract prepared with Thayer Design, Inc. (Madison, VA) pending Commission approval on June 14, 2010.

**2. *Monitoring BMP effectiveness to remove nutrients, sediment, toxics***

- TJPDC under contract to RRBC to coordinate monitoring activity at Charlottesville HS (July 2010 – July 2011) and Crozet Wetlands (baseline and post construction monitoring).
- Monitoring equipment suite ordered and contract for installation of equipment at CHS underway (through TJPDC)
- CHS monitoring site being considered as a semi-permanent test site for BMP monitoring practices (beyond the period of the grant).
- UVA Stormwater Team (Dr. Janet Herman, Dr. Joanna Curran, Dr. Teresa Culver, Jeff Sitler, other professionals, and students) collecting sampling this summer. Dr. Teresa Culver planning fall semester Stormwater Management class (and provide additional student sample collection).

3. ***Studies to identify opportunities to retrofit stormwater management in developed public sites (Greene & Fluvanna)***
  - Planning meetings underway with Greene and Fluvanna (with Center for Watershed Protection).
  - Initial site visit in Fluvanna (June 24). Follow-up field evaluations late July.
  - Initial site visit Greene (late July).
  - Excellent opportunity for RRBC commissioners, planning staff, planning commissioners, and elected officials for education on stormwater management. Invitations will be forthcoming when dates are set for “field evaluations” (2<sup>nd</sup> site visits).
4. ***Work with developers and building community to identify impediments to more advanced stormwater practices***
5. ***Work with planning staff of localities to identify incentives to encourage more advanced stormwater practices. Host watershed symposium to bring stakeholders together.***
  - This work is presently in the planning stages. We are working to make this effort dovetail with Ches Bay TMDL pilot project activity and RCS Stormwater Project.

We have invited NFWF program staff down for a site visit (when the CHS water quality monitoring equipment has been installed) and discussion of grant progress (late June-July timeframe). This project is on schedule and within budget. We do not expect difficulty meeting the required “project match.”

#### **Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR): Healthy Waters Pilot Project Grant**

- VCU has completed its analysis of Rivanna stream segments and has presented preliminary findings to RRBC TAC on May 18.
- The Rivanna *INSTAR* sites are up and available for review on web at: <http://instar.vcu.edu/index.html>.
- According to the *INSTAR* assessment method, of the 55 sites that were assessed:
  - Exceptional = 3
  - Healthy = 13
  - Restoration Potential = 30
  - Compromised = 9
- RRBC, VCU, StreamWatch, and DCR are in discussion about the best way to present the information so that it complements StreamWatch findings. (Major differences are that StreamWatch's assessments are based on long-term monitoring, while the VCU sampling was “one time,” though there are additional metrics used to make assessment.)
- All work will be completed by June 30, 2010, with the final deliverables to DCR within 45 days after.
- The final report will discuss ways that a “healthy waters perspective” can be brought to land use planning and decision-making so that appropriate resources can be used to protect healthy waters before they become degraded.

## OTHER PROJECTS

### Rivanna Vicinity Land Cover/Land Use Map.

- The map layer has been completed as is officially in the warrantee period (one year).
- Chris Bruce (GIS Manager, TNC) has agreed to remain the point person for handling issues and changes during the first year.
- RRBC and TJPDC plan to host a downloadable ZIP file on each of our web sites so that the public may utilize the map layer (with the appropriate software).
- RRBC and TJPDC will be issuing a joint press release on behalf of the funding partners to announce the availability of the product and some captivating statistics.
- Preliminary analysis done by TNC is available on the last page of this report.

### Chesapeake Bay TMDL - Stakeholders Advisory Group (SAG)

- The SAG has not met since February primarily, it seems, to provide some time for the McDonnell administration to come up to speed on the issues and process and to register complaint with the Chesapeake Bay Program for not providing model analyses in adequate time for Virginia state agencies to develop the required allocations and watershed implementation plan draft by this summer.
- Next SAG meeting is on Tuesday, June 15, in Richmond, which Ms. Middleton will attend.

### Chesapeake Bay TMDL – Piedmont Regional Pilot Project (PRPP – ChesBayTMDL)

- The purpose of the pilot project is to craft a process for engaging various stakeholder groups in the region for early information, education, and involvement in the Chesapeake Bay TMDL process. The impacts of this process will reach the locality level in 2011 when the Commonwealth will engage local governments, SWCDs, PDCs, and watershed groups to provide local and regional management plans for reducing nutrients and sediments in local waters.
- The pilot project Steering Committee has met twice. The group decided to change the name from “Rivanna-Regional” to be more inclusive of Nelson and Louisa counties.
- The Steering Committee consists of:

Bill Kittrell	The Nature Conservancy
Leslie Middleton	Rivanna River Basin Commission (SAG)
Carl Schmitt	Greene County Board of Supervisors
Rick Parrish	Southern Environmental Law Center (SAG)
Alyson Sappington	Thomas Jefferson SWCD
Sally Thomas	CBP LGAC (SAG member)
Greg Wichelns	Culpeper SWCD
Steve Williams	Thomas Jefferson PDC
Chip Rice/Rick Hill	Virginia DCR
Connie Brennan	Nelson County Board of Supervisors

- The next meeting is June 15 which will be devoted to a focused discussion of how best to

- reach out to various stakeholder groups over the summer and early fall.
- The pilot project does not have any definitive deliverables but the expectation is that “lessons learned” will be communicated to DCR and EPA. DCR staff attends each meeting.
- We have facilitation support from the Institute for Environmental Negotiations (IEN, Frank Dukes) and may also utilize technical support from TetraTech (under contract to EPA).
- RRBC’s role is purely coordination between EPA, DCR, the Steering Committee, and the support contractors (IEN and TetraTech).

#### Progress on Statewide Rainwater Harvesting Guidelines

- Joint Virginia agency meeting at Virginia Department of Health with Kristel Riddervold (Charlottesville/RRBC TAC), Alyson Sappington (TJSWCD), and Leslie Middleton (RRBC) to review draft state guidelines for reuse of harvested rainwater.
- This 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting was very productive and will be followed up by another working session this summer.
- Possibilities discussed included having a draft ready this fall to “workshop” around Virginia with local planning and health officials, starting in RRBC region.

#### COMMUNICATIONS

- Monthly e-newsletter has been inaugurated and will become bi-monthly until new Program Coordinator is able to take over.
- Additional work on website to be completed by June 30, 2010 includes social networking feeds, updated content pages, and other features.
- Press release planned shortly to announce new RRBC leadership and current projects.
- Plans underway to meet with “Rivanna region” Virginia state legislators and Congressman Perriello over the summer.
- Executive Director plans to meet with all Commissioners over the summer.
- Executive Director scheduling presentations to Boards and Planning Commissions over the summer and fall.

#### FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

- End of fiscal year projections prepared.
- FY2011 Proposed Budget prepared (see TAB 4).
- Grant proposal preparation seeking funding for watershed planning effort:
  - Grant Proposal submitted on May 17, 2010 requesting \$100K from National Fish & Wildlife Foundation’s Small Watersheds Grant Program, entitled, “Watershed Planning for the Rivanna: The Next Decade (A Confluence of Interests, A Partnership for Results), included \$41K for RRBC, \$29K for TJPDC, \$9K for RCS, \$26K for StreamWatch and cites matching contributions from USGS to assist with designing comprehensive monitoring program for the Rivanna.
  - Subsequent proposals to be submitted on behalf of the “Rivanna partners” to VEE (June 15), private foundations, and other opportunities.
- Funding Agreement between RRBC and The Nature Conservancy for FY 2011 is being developed.

## **ADMINISTRATION**

### **Staffing**

- We have been recruiting applicants for the position of Program Coordinator to take Ms. Brown's place when she leaves the Commission staff at the end of June.
- We have had excellent applicants and hope to make an offer by June 18, with start date as soon as June 22, for overlap with Rose before she leaves.
- Ms. Brown has developed a comprehensive office management notebook of for office procedures and recordkeeping.
- We have developed an outline of the RRBC Policy Manual and a draft of one chapter covering Personnel Policies and the beginnings of a Personnel Handbook for New Employees. Main sections of the manual will be:
  - RRBC Mission
  - Roles and Responsibilities
  - Financial Policies (including Accounting and Purchasing Policies)
  - Conflict of Interest Policy
  - Travel Policy
  - Personnel Policy
- Our recruiting activity has identified several very qualified candidates for a position of "watershed planner," should the funding be secured and the Commission approves of staffing increase

### **Office Lease**

- We have negotiated a new one-year lease with TJSWCD at \$410 per month, which includes the use of the entire separate office, but does not include the use of telephones. (This is an increase of \$10/month.)
- We will be getting a private line for RRBC in late June.
- We will divide the space to accommodate two staff persons.

### **RRBC Participation in/support of Meetings and Conferences**

- April 27 – Presentation to Charlottesville Planning Commission (work session)
- April 29 – TAC Monitoring Subcommittee meeting
- May 3 – Healthy Waters pilot project meeting in Richmond with VCU, StreamWatch, and DCR
- May 7 - TAC Monitoring Subcommittee meeting
- May 11 – Meeting in Richmond with VDH, DCR, DEQ, and DHCD regarding rainwater harvesting policy
- May 12 – Rivanna Regional Pilot Project for the Chesapeake Bay TMDL mtg
- May 18 – RRBC TAC meeting
- May 25 – Rivanna Vicinity Land Cover Map partners meeting
- May 28 – Meeting with UVA Stormwater team and TJPDC re water quality monitoring of bioswale at CHS

**Activities Planned for Upcoming Quarter**

- Hire and orient new Program Coordinator for the RRBC
- Coordinate meeting with RRBC TAC members, StreamWatch staff, and USGS monitoring professionals to discuss the development of comprehensive monitoring program for the Rivanna basin
- 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)
- Assure effective introduction of Land Cover Map to all localities
- Interview auditors for 2011
- Contact Commonwealth Attorneys regarding Commissioner liability issues
- Contact Attorney General regarding “tax exempt donations” to the Commission
- 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
- Submit proposal to Luckstone Foundation for materials for bioswale at Greene County Community Park (pending Commission approval).

**Land Cover Summary Statistics**

**Land Cover Acreage**

<b>Geography</b>	Deciduous Forest	Evergreen Forest	Open Land	Water	Impervious	Pine Plantation	Forest Harvest	Orchard/Vineyard	Bare Earth	Golf Course	Total
Rivanna Watershed	284,083	46,721	109,858	5,339	15,868	21,280	3,049	1,975	2,242	1,200	491,615
Albemarle County	269,310	41,596	110,134	4,765	11,365	19,338	2,186	3,202	1,904	938	464,739
Fluvanna County	88,181	18,505	36,901	3,273	3,720	30,400	3,675	156	733	181	185,726
Greene County	63,111	8,407	24,447	589	2,381	527	234	82	571	124	100,473
Charlottesville	2,107	840	1,317	44	2,062	0	0	0	22	169	6,560

**Land Cover Percentages**

<b>Geography</b>	Deciduous Forest	Evergreen Forest	Open Land	Water	Impervious	Pine Plantation	Forest Harvest	Orchard/Vineyard	Bare Earth	Golf Course	
Rivanna Watershed	57.8%	9.5%	22.3%	1.1%	3.2%	4.3%	0.6%	0.4%	0.5%	0.2%	
Albemarle County	57.9%	9.0%	23.7%	1.0%	2.4%	4.2%	0.5%	0.7%	0.4%	0.2%	
Fluvanna County	47.5%	10.0%	19.9%	1.8%	2.0%	16.4%	2.0%	0.1%	0.4%	0.1%	
Greene County	62.8%	8.4%	24.3%	0.6%	2.4%	0.5%	0.2%	0.1%	0.6%	0.1%	
Charlottesville	32.1%	12.8%	20.1%	0.7%	31.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%	2.6%	