



January 15, 2009

Progress Report and Recommendations from the Rivanna River Basin Commission

The Rivanna River Basin Commission (RRBC) has determined that the primary threat to the health of the Rivanna Basin and its streams is excessive sedimentation caused by stormwater related streamflows which scour the channels. The RRBC has now enthusiastically endorsed best management practices (BMPs) to address this threat, which we would like to share with you.

The RRBC was created by the Commonwealth of Virginia when the statute authorizing it was signed into law by Governor Mark Warner in 2004. The four participating jurisdictions in the Rivanna Basin (Albemarle, Fluvanna and Greene counties and the City of Charlottesville) subsequently endorsed its creation. The Commission’s purpose is to provide guidance for the stewardship and enhancement of the water and natural resources of the Rivanna River Basin. Prior to the Commission’s creation, The Nature Conservancy raised a considerable amount of money to be used by the RRBC to carry out its activities.

The Commission consists of 14 members including two supervisors each from Albemarle, Fluvanna and Greene counties, two council members from Charlottesville, a representative of the Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District and the Thomas Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District, and 4 citizen members appointed by the three counties and Charlottesville.

At its first meeting the Commission adopted a Charter which tracks its enabling legislation. The Charter includes language setting out the Commission’s goals which include, “...by promoting communication, coordination and education and ...suggesting solutions to identified problems, the Commission shall promote activities by local, state and federal governments and by individuals, that foster resource stewardship for the environmental and economic health of the Rivanna Basin.” The Commission also adopted a method of selecting county and city staff and other local experts to work with the Commission in an advisory capacity on its Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). Since then the TAC has been meeting on a regular basis to make recommendations to the RRBC.

At the urging of the TAC, the Commission has been exploring as its top priority a series of strategies to manage stormwater volumes and quality in order to recharge groundwater, reduce siltation and improve water quality in the Rivanna. In order to carry out these strategies throughout the basin, we urge you to consider adopting the following priorities:

- On all new government facilities include the strategies that are agreed to be Best Management Practices (BMPs) to reduce runoff, to minimize siltation and to improve water quality
- For existing government facilities, explore opportunities to retrofit them using the same BMPs

Albemarle County	City of Charlottesville	Fluvanna County	Greene County	Culpeper SWCD	Thomas Jefferson SWCD
Sally H. Thomas (Chair)	Holly Edwards	Marvin F. Moss (Vice-Chair)	Clarence Peyton	Robert Runkle	John E. Easter, II
Lindsay G. Dorrier, Jr.	Satyendra Huja	John Gooch	Carl Schmitt		
John C. Martin	Leslie Middleton	Andy Wilson	Roberta Savage		

- Consider organizing workshops on a county or regional basis with developers, engineers, planners and regulators to educate them on these practices and to identify obstacles in your local codes that may prevent their implementation
- Explore the use of proffers, permit conditions and/or incentives to encourage private developers to include the BMPs in their projects

The Commission will be contacting you soon to make a presentation on this program to the Board of Supervisors/City Council. Meanwhile, the Commission would like to offer its assistance in any way possible as you review the BMPs outlined in the attachment. For example, members of the Technical Advisory Committee would be happy to meet with staff of the localities who are interested in learning more about these strategies. If you have any questions related to the Rivanna River Basin Commission, please contact Sally Thomas, RRBC Chair, at 434-295-1819 or writeinsal@aol.com. With questions of a technical nature, please contact Sam Austin, Chair of the TAC at 434-974-1650 or saustin@usgs.gov. We look forward to working with you on our mutual goal of making the Rivanna worthy of its designation as a "State Scenic River."

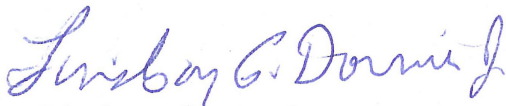
Sincerely,



Sally H. Thomas, Chair



Marvin F. Moss, Vice Chair



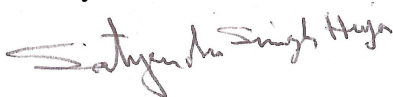
Lindsay G. Dorrier, Jr.



John C. Martin



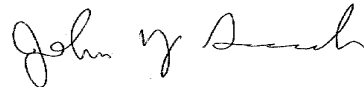
Holly Edwards



Satyendra Huja



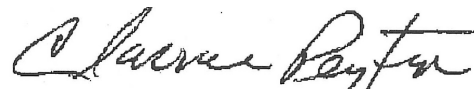
Leslie Middleton



John Gooch



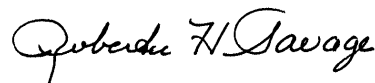
Andy Wilson



Clarence Peyton



Carl Schmitt



Roberta Savage



Robert Runkle



John E. Easter, II