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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Rivanna River Basin Commission Announces Restructuring for Sustainability

Charlottesville, VA – The Rivanna River Basin Commission (RRBC) announces today that is streamlining its infrastructure and staff to ensure that it will continue to be a positive and effective organization for protecting and restoring the Rivanna River and its watershed.

“The Rivanna is a critical resource for the region,” said Marvin Moss, Chair of the RRBC. “The Commission plays an important role in our community because of its unique structure. We work directly with the local government boards and staff to ensure water and natural resources are always part of our watershed communities’ decision-making.”

The Rivanna River Basin Commission (RRBC) is the public entity of local government that provides guidance for the stewardship and enhancement of the water and natural resources of the Rivanna River Basin. The RRBC’s enabling legislation states that the RRBC will also provide a forum in which local governments and citizens can discuss issues affecting the Basin’s water quality and quantity and other natural resources.

In order to best meet this mission, said Moss, RRBC will be focusing its resources on creating strategic partnerships and alliances that will help galvanize the communities that are in the Rivanna watershed to work together for the benefit of the river.

Moss, who has served on the RRBC as an elected official from 2007 through 2009 and as Fluvanna County’s appointed citizen since mid-2010, says that the RRBC understands the critical importance of collaboration. “We know that it is only through our collective efforts that we can be effective in protecting the Rivanna.”

Leslie Middleton, Executive Director of the RRBC since 2009, said, “Restructuring and working in a more focused and collective way with our important Rivanna partners is the best thing for us to do for the Rivanna in these challenging economic times.”

“We have a river system that is ecologically ‘on the cusp,’” says Middleton. “It will be all the harder later on if we do not seize this moment to work together in better and smarter ways on behalf of this river that this community really values.”

Jim Frydl, Chairman of the Greene County Board of Supervisors, and Vice-Chair of the RRBC, said, “There is really is no precedent in Virginia for a commission such as ours that was created to work on a watershed basis and through local governments.”



Rivanna River Basin Commission

A CONFLUENCE OF INTERESTS

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Frydl, who has represented Greene County on the RRBC since 2010, said that RRBC has proven to be an effective partner by informing local policies using sound science and technical data from StreamWatch and other organizations. "In order to meet the economic challenges of this time," says Frydl, "we need to find creative ways spend our community resources wisely. Fortunately, RRBC is being proactive about this."

Also of note, a group of private citizens has formed a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation, the Rivanna River Basin Foundation, to raise money for the activities of the RRBC and its Rivanna partners in the watershed who are engaged in the protection, restoration, and conservation of the Rivanna.

RRBC has worked with at the local, regional, state and federal levels to promote better water quality management practices throughout the watershed and with all sectors in the community.

The RRBC has been a key player in helping local governments understand their obligations under the Chesapeake Bay clean up plan (the "TMDL," or Total Maximum Daily Load).

Since first staffed in 2009, RRBC has coordinated numerous projects in the Rivanna watershed, including a comprehensive, EPA-funded stormwater management grant in which all Rivanna localities received funding for stormwater projects.

RRBC recently issued the *2012 Rivanna Watershed Snapshot*, a description of existing conditions in the watershed that will serve as a foundation for future watershed and river corridor planning.

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Contacts:

Mr. Marvin Moss, Chair, RRBC at (434) 589-4839 or mmoss8@centurylink.net

Mr. Jim Frydl, Vice-Chair, RRBC at (434) 531-3472 or jfrydl@gcva.us

Ms. Leslie Middleton, Executive Director, RRBC at 434-971-7722 or middleton@rivannariverbasin.org.

See also: www.rivannariverbasin.org

The RRBC is an entity of local government that was created through enabling state legislation in 2004 and consists of elected officials from the governing bodies of Greene, Fluvanna, and Albemarle counties and the City of Charlottesville, as well as board members from the Thomas Jefferson and Culpepper Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and citizen members appointed from each watershed locality. **§ 62.1-69.46. The Rivanna River Basin Commission; establishment; purpose.**