

RRBC Meeting

Draft Minutes: May 8, 2019

Water Street Center

Attendance

Grace Leonard (TJPDC), Sandy Shackelford (TJPDC), Steve Morris (CSWCD), Lonnie Murray (TJSWCD), Carl Schmitt (Greene), Tony O'Brien (Fluvanna), Mozell Booker (Fluvanna), Robert Woodside (Charlottesville), Michael Signer (Charlottesville), Zach Wheat (Albemarle), Ann Mallek (Albemarle), Norman Dill (Albemarle)

Introductions and Updates

Ms. Leonard shared that she will be leaving the PDC at the end of May. The new Director of Planning, Sandy Shackelford, will be the RRBC point-of-contact moving forward. Two new members of the RRBC were in attendance, Robert Woodside and Tony O'Brien.

Rivanna River Plan

TJPDC shared that conversations have begun with the City of Charlottesville and Albemarle County to begin the Phase II of the [Rivanna River Plan](#). At this point, the Technical Committee, which is made up of government and nonprofit staff, is planning to meet in mid-June and the Steering Committee, which is made up of elected officials, will meet after elections in November. The MOU's still need to be signed by the city and the county before work begins. Ms. Mallek requested that the project scope for the Rivanna River Plan be shared with the RRBC. Ms. Mallek emphasized that the plan should focus more on recreation and conservation than development.

Website Updates

TJPDC shared updates being made to the RRBC website. The pages are being migrated to Wordpress by NWG, TJPDC's IT support group, and should be completed in the next month or so. Ms. Leonard shared Terrain 360 as a possible resource, and some folks asked that we look into pricing. There was discussion about defining the audience for the RRBC pages. New members indicated that updating links and content would help with orienting new members.

Orienting New Members

There is a need to provide resources and background to get new members up to speed. Mr. Dill highlighted that with the election cycle and changes in committee members, it is important to have an on-boarding process for new members. Members mentioned that the lack of an on-boarding process has been an issue for several years now. Mr. Wheat stated that meetings recently have tended to be a time to catch up rather than providing proactive opportunities to engage.

Rural Rivanna Plan

Ms. Mallek brought up that \$2,500 was set aside two years ago to complete a study of the rural areas along the Rivanna River, and this study should have identified landowners along the river in Greene County.

Water Safety & Signage

Mr. Signer brought up the need to activate spaces along the river. He discussed a need for signage along the river to address issues like safety for swimmers, especially children and fishing regulations and safety. Willow Tree will be opening a new campus with 400 employees now working in a space located at a bend in the river, which provides opportunities for education and engagement. Related to signage, Mr. Wheat mentioned that Waynesboro is a good example of a locality in the region that has invested in activating a river space. The Rivanna Trails Foundation and the City of Charlottesville were both brought up as possible collaborators or partners on signage. Regarding river safety, Ms. Booker mentioned that for most of her life, people in Fluvanna have swam in the river. Others mentioned there have been a couple of deaths due to accidents on the river in recent years. Mr. Dill mentioned that there is now a lighted path under 250 that increases access and safety of the Rivanna Trail.

Collaboration Between Jurisdictions

There was some discussion about how the commission should establish a shared mission/shared goals when each locality has its own goals and priorities regarding environmental planning and water quality. There is a need to identify goals that meet the needs of all jurisdictions on the committee. Mr. Schmitt mentioned that the signage might benefit the urban areas, but wouldn't benefit Greene County—Greene's focus is more on water quality.

Water Quality

Mr. Morris mentioned that his priority regarding the Rivanna is water quality. He discussed the need to continue to promote BMP projects, and the strong interest that their soil and water district has seen in these projects. Ms. Mallek mentioned that there was very strong attendance at a TMDL meeting held by DEQ in Greene County. Mr. Murray mentioned that the TJSWCD has been inundated with calls regarding the Virginia Conservation Assistance Program (VCAP). It was mentioned that water quality issues could be tied to eco-tourism. Mr. Murray discussed that having adequate water quality data makes a strong case for conservation/BMP's when new development is proposed.

As BMP's were discussed, connections between RRBC and the WIP process were addressed. RRBC members expressed interest in the WIP III report for the TJPDC region. DEQ worked with localities and SWCD's to complete the report, and the roles of these various stakeholders was discussed. Mr. Murray highlighted several wins regarding water quality—including funding for urban BMP's, and significant funding for a statewide VCAP program. Mr. Murray also discussed high-impact collaborations between the SWCD's and the Department of Health to improve access to clean water and sewer for residents without it. Mr. Murray highlighted a need to pass on lessons learned when a new TMDL process begins.

Rivanna River Conference

Ms. Mallek proposed focusing on the "After the Storm" report at this year's Rivanna River Conference, the commission was in agreement. Ms. Mallek proposed communicated over email as needed to discuss and plan the conference.

Action Items:

- Share the After the Storm plan with RRBC to review and consider recommending revamping the plan with a focus on strategies for jurisdictions to incorporate BMP's (Ann and Grace)

- Circulate the Rivanna River Phase II Scope (Attached)
- Circulate the WIP III TJPDC Report (Attached)
- Share a Financial/Budget Update at the August Meeting (TJPDC)
- Look into pricing for Terrain 360 (Grace)