



Rivanna River Basin Commission
Board Meeting Minutes August 22nd, 2023

Rivanna River Basin Commission	Attendance
Ann Mallek, Albemarle BOS Chair	X
Bea LaPisto-Kirtley, Albemarle BOS	X
Lonnie Murray, Appointed Citizen	X
Lloyd Snook, Charlottesville City Council	X
Michael Payne, Charlottesville City Council	X
Jason Halbert, Appointed Citizen	X
Mozell Booker, Fluvanna County BOS	
Tony O'Brien, Fluvanna County BOS	
Marvin Moss, Appointed Citizen	X
Dale Herring, Greene County BOS	X
Abbey Heflin, Greene County BOS	
Alex Vidales, Appointed Citizen	X
Steve Morris, Culpeper SWCD	X
Angus Murdoch, Thomas Jefferson SWCD	X
Staff/Public	
Christine Jacobs, TJPDC	X
Sandy Shackelford, TJPDC	X
Isabella O'Brien, TJPDC	X
Justin Williams, DEQ	X
James Schoenster	X
Nesha McRae, DEQ	X
Madison Whitehurst, DEQ	X
Stephanie Kreps, DEQ	X
Greg Wichelns, CSWCD	X

Materials in Packet: April 14th, 2023 Meeting Minutes, August 22nd, 2023 Meeting Agenda

1. Call to Order, Attendance, Determination of Quorum

The Rivanna River Basin Commission (RRBC) Chair Ann Mallek, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Isabella O'Brien took roll call. A quorum was determined at 1:03 pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion/Action: There was a motion to approve the 8/23/22 agenda by Dale Herring, which was seconded by Lloyd Snook, and unanimously approved by the Commission.

3. Comments from Public

Greg Wichelns, CSWCD District Manager, mentioned joining the meeting to listen in on DEQ's TMDL and Implementation Plan presentation.

4. Approval of Minutes



Motion/Action: There was a motion to approve the April 14th, 2023 Draft Meeting Minutes by Lonnie Murray, which was seconded by Chair Ann Mallek, and unanimously approved by the Commission.

5. Presentation: TMDL and Implementation Plan Updates for the Rivanna Watershed

The presentation was led by Justin Williams, DEQ Manager of the Office of Watersheds and Local Government Assistance and Madison Whitehurst, DEQ NPS Data and Project Coordinator. DEQ shared an overview of the TMDL and Implementation Plan development processes, the upcoming Rivanna TMDL Implementation Plan public meeting, and resources to support understanding the process.

Questions:

- Is DEQ testing Virginia's Streams for PFAS? That is managed by another office at DEQ, under water quality monitoring and assessment.
- How can organizations like the Rivanna River Basin Commission stay up to date on DEQ activities? Town Hall, social media, and DEQ constant contact are outlets which provide notice of activities.
- Can you explain more about the grant funding available for Agricultural BMPs? Implementation Plans lay out practices such as Agricultural Best Management Practices, which can then be funded by NPS 319(h). This provides cost share to agricultural landowners implementing the recommended BMPs.
- What is the success rate? How do you track success of implementation plans? Success is measured by a delisting of the TMDL, on DEQ's impaired waters list, which means the water body is meeting water quality standards. Implementation plan monitoring occurs once plans are in place, to see if they are meeting targeted reductions. Water sampling is done by DEQ, and partner organizations such as the SWCD.
- Are we reducing the number of impaired streams across the state? What is the trend? In the integrated report, they address the trendlines more in depth. Overall, DEQ is seeing overall reductions in the number of impaired listings. Adding additional water pollutants may impact that.
- Only 20% of the Rivanna watershed has implementation plans underway, meaning most of the watershed does not have implementation plans underway. How do localities support the process to increase implementation in additional portions of the watershed? **A:** TMDL's are prioritized across the state, which are planned over the next two to four years. Once those TMDL's are finalized, implementation planning can begin. DEQ is interested to hear where there is interest in implementation, because they like to work with stakeholders and community members that will engage in the process.
- How are implementation plans prioritized? It depends on where the sources of pollution have been identified. If pollution is coming from a point source location, the pollutant would be addressed through permitting rather than an implementation plan. Community interest in implementation also impacts IP priority.
- What are the impairments for the North Fork Rivanna? **A:** Bacteria and Benthic Impairments are observed in the North Fork Rivanna. The more recent benthic tmdl paired with stakeholder interest helped to make this TMDL a priority. This presents the opportunity to address both problems in this singular. IP
- What impairments qualify a stream as a TMDL? That has changed over time, correct? **A:** Historically TMDL's were based on bacteria or fecal impairments. TMDLs now include benthic



and PCB impairments. Benthic impairments involve sediment, nitrogen, phosphorous, dissolved oxygen, and temperature, as they are stressors for the health of benthic organisms.

- Are invasive species being looked at as they relate to Benthic TMDLs? Invasive species are looked at during the benthic stressor analysis, when assessing at the functional feeding groups of the benthic organisms. The hope is that the TMDL addresses multiple stressors.

6. Report of Chair- Nominating Committee

Chair Mallek requested that Isabella O'Brien provide an update on the nominating committee's role and responsibilities. Chair Mallek appointed Lonnie Murray, Jason Halbert, and Angus Murdoch as the upcoming election's nominating committee. At the first meeting of calendar year 2024, the nominating committee will present their suggestions for officers of the RRBC. Other RRBC Commissioner's may nominate other commissioners as well. The current officers include a chair, vice chair and treasurer. Because the TJPDC acts as the fiscal agent to the RRBC, the role of the treasurer is not very extensive, but remains in place if it is needed again in the future.

7. Staff Updates

- a. RRBC Annual Conference: Staff presented on this year's annual conference topic, and the details of the Conference. The topic is PFAS from local, state, and federal perspectives, with presentations from EPA, DEQ, VDH, RSWA, and the Western Virginia Water Authority.
- b. Future Meeting Dates: Staff heard feedback from the RRBC on setting standing meeting dates and times for future board meetings. The third Tuesday of March and August from 1-2:30 was the proposed time. No scheduling conflicts were mentioned.
- c. Stakeholder Advisory Group Meetings: Staff presented two potential topics for the stakeholder advisory group meeting planned for October 2023. Topics included utility scale solar projects and environmental impacts, and Riparian Buffer Overlay Districts and opting in or out of the VSMP.

8. Roundtable discussion: Each Commissioner was invited to share updates from their jurisdiction.

Jason Halbert offered to look into potential grant opportunities for the region, alongside RRBC Staff support. Lonnie Murray mentioned that many times there are extensive amounts of funding in place, particularly for Agricultural BMPs and Septic repairs, but it can be difficult to spend all of the funds. Addressing how to most effectively target areas that are in need of BMPs.

One topic of interest for the RRBC to address is the impact of invasive species and their presence along local waterways.

9. Adjourn: There was a motion to adjourn by Jason Halbert, which was seconded by Lonnie Murray, and unanimously approved by the Commission.

Commission meeting materials may be found at <https://rivannariverbasin.org/meetings-events/>.