



**Rivanna River Basin Commission**  
**Draft Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**July 9, 2024**

<b>RRBC Executive Committee</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
Ann Mallek, Albemarle BOS Chair	X
Lonnie Murray, Appointed Citizen	X
Jason Halbert, Appointed Citizen	X
Tony O'Brien, Fluvanna County BOS	X
Angus Murdoch, Thomas Jefferson SWCD	
<b>Staff/Public</b>	
Ruth Emerick, TJPDC	X
Isabella O'Brien, TJPDC	X
Jamie Shelton, TJPDC	X

Materials in Packet: Executive Committee Agenda, Scenic Rivers Information Packet, Tentative Agenda & Planning Topics for the 2024 Rivanna River Basin Annual Conference

**1. Call to Order, Attendance, Determination of Quorum**

The Rivanna River Basin Commission (RRBC) Chair Ann Mallek, called the meeting to order at 2:05pm.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

**Motion/Action:** The proposed meeting agenda was unanimously approved.

**3. Comments from Public**

There were no comments from the public.

**4. Hardware River Scenic Designation Discussion**

Isabella O'Brien led a discussion on Fluvanna County's progress in designating the Hardware River as a DCR Scenic River. Andy Wilson of Friends of the Hardware River reached out to TJPDC to ask for support throughout the process, as low flow conditions and the onset of COVID-19 deterred DCR's investigation years prior.

Fluvanna county board of supervisors determined they will continue the application process, but they are uncertain if they must restart it or if they can continue from where they left off.

Albemarle County is considering whether to designate the portion of the Hardware in Albemarle as scenic while DCR moves through the process in Fluvanna. There is a high level of local biodiversity and a TMDL in place to correct water pollution and call for better management of this resource.

Contact DCR regarding the Scenic River Process, via: <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/recreational-planning/contact-prr>



## 5. Presentation: Tentative Schedule & Planning Details of the 2024 Rivanna River Annual Conference

Isabella O'Brien and Jamie Shelton reviewed the tentative schedule of events, logistics, and costs of the 2024 Rivanna River Basin (RRBC) Annual Conference. The goal of the RRBC Conference is to provide an opportunity for localities and other interested organizations to learn about recent changes and future programs for the region. For the 2024 Conference, the RRBC will focus on the State of the Rivanna Corridor and revisit Phase 1 & 2 of the Rivanna Area Plan.

### Goals:

- Increased coordination
- Community engagement
- Movement towards actionable items

Details: The group agreed Friday, the 27<sup>th</sup>, was preferred, as it has worked well historically and opens more possibilities for those travelling.

Date: September 27, 2024.  
10am -2 pm

The tentative agenda of the 2024 RRBC Annual Conference is as follows:

- Event Introduction
- Key Findings of the Rivanna Corridor Plan and Next Steps
- Panel Speakers: Accomplishments, Goals, Roadblocks
- Lunch
- Public Engagement Section

Optional Add On: The Rivanna River Company has offered to host an event for local leaders to connect with the Rivanna River and discuss goals and concerns collectively. This would be on Saturday the 28<sup>th</sup>, just before the annual Loop De Ville, Rivanna Trail Event.

- We could potentially begin at Riverview/Woolen Mills and move North.
- It was proposed to highlight the biodiversity of the Rivanna in this tour, showcasing the local species and vernal pools.
- However, it is important that we see those “key accomplishments and possibilities” mentioned by the stakeholders. We should show local leaders the vision firsthand.

The costs and caterers for food were presented, and it will cost roughly \$10.00-\$15.00 per attendant. We are considering to embed costs for food in the registration fee to remain within budget after confirming a venue. However, it was noted that we have the option to make lunch optional for guests and charge a smaller fee for those bringing their own lunches, so we will consider both alternatives while confirming a location.

We discussed how we can most impactfully title the Conference, and the group believed the option “Bridging the Gaps: Conservation, Access, and the Future of the Rivanna” was the most catching.



Suggestions for marketing this event include radio announcements and Experience Charlottesville as a good resource for local awareness.

During this discussion, it was noted that a conversation about how changes in agency oversight may impact our area due to the overturning of Chevron may be insightful. However, it was decided that this topic of discussion would better fit another meeting.

**6. Adjourn:** There was a motion to adjourn by Tony O'Brien, which was seconded by Ann Mallek and unanimously approved by the Committee at 3:00 pm.

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