

Albemarle-Chowan Watershed Roundtable

Quarterly Meeting February 5, 2008 Virginia Diner Wakefield, VA

Present: John Allen, Scott Bachman, Don Bagshaw, Harvey Baker, Stacey Bradshaw, Anna Cahoon, Amanda Crocker, Moira Croghan, Frank A. Davis, Michael Faulk, Roy D. Flanagan III, Donald Goodwin, Lucy Henry, Noah Hill, B. Houchins, Kim E. Hummel, Claire Jones, Daniel Lee, Crockett Morris, Linda McAllister, Carter Nettles, Al Peschke, Chip Rice, Brian P. Saunders, Bill Shanabruch, Charles Skalsky, Jerry Skalsky, Yamika Stokes, Patrick Vincent, Meredith Wilson, Ed Zimmer

I. Welcome: Chairman Don Bagshaw welcomed everyone to the meeting. For the benefit of visitors, everyone introduced themselves.

II. Guest Speaker - Blackwater/Nottoway Riverkeeper Program: Jeff Turner is ill, not able to make the meeting.

III. Present Status of Albemarle-Chowan Watershed Roundtable: P. Vincent spoke with Noah Hill of Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR) about South Centré Corridors RC&D Council being willing to take over duties to care for roundtable for a year. DCR awarded South Centré Corridors RC&D a \$7,000.00 grant for one year to implement activities with the roundtable including 4 quarterly meetings, a River Day, 2 educational workshops, developing a logo, design outreach materials, and participation in the Virginia Watershed Alliance meeting. N. Hill commented he was pleased with the turnout of the meeting today and with South Centré Corridors agreeing to take over the roundtable.

IV. Planning of River Day Celebration:

Location/Day/Time: Y. Stokes suggested the recently opened Barrett's Landing on the Blackwater River in Franklin. The City of Franklin would welcome River Day said F. Davis with the City of Franklin Parks & Recreation. S. Bradshaw suggested we coordinate with J. Turner, Blackwater Riverkeeper who has river activities in conjunction with Earth Day at the same location. S. Bradshaw spoke with Mr. Turner his event is scheduled for Saturday, April 19th. His clean up activities start around 7am. All trash collected is weighed at completions around 9am. It was decided that River Day will be held at Barrett's Landing on the Blackwater River in Franklin on April 19, 2008 at 9am.

Program Agenda: Discussion was held on purpose of River Day: a clean up or a celebration of Rivers, invite children? have multiple locations? V. Liu commented that Friends of the Lower Appomattox River (FOLAR) has 2 clean-ups each year, a cruise for county officials and the media, and a River Day for the children, but they started small. He suggested that the Roundtable pick one project for the River Day and grow from that in the future. N. Hill said it is up to the Roundtable to decide, but DCR had in mind an awareness project. D. Goodwin noted that since the river clean-up in Franklin ends around 9am our River Day celebration could begin then with the attendees observing all the trash collected and the pride of the volunteers who helped. C. Brice mentioned it would be good to actually get the attendees on the river. River Day Planning Committee Volunteers – C. Morris, F. Davis, N. Hill, P. Vincent, A. Crocker, S. Bradshaw, and H. Baker will decide activities and demonstrations for River Day.

Participating Agencies & Organizations: Members of the Roundtable and the organizations they represent will be involved.

V. Educational Workshops: Educational Workshop Committee Voluntary Members: J. Skalsky, C. Jones, N. Clark, B. Houchins, Y. Stokes, and one South Hampton Roads RC&D Council Member. The Educational Workshops will be planned for the fall of this year. VA Department of Forestry may give grant money if forestry is involved in the workshops.

VI. Roundtable Logo Design: V. Liu mentioned how an 8th-grade student from Dinwiddie County designed the logo for FOLAR. It was suggested the Roundtable also have a logo design contest and award the winning student and the Art Teacher from the school. The contest will be open to schools in the Watershed. The Soil & Water Conservation Districts will help identify the schools in the watershed. There is \$3,500.00 budgeted for logo design and brochures, bumper stickers, pins, and coasters featuring the logo. C. Jones mentioned that Hampton Roads Planning District Commission may be able to help with printing, etc.

VI. Partner Updates: **DCR:** Noah Hill and Moira Croghan commented on DCR. N. Hill is now Regional Manager at the Suffolk Soil & Water Office. The Watershed Field position is now vacant, but is expected to be filled soon. 10 new full-time storm water staff has been hired. Some of the programs DCR offers are planned to be extended throughout the state. **South Centré Corridors RC&D** – P. Vincent reported that the council has been offering education mini-grants for up to \$500 to the schools in the RC&D area. Three have been awarded already in Greenville, Southampton, and Prince George Counties. Friday a grant will be presented to a Petersburg City

school. Another round of grants will be open once again to schools and soil & water conservation districts for educational projects with the schools. The deadline is March 3. The council will be turning its attention to strategic planning efforts. The Roundtable will be presented with a survey for comments to aid the next strategic plan. Virginia Association of RC&D Councils is hosting the South East Association of RC&D Councils Conference in Wytheville, VA in September. Approximately 400 people are expected to attend. The Virginia Association is having its' annual conference in April at the Breaks State Park. The 2009 Draft Budget for RC&D has been presented. **Southampton Roads RC&D** – The next council meeting is March 12th from 9:30am – 12noon at Suffolk City Hall, City Council Room. The Roundtable's Educational Workshops will be discussed. The council has received a greenhouse grant and a grant from the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. The City of Norfolk is partnering on a project at the juvenile detention center. They are donating land for agricultural education. **SWCD** – No update. NRCS – H. Baker reported that the Farm Bill has not yet been approved. They are accepting CRP applications until March 15th. The longleaf are has been extended. June 30th the Sussex office will be closing and consolidating with Greensville. The Suffolk office has already closed and consolidated with Smithfield. **DOF** – E. Zimmer reported A. Cahoon, RC&D Forester is leaving her position. The position will not be immediately filled. Others at DOF will share the position's load. Brian Lacey, forester for Surry & Prince George Counties will represent for the Roundtable. Grant programs through Urban Forestry and Water Quality funds are available. **Landowners** – No update. **APNEP** – L. Henry reported they are working on their comprehensive plan for 2009. Albemarle Pamlico Conservation & Community Collaborative is a new program. Contact L. Henry if you would like to be on the mailing list.

VII. Suggestions for Next Guest Speaker: J. Skalsky suggested representative from the Albemarle Pamlico National Estuary Program give an overview of their activities at the next meeting. C. Morris seconded the idea.

VIII. Next Meeting Date & Location: It was suggested that the next meeting be March 20th in Franklin at Holiday Camp from 9am to 12noon. A Virginia Watershed Alliance Meeting will be held April 1-3, 2008 at VMI. M. Croghan will verify the exact date. S. Bradshaw and C. Morris will attend in behalf of the Watershed Roundtable. DCR may pay for traveling and lodging for 2 or more attendees.