

Albemarle-Chowan Watershed Roundtable

Quarterly Meeting March 20, 2008 Fred's Restaurant Franklin, VA

Present: Harvey Baker, Neil Clark, Amanda Crocker, Frank A. Davis, Donald Goodwin, Lucy Henry, Noah Hill, B. Houchins, Kim E. Hummel, Claire Jones, Brian Lacey, Crockett Morris, Brian P. Saunders, Bill Shanabruch, Jerry Skalsky, Yamika Stokes, Jeff Turner, Patrick Vincent, Meredith Wilson

I. Welcome: Patrick Vincent welcomed everyone to the meeting. Everyone introduced themselves.

II. Guest Speaker – Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Program: Lucy Henry presented a PowerPoint presentation on the Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Program (APNEP), the 2nd national estuary program designated in the United States. The Chowan Watershed is connected to the Albemarle-Pamlico Sound. APNEP is currently working on its 2008 Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan. There are 28 National Estuary Programs in the United States. APNEP manages the largest amount of territory.

III. Planning of River Day Celebration: P. Vincent asked for any changes needed to the minutes. N. Hill mentioned permission has been given approving the hiring of 10 new full-time storm water staff. They have not been hired yet. Y. Stokes mentioned that regarding the Southampton Roads RC&D update a Suffolk landowner and not the city of Norfolk is donating land for agricultural education.

Program Agenda: The Planning Committee held a conference call. The River Day will be held at Blackwater Landing instead of Barret's Landing. We are asking agencies to set up informational booths or displays. Elected officials will be invited. 15-20 minute bus tours will allow them to see the river clean up. The City of Franklin will provide buses. The welcome will be at 10am. The mayor of Franklin and Southampton County's County Administrator will speak. A guest speaker has not been found yet. Richard Railey, Roslyn Dance, and Bill Barlow were suggested as guest speakers. If anyone is interested in river clean-up contact Jeff Turner. John Allen from Iluka Resources has pledged \$250.00 to support River Day. Y. Stokes suggested we advertise River Day. Also it was suggested the money could be used for t-shirts or for gifts for the speakers. A press release ran in the Tidewater News. We should have another full-page ad done the week of River Day. Also City of Franklin will publish it in the City Clips. F. Davis will put pictures of River Day planning in the paper.

Participating Agencies & Organizations: Extension, RC&D, NRCS, the SWCDs, DCR, the Department of Game & Inland Fisheries, DOF, APNEP, and other agencies and groups will set up booths. Please bring your own tables. N. Clark will try to bring some extra tables. N. Hill will contact DEQ to see if they will be available for participation.

Activities/Demonstrations: There will be a fishing tournament for children 18 and under. They will need to bring their own equipment. Jeff Turner may take the dignitaries for a ride in his pontoon boat.

IV. Educational Workshops: Old Dominion RC&D and South Hampton Roads RC&D will host educational workshops. They are in the planning stages. South Centré Corridors RC&D may host a workshop as well.

V. Roundtable Logo Design: Packets were mailed to about 27 high schools in February with details about the logo contest. 9-12 graders are eligible to enter. The winning school will receive \$100 for the Art Department. The winning student will receive a \$100 savings bond. The runner up will receive a \$50 savings bond. All entries must be postmarked by April 11th. The entries will be narrowed down to a few and then judged at River Day by the crowds.

VI. Partner Updates: **DCR:** Noah Hill commented on DCR. DCR fared well at the General Assembly. Final approval has been received for the 10 positions to be filled. Storm water Water Re-use Legislation has passed. The new storm water regulations for the general construction permit are now up for public comment. The Storm water VSMP Inspector position is vacant. N. Hill's old position is still vacant. **South Centré Corridors RC&D** – Next Council Meeting will be held March 31st at 6:30pm at Southern Sisters in Courtland. **Southampton Roads RC&D** – They are planning a workshop on wetlands and conservation with the participation of Ducks Unlimited, DEQ, and Peanut SWCD for the Roundtable Project. The next council meeting will be held May 14th from 9:30-12 at Colonial Farm Credit in Windsor. **NRCS** – The EQIP program has just finished. CREP sign-up has been extended to April 15th. B. Saunders, District Conservationist in Sussex is also serving as acting district conservationist in Hanover. **DOF** – There is no forester in the VA Beach-Norfolk area. They are currently under a hiring freeze. The position will be handled by the Waverly office. Extension – no update. **Riverkeeper** – no update. **DEQ** – They are now monitoring the Chowan Watershed for TMDL. We will be notified of a public meeting. Citizens can do volunteer monitoring. Work is being done to classify the Nottoway River as a scenic river. **Franklin** – will be establishing a Farmers Market as part of the T21 grant. Other funding will be used also. It may be open by July or August.

VII. Suggestions for Next Guest Speaker: A few suggestions were made: Army Corps of Engineer on the Chowan Basin Study. Some discussion was also held on the VA-NC Interstate Agreement.

VIII. Next Meeting Date & Location: It was suggested that the next meeting be June 26th in Emporia at the Conference Room at the Greenville County Building at 10am. Harvey Baker will check on the building.