



**Quarterly Meeting
October 16, 2008
City Hall, Administration Dept, Conference Room
Franklin, VA**

Present: Chris Bradshaw, Stacey Bradshaw, Lori Brinn, Eric Brittle, Neil Clark, Noah Hill, Kim E. Hummel, Amanda Jarratt, Claire Jones, Chip Rice, Brian Saunders, Alex Stace, Yamika Stokes, Patrick Vincent, Meredith Wilson

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

II. Minutes from 6/26/08 Meeting: P. Vincent asked for any changes needed to the minutes. None were mentioned.

III. Guest Speaker – Mark Mansfield, Chief, Planning & Policy, US Army Corps of Engineers: presented a report on the Chowan River Study. The study began last week, but had been in the works for quite some time. The test is to discover ways to solve the flooding problems in the Chowan Watershed. The purpose is for environmental restoration and flood risk management. Already it has been noted that a system of effective gauges are needed. Three types of gauges can be utilized. Once the study is completed the Army Corps of Engineers will be able to advise Congress on gauges needed and request funding to implement the plans. Those interested in joining the Technical Committee should contact Mark Mansfield.

IV. Educational Workshops Update: P. Vincent reported that Old Dominion RC&D's Watershed Festival is in the planning stages. The workshop will be held in the next month. Y. Stokes, Acting Coordinator for South Hampton Roads RC&D, reported that the workshop will be held 11/18 at 6pm at the Tidewater Agricultural Research & Extension Center.

V. Roundtable Logo Design Update: Studio Ammons, Inc. in Petersburg designed 4 logo options for the Roundtable. P. Vincent presented the designs to the group. Those in attendance chose the logo seen above (in the heading).

VI. Strategic Planning: A committee to draft a strategic plan needs to be formed. Various agencies will be asked to serve on the committee. Now is the time to start planning for the 2009 Rivers Day. Due to various Earth Day (April 18) activities, Easter holiday (April 11), and Memorial Day (May 25), the tentative date is June 6. A copy of the draft mission/principles created by the steering committee was given to everyone. By the next meeting there should be an AWCRC website set up. We will be linked to the Virginia Watershed Alliance. Articles were distributed concerning the Meherrin River Study and the Chowan River Study.

VI. Partner Updates: **DCR:** N. Hill reported DCR is experiencing budget cuts and will be cutting back on administrative expenses and limiting conservation reserve programs. The SWCDs have approved the Stormwater Regulations. Phillip Winslow has been selected for the Stormwater Compliance Specialist. The coordinator's position with Christopher Newport University is still vacant. A hiring freeze has been put into place. **South Centré Corridors RC&D** – The First Annual Awards Banquet was held on 9/29/08. City of Franklin was recognized as an outstanding partner. Jeff Turner, Blackwater Nottoway River Keeper was recognized for community service. Some successful rain barrel workshops have been held. Next council meeting 11/17 in Sussex @ Newsome Human Services Building. **Southampton Roads RC&D** – J. Lytle reported they received a grant to build raised garden beds. The Living Shoreline Restoration Project has almost been completed. Recently the council received a grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust. In September some members attended the Southeast Association of RC&D Councils Conference in Wytheville, VA. Next council meeting will be the evening of 11/15 in Smithfield. **SWCD** – S. Bradshaw reported that they are holding cost share signups. Youth Fall Farm Days are being conducted. Greenville County will have Farm Days in April in conjunction with Extension. **NRCS** – B. Saunders reported they are working under the new Farm Bill. They have just completed the 5-Year Strategic Plan. Y. Stokes reported that Interagency Wildlife Rally will be held 10/28 in Petersburg from 8am to 1pm. The Agency is operating under a Continuing Resolution for funds until March. **DOF** – A. Stace reported Harvey Darden will be filling the Forester position in VA Beach. A regional reorganization is going on. The Waverly office will eventually move to New Kent or Richmond. A hiring freeze has been placed on the agency. **APNEP** – Lori Brinn reported that Lucy Henry is on maternity leave and will return in 2009. This is her 2nd week with agency. Projects working on now: Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan. A Climate-Ready Estuary Grant was just received, working on monitoring estuaries. Also, a submersed aquatic vegetation survey. **Dept of Game & Inland Fisheries** – E. Brittle reported that the Nottoway Creel Survey has been completed. Now the data is being entered to decipher results. **Army Corps of Engineers** – M. Mansfield reported that this month they will be publishing a draft Programmatic EIF Non-Native Oyster species. It's not listing alternatives. 6 public meetings will be held in November, 3 in Maryland, 3 in VA. **Extension** – N. Clark reported Ext. is hosting Hot Topics for Forest Landowners on November 13 at 6pm at the Community College in Franklin. Also March 12 & 13 they will hold an Ecosystem Services Conference in Charlottesville.

Riverkeeper- J. Turner was scheduled to give a river cruise, but that has been postponed because his dog Moonpie is missing on the river. He is currently searching the area where they last camped.

VIII. Suggestions for Next Guest Speaker: The Hampton Roads Planning District Commission will give a presentation on some of their projects.

IX. Next Meeting Date & Location: It was suggested that the next meeting be either December 9 or 10th at the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission in Chesapeake at 10:30. This will be confirmed and everyone will be notified soon after.