



**Quarterly Meeting
February 25, 2009
Southside Virginia Community College,
Workforce Development Center
Alberta, VA**

Present: Morgan Allen (Dinwiddie County), Harvey Baker (NRCS, Greensville) Chris Bradshaw (NRCS, Brunswick), Stacey Bradshaw (Chowan Basin SWCD), Lori Brinn (APNEP), Eric Brittle (VDGIF), Donald Goodwin (City of Franklin), Chip Rice (DCR), Dave Roberts (Old Dominion RC&D), Brian Saunders (NRCS, Sussex), Yamika Stokes (NRCS, Courtland/ South Hampton Roads RC&D) Sandra Tanner (VTC), Patrick Vincent (South Centré Corridors RC&D), Meredith Wilson (South Centré Corridors RC&D)

I. Welcome: Patrick Vincent welcomed everyone to the meeting and called for introductions.

II. Minutes from 12/16/08 Meeting: P. Vincent reviewed the minutes. If anyone has suggestions or additions regarding the minutes please contact the office.

III. Guest Speaker – Sandra F. Tanner, Tourism Development Specialist, Virginia Tourism Corporation: presented a slideshow on tourism and trail projects in Virginia. Mrs. Tanner helps develop tourism product and trails for the area south of the James River from Patrick County to Suffolk. She is president of Roanoke River Rails to Trails and is in the process of developing Tobacco Heritage Trails. The goal of VTC is to encourage more people to visit an area and spend more money; and teach communities to market what they have. The VTC is currently working on multi-use trails. Regional blue way trails are in process, one is a canoe/paddle/camping trail along the Meherrin River. Also, the Tobacco Heritage Trail will connect towns and 5 counties. The VTC works to preserve and conserve natural resources. Governor Kaine wants Beaches to Bluegrass Trail that would link the Chesapeake Bay to Cumberland Gap, VA. Other trails in the works: East Coast Greenway Trail from Maine to Florida and High Speed CSX Rails with Trails which would include trails from Richmond to Raleigh.

IV. Project Review & Current Status: Last year 5 meetings were held. The Roundtable did the Rivers Day project, had a logo designed, held 1 workshop, (also 1 workshop was held in January), and developed a draft Strategic Plan. All of the grant funds from DCR were not used so DCR carried forth the balance to this year. \$5,000 to \$7,000 more will be available for use this year as needed. P. Vincent and Roundtable members have develop a strategic plan draft. Notify P. Vincent of project ideas or suggestions.

V. Albemarle-Chowan Watershed Rivers Day: This year Rivers Day will be held on June 6 (Saturday) at Blackwater Landing in Franklin. We need to hold a planning meeting in March or April. Please notify P. Vincent of suggestions for Keynote Speakers. We will need exhibits and possibly vendors for the event. This year it would be good to focus on invitations to young and parents although the legislators will still be invited. Dept of Game & Inland Fisheries is holding a free-fishing day on June 6th also. (No license needed, fishing poles & tackle boxes will be supplied) E. Brittle suggested the Roundtable contact schools in Southampton and Sussex Counties to invite them. Please refer activity suggestions to P. Vincent.

VI. Educational Workshops Update: D. Roberts, Old Dominion RC&D commented on their Water Quality Workshop. They tried to include the public, but that didn't work out, so a workshop was held in Nottoway and Lunenburg. At an In-Service in Lunenburg, science teachers were taught to use the Water Monitoring Kit. Students will bring water from home to class for testing. Nottoway Envirothon participants learned to use the kits also. And Nottoway Science Teachers will use them in high school classes. Old Dominion would like to have a continuous project for water-testing with the teachers, including K-2 classes. Y. Stokes on behalf of South Hampton Roads RC&D thanked the Roundtable for providing funds for the workshop. 51 attended and they plan to do more in the fall.

VII. Strategic Planning: The draft plan is still a working document. L. Brinn and C. Rice have been helping with it also. The Roundtable would like to establish volunteer water quality monitoring groups in the Chowan Watershed. Please give feedback to P. Vincent regarding whether the monitoring should be chemical or anhel-minthic testing. One is more cost-effective.

X. Partner Updates: **DCR:** C. Rice commented N. Hill's former position has not been filled. It has been approved for funding. **South Centré Corridors RC&D** – P. Vincent commented the Council is working on its 5-Year Strategic Plan. They recently adopted a project to help acquire grant funds for Mission Ministries in Waverly to create a food bank. **South Hampton Roads RC&D** – The Council is completing planting beds and doing planting. A \$75k grant in Chesapeake was renewed. They are now accepting bids to build riprap seals to slow down wave action. Volunteers will plant wetland grasses. A grant was received from DEQ for the Elizabeth River. Workshops will be held in Surry & Isle of Wight on Forestry and Litter Control. In 2010 the Council may host the Virginia Association of RC&D Councils (VARCDC) Annual Meeting. Next Council meeting will be i3/10 in Smithfield at USDA Service

Old Dominion RC&D is hosting the VARCDC Spring Meeting at Berry Hill in South Boston. Their main focus right now is on recycling, coordinating collection and pick-up within rural communities. The Council is doing TMDL implementation studies and educational projects for age K-thru adult. Also they are searching for grants for a therapeutic riding project for mentally challenged children, possibly may be held at Holliday Lake or county parks. **NRCS** - C. Bradshaw reported they are waiting on interim rules from the Farm Bill for FY 09 programs. B. Saunders reported the Southeast area has their meeting tomorrow. He is working with DGIF and DOF on projects involving bobwhite quail and longleaf pines. 3/3 there will be a Longleaf Pine Workshop in Newville, VA from 10am till noon. H. Barker reported they are waiting on the Farm Bill. Greenville has been declared a disaster area; they have granted ECP on pasture land and developing irrigation. Y. Stokes reported that farmers can request waivers for irrigation, tree planting with EQIP. Farmers can have the word one prior to contract approval. **SWCD** – S. Bradshaw reported their 6th Annual Agricultural Tire Recycling Day is coming up in March. Farm Days will be in Sussex on 4/1 and Greenville on 4/8. The cover crop program is winding down. **APNEP**- Lori Brinn reported that 3/6 is the deadline for a 2-page grant application for Schoolyard Demonstration Projects. APNEP received a grant to monitor underwater acoustics. **DGIF** – E. Brittle reported the Nottoway River Survey is complete. 90% of the fishermen surveyed were from Sussex, Southampton, Franklin, Suffolk, and Virginia Beach. They would like to attract fishermen from outside areas. He's going to talk with Sandra Tanner for suggestions. 2 boat ramps have been proposed along 40. He is on the Blackwater Franklin Flooding Task Force. They have plans to add stream gauges funded by COE, some cooperative rain gauge stations, and to have more frequent reports for more accurate water levels. **City of Franklin** - The Farmer's Market is coming along. They are waiting on the concrete slab to cure and will do some grading. The Farmer's Market will be open by Rivers Day.

XI. Next Meeting Date & Location: The next meeting will be held in Franklin at the end of April, exact date and location to be announced.