



**Quarterly Meeting  
August 11, 2009  
Human Services Building  
Prince George, VA**

**Present:** Morgan Allen (Dinwiddie Co. E&S), Mark Alling (DEQ, Piedmont) Scott Bachman (VDOF), Chris Bradshaw (NRCS, Brunswick), Lori Brinn (APNEP), Eric Brittle (VDGIF), Neil Clark (V Coop Ext), Harvey Darden (VDOF), Todd Herbert (DCR/APNEP) Claire Jones (Hampton Roads PDC), Dan Lee (James River SWCD), Beth Lewis (Southampton County) Victor Liu (Crater PDC), Judy Lyttle (Southampton Roads RC&D) Brian Saunders (NRCS, Sussex), Jerry Skalsky (Prince George County), Margaret Smigo (DEQ, Piedmont), Patrick Vincent (South Centré Corridors RC&D), Meredith Wilson (South Centré Corridors RC&D), Gary Woodson (City of Suffolk)

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

**II. Minutes from 4/23/09 Meeting:** P. Vincent reviewed the minutes. If anyone has suggestions or additions regarding the minutes please contact the office.

**III. Guest Speakers – Margaret Smigo, Environmental Programs Planner, DEQ, Piedmont region, TMDLs in the Chowan River Watershed Water Quality Study Update –** A Total Maximum Daily Load Development plan must be completed for all impaired water bodies in Virginia that do not meet water quality standards. Water bodies are monitored once every 6 years. Once a waterway has been studied DCR has 12 years to develop a TMDL report. The TMDL process in Virginia was discussed. The surrounding community and the State Water Control Board are involved in the process also. Currently projects are ongoing for the Meherrin River and its tributaries and the Blackwater River and its tributaries. Some parts of the Upper Chowan have been developed by the South Central Region DEQ office. DEQ tries to address human/pet/livestock pollution issues before addressing natural/wildlife causes. The Roundtable could help with TMDLs by participating in meetings, submitting comments, verifying data, and including DEQ in Roundtable meetings and programs. Individuals can aid DEQ by minimizing runoff from homes (rain barrels, rain gardens), not feeding wildlife, clean up behind pets, and maintain septic systems. For information about Implementation Planning Status and approved plans go to <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/tmdl/implement.html>.

**IV. Albemarle-Chowan Watershed & Rivers Day:** P. Vincent reported the event was held June 6, 2009 in Franklin. The youth and public participation was not as good as last year perhaps because of the cloudy, rainy weather. Exhibits were displayed by APNEP, DCR, Chowan Basin SWCD, Virginia State University Aquaculture, and RC&D. DGIF donated rods and reels. P. Vincent thanked Eric Brittle for his assistance with providing the rods and reels. An idea for next year's day is to schedule it along with the Summer Enrichment Program since it has greater participation (about 60 children).

**V. Scenic Rivers – Blackwater River Designation Update –** P. Vincent e-mailed Lynn Crump about the status. At this point a report is needed to proceed. She is waiting to hear if the city of Suffolk is interested. If the City of Suffolk is not interested the designation will be from Franklin/Isle of Wight line. (With Suffolk, the designation will go all the way to the NC line. 8/24 Lynn Crump will attend the Southampton County Board of Supervisors Meeting to answer questions.

**VI. Chowan River Basin Flooding Study Update –** P. Vincent received an update from Mark Mansfield. Enclosed in the meeting packets is a draft map showing 5 new stream gauges. E. Brittle commented he believes funding has been passed by the House, may be waiting in the Senate.

**VII. Growth Readiness Conference –** Flier is enclosed in the meeting packet. Noah Hill referred this project to P. Vincent. A workshop/conference was held in Southwest Virginia. The Roundtable could pick topics relevant to the area to address at the workshop. Suggestions from Roundtable are to focus on local government and topics for rural areas in the watershed, climate change topics. An article in the Dinwiddie paper last week discussed growth in the county. P. Vincent may ask Roundtable members to assist with planning.

**VII. Partner Updates:** DCR: T. Herbert is a new employee with DCR. DCR is working on efforts for dissolved oxygen TMDL. They are currently looking for a reference watershed. **South Centré Corridors RC&D –** P. Vincent reported the next meeting is 9/29 in Prince George Human Services Building. The Council is currently working with Extension on a Forestry & Field Tour scheduled for 9/24. **South Hampton Roads RC&D –** J. Lyttle reported the Council is working on a TMDL on the Elizabeth River. **SWCD –** D. Lee reported James River SWCD's new fiscal/program year started 7/1. With new funding they are working with farmers in a cover crop program. There has been an increase in livestock watering systems and fencing out streams. The SWCD is selling rain barrel kits for \$35 if anyone is interested. **NRCS –** B. Saunders reported EQIP is wrapping up for this fiscal year. Over \$15 million in unapproved applications are waiting. 60% of it is livestock programs. The Conservation Stewardship Program will reward good farmers for what they are already doing. Also there is a program involving digitizing tile drainage lines in Sussex. **DGIF –** no update.

**APNEP-** Lori Brinn reported they are funding 5 outdoor classroom projects, but the NC budget was just handed down yesterday. Some of the projects may carry on into the next fiscal year, but they will still be funded in next year's budget, deadlines will be extended. Todd Herbert will be the contact for the VIMS study. **Coop. Ext.** – N. Clark listed upcoming events: 9/24 Forestry Wildlife Field Tour. 10/9/09 Wildlife Habitat in Dinwiddie. In November they will host a state-wide retreat. **VDOF** – S. Bachman reported that Alex Stace moved to an office in Halifax. Harvey Darden now has Stace's former position. VDOF will participate in a new project called Tomorrow's Woods. It will involve conservation easements for forest properties. The goal is to have 28 easements in 5 years. **Crater PDC** – V. Liu reported that the East Coast Greenway project has selected a part in Petersburg to connect to Richmond. It will touch the Chowan River Basin in Dinwiddie or Prince George. Also Crater PDC is working on a map project to identify the green infrastructure in the area to aid future planning. **Southampton Co.** – B. Lewis reported that the Blackwater Scenic River Meeting was positive last night. **Hampton Roads PDC** – C. Jones reported they are doing TMDLs and encouraging public involvement. Also they are doing a Green Infrastructure Study and a Climate Change Study. **Prince George Co.** – no update.

**XI. Next Meeting Date & Location:** Exact date and location to be announced.