



**Quarterly Meeting
October 21, 2010
Human Services Building
Prince George, VA**

Present: Harvey Baker (NRCS Emporia), Stacey Bradshaw (Chowan Basin SWCD,)Eric Brittle (VDGIF), Frank Davis (City of Franklin), Davie Harris (NRCS Emporia), Todd Herbert (DCR/APNEP), Kim E. Hummel (Isle of Wight Co.), W. D. Kreider (James River SWCD), Dan Lee (James River SWCD), Linda McAllister (James River SWCD), Jerry Skalsky (Prince George Co.), Brian van Eerden (The Nature Conservancy), Patrick Vincent (South Centr  Corridors RC&D), Wayne Walton (FOLAR/City of Hopewell), Meredith Wilson (South Centr  Corridors RC&D)

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

II. Minutes from 7/15/10 Meeting: P. Vincent reviewed the minutes. If anyone has question, suggestions or additions regarding the minutes please contact the South Centr  Corridors RC&D office.

III. Guest Presentation: Wayne Walton, Friends of Lower Appomattox River (FOLAR), A Model for Regional Cooperation & Teamwork – Mr. Walton shared a PowerPoint presentation highlighting some of the successful projects and work done along the river. Mr. Walton has been a member of FOLAR since 2003. FOLAR was formed in 2000 under the umbrella of Crater Planning District Commission. The organization’s goal is to establish a trail from Lake Chesdin to Hopewell. FOLAR received a Forestry Grant and developed a plan with help from Virginia Tech to establish a Greenway/Blueway plan concentrated on developing a 22.8 mile long trail that would become a public access (on foot, by bike or boat) to the scenic Appomattox River. Some projects FOLAR have done are Ferndale Park, Rohoic Creek Crossing, Steve Thomas Bridge, Battersea Bridges Crossing, Appomattox River Regional Park, Cameron Bridge, Water Quality Monitoring Station at Appomattox River Regional Park, Weston Manor Evergreen Overlook, City Park, and Prince George Park. FOLAR also hosts river clean-ups twice a year. The 18th river clean up will be this month. They also participate in outreach programs, the Petersburg Tire Clean Up, ARRP Soldier Work Day, Wal-Mart Work Day, and an annual Paddle/Battle competition. 28 people participated in the 3rd Annual ten-mile Paddle/Battle this year. FOLAR so far is a 2 million project involving no tax money. Some of FOLAR’s partners are Columbia Gas, Vulcan, Dominion Virginia Power, Philip Morris, Waste Management, Wal-Mart, Virginia-American Water, and others. Currently FOLAR is working on easements with Dominion Virginia Power and also more trails are in the works. FOLAR is always looking for volunteers. They recently had their 9th Annual Meeting. For more information please visit www.folar-va.org.

IV. River’s Day Update – The Roundtable partnered with Paul D Camp College Kids College, City of Franklin Parks & Recreation, and the Boys & Girls Club for River’s Day on Thursday, July 22. 32 young people participated in the event held at Barret’s Landing from 8:30 – 12:30pm. The children visited different exhibits and received goodie bags with craft kits. Participation could be increased by early publicity. F. Davis stated that he will be hosting the Regional Parks & Recreation Fun Day next year and perhaps it could be incorporated with Rivers Day. Between 200 and 300 children will participate in the Fun Day. Mr. Davis and the other sponsors need to know well in advance in order to publicize and help with the event.

V. Living in Your Watershed Booklet Update: Discussion was held on choices for cover of booklet. It was suggested to have a cover similar to James River Watershed’s book showing urban areas, tractor, farm field, forestry, and industrial parts of the area. P. Vincent will meet with Mr. Bowman to finalize the cover soon. Also P. Vincent is working along with Mr. Bowman to complete the content (text) in the middle of the book. The booklet is scheduled to be completed in November. Funding received for the booklets is now \$7,500.00. This is over the halfway goal of \$15,000 and it is enough for the minimum order (requires \$7000.00). Two grant applications were submitted yesterday to Georgia Pacific and Vulcan Materials. It is possible to order more copies of the booklet as we received additional funding.

VI. Partner Updates: APNEP – T. Herbert stated the cycle for RFP demonstration grants will be open soon. APNEP is continuing to work on the eco-system based management approach comprehensive plan. Scott Gentry was recently hired along with another person, so APNEP will be operating with full staff soon. **NRCS –** H. Baker introduced Davy Harris, the new Soil Conservationist in Sussex. NRCS is working under a continuing resolution. They are taking applications for all programs, but cannot fund applications until the budget is approved. **RC&D – South Centr  Corridors RC&D –** P. Vincent reported South Centr  Corridors Buy Fresh Buy Local (BFBL) Chapter printed its first Food Guide. Please take some to distribute. The Chapter plans to print another in the spring as markets start to open. Tell interested landowners/producers to contact the office. **South Hampton Roads RC&D –** P. Vincent reported the Council is entering into another TMDL study in Hampton Roads and other parts of the state. **DCR –** T. Herbert reported the Southern Rivers grants will be very competitive this year. **SWCD –** Chowan Basin SWCD – S. Bradshaw reported they just finished two farm days in Greensville and in Southampton. They distributed 100 BFBL food guides in the children’s take home information. Also Chowan Basin had a station at the River’s Day event.

They are now accepting applications for the cost-share programs. **James River SWCD** – D. Lee reported they are currently doing sign-ups for cost-share programs. There is a lot of interest in the programs, but not enough funding for all. **DGIF** – E. Brittle reported the department is going through reorganization. They are going from three divisions to one as of November 1. The agency should be better and more efficient with the changes. **Army Corps of Engineers** – E. Brittle and P. Vincent reported that the Chowan River Basin Reconnaissance draft report was submitted to stakeholders on 10/14. Next is the feasibility stage. Comments on this plan are due 11/12/10. **The Nature Conservancy (TNC)** – B. Van Eerden reported that in 2006 TNC entered a big land acquisition project with International Paper. TNC protected 8,000 acres of this land. Some of it went to a state forest. They bought 2500 acres in Isle of Wight County. About 1000 acres of that along the Blackwater are protected. The Nature Conservancy will be seeking letters of support for a grant through the US Forest Service for 600 acres. Currently there is a tremendous opportunity for purchase, but TNC doesn't have funding for all of it.

VI. Next Meeting Date & Location: Early December 2010 tentatively