



**Quarterly Meeting
July 15, 2010
City Hall
Franklin, VA**

Present: Scott Bachman (VDOP), Yamika Bennett (NRCS Courtland), Kristie Britt (DEQ), Eric Brittle (VDGIF), Todd Herbert (DCR/APNEP), Bill Hopkins (Town of Smithfield), Jerry Skalsky (Prince George Co.), Jeff Turner (Blackwater/Nottoway Riverkeeper), 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 5/18/10 Meeting: P. Vincent reviewed the minutes. If anyone has question, suggestions or additions regarding the minutes please contact the South Centré Corridors RC&D office.

III. Guest Presentation: Jeff Turner, Blackwater/Nottoway Riverkeeper Program – Mr. Turner showed an educational DVD featuring the wildlife on the Blackwater/Nottoway River. The footage was taken in the spring. Wildlife spotted on the river: raccoon, buzzards, brown water snake, blue catfish, muskrat, otter, great blue heron, green heron, wild turkey, king snake, mink, ground hogs, barred owl, osprey, deer, snapping turtle, black morrie, beaver, and bald eagle. The program also showed some problems along the river: trash in logjams, trees being cut down, and cows in the river. The River Keepers collect about 2000 pounds of trash every year from the rivers. Stormwater is a major source of pollution. Cypress trees were shown bogged along the river in swampland. Sorghum and other trees have been cut down leaving nothing to hold storm water from flooding land. Unfenced cows in the river leave cow dung to pollute the water. The dung adds E. coli bacteria to the water. The Department of Game & Inland Fisheries was on the river counting shad and herring. The Yakkety Yak Kayak Club, a group of 60s and 70s year old women from Richmond kayak the river. Beavers were once rare, but are now overly populated on the Blackwater River. Since 1996 over 80 bald eagles have been spotted. In 2000, Mr. Turner worked along with the Department of Game & Inland Fisheries to have Cherry Grove along the river recognized as a protected nesting site for bald eagles. Mr. Turner plans to work with the Kids College at Paul D Camp Community College and plans more eco-cruises in the future.

IV. "River's Day" Exploration of S.W.A.P.A. – The Roundtable is partnering with Paul D Camp College for their Kids College. River's Day is next Thursday, July 22 from 8:30am to 12 noon. The program will begin with fishing at Barret's Landing from 8:30 – 9:30am. From 9:30 the children will visit the exhibits. At each station children will receive gold coins that they can exchange for watershed-related prizes. Stations need to be set up by 9:30am. 20 children have registered so far. Contact Terry at Paul D Camp Community College with the Kid's College Program to register. Discussion was held on whether children will come individually or in groups to the stations. Suggestions for next year's River's Day: partner also with Parks & Recreation Summer Program, the 4-H Center in Wakefield, and YMCA to have greater participation.

V. Living in Your Watershed Booklet Update: The Roundtable will begin with printing 20,000 booklets which will cost about \$15,000. Some funds have already been allocated for this project: \$5500 from Roundtable funds, \$1000 from South Centré Corridors RC&D, \$200 from South Hampton Roads RC&D. Also we applied for grants from APNEP (\$1500) and Virginia Environmental Endowment (\$5000). We received the contract from the publisher. It will be reviewed and signed later on today.

VI. Partner Updates: **APNEP** – T. Herbert stated they are meeting monthly to continue working on the eco-system based management approach comprehensive plan. **BNRK** – J. Turner is working along with the state of VA to pass a law that children 13 or under wear personal flotation devices on inland waters. Ashland Hercules is remediating a 10-acre site and would like to do a habitat restoration. For more information speak to J. Turner. **NRCS** – Y. Stokes reported NRCS is in the final quarter of the fiscal year. Programs are winding down. The WHIP program still has funds for longleaf pines available for anyone needing management practices for existing woods or who want to plant. CSP ranking deadline is tomorrow. Brian Saunders former DC in Sussex is now working in NC. NRCS plans to hire a soil conservationist in Emporia. **RC&D – South Centré Corridors RC&D** – P. Vincent reported ten Mini Grants were awarded last year benefitting about 3600 students, seven schools, and three soil & water districts. A \$20,000 grant was awarded for the Buy Fresh Buy Local Chapter. **South Hampton Roads RC&D** – P. Vincent reported the Council is working on a five-year area plan. Roundtable partners may receive an e-survey for project suggestions. **DCR** – T. Herbert reported DCR is applying for the EPA's healthy watershed initiative grant for \$250,000 for the rest of Chowan Basin Watershed. The project would be a partnership with APNEP. The project would involve NC and VA including lots of partners. The Roundtable may be asked to submit support letters for the grant proposal. Also they are reviewing storm water regulations and working on Bay TMDL watershed plans. **DOF** – S. Bachman reported DOF and DGIF have acquired about 5,000 acres of land from International Paper. DOF and DGIF are currently working

on a joint management agreement for the property. The land will be used as a state forest for recreational use. A state forest pass will be needed to use the forest. If you donate 20 hours of volunteer service you can get a free pass. **DGIF** – E. Brittle reported he will be out on the Nottoway & Blackwater looking for catfish, if anyone is interested in coming along, contact Eric Brittle. He participated in float trips with Lynn Crump from DCR. Since then L. Crump says DCR is moving forward with plans for the Scenic River program involving the rivers.

VI. Next Meeting Date & Location: September 2010 tentatively