

Middle James Roundtable Steering Committee Meeting

MINUTES

JUNE 5, 2020

11 AM – 12:00 PM

VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING

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| MEETING CALLED BY | Lorne Field, Chairperson (Chesterfield) |
| TYPE OF MEETING | Executive Committee Meeting |
| NOTE TAKER | Sharon Conner (Hanover-Caroline SWCD) |
| ATTENDEES | Lindy Durham (Henricopolis SWCD), Amber Ellis (JRA), Sharon Conner (H-CSWCD) |

Agenda topics

2020 GRANT EXTENSION
AND DELIVERABLES

LORNE, AMBER AND LINDY

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| DISCUSSION | <p>Lorne reported that the 2019-2020 Grant was originally extended through December 2020. However, with the COVID-19 situation, it will be extended to May 2021. DEQ is asking for a new scope of work through December 2021. Currently it is not known whether there will be an extension of the existing grant through December 2021 or if it will be a new 2021 Grant.</p> <p>The committee reviewed the grant deliverables and their status.</p> <p>Grant deliverables #1-4 were not specifically discussed. As the fiscal agent, Lindy did provide a January – May fiscal report.</p> <p>Deliverable #5 – Regional Watershed Workshop It was decided that with the delay in the grant agreement and the COVID-19 situation, a face-to-face meeting was not possible this year. The committee decided that the annual meeting would be virtual, most likely an afternoon conference with 2-3 speakers. It was suggested that theme could be the “Environmental History of the James River.” The topics and speakers would have to be a topic of discussion for the larger steering committee.</p> <p>Deliverable #6 – Web-based Electronic Outreach This deliverable is being accomplished by way of newsletters, website and social media.</p> <p>Deliverable #7 – Soil Test Vouchers Lindy reported that there has been an overwhelming response for soil test vouchers with Henricopolis SWCD. Most likely this is due to lots of people being home and gardening as a result of COVID-19.</p> <p>Deliverable #8 – Blue Tube Trash Bag Dispensers Lorne reported that the budget included funding for 10 tubes. He will look into getting those purchased. They are intended for Chesterfield, Richmond, and Lynchburg.</p> <p>Deliverable #9 - Cattle Stream Exclusion Interpretive Signs The signs will be designed by Betty at the Monacan SWCD. Amber suggested that one sign should be installed at Keswick farm on the Powhatan/Chesterfield Line. JRA is assisting with that grazing system project. There should also be a sign installed at the Robious Landing Park near the farm as that is a publically visible area and would provide a good opportunity for education outreach.</p> <p>Deliverable #10 – Storm Drain Stenciling Lorne noted that it is time to get that going in Chesterfield, Henrico, and Lynchburg. Given the COVID situation, the stenciling should be undertaken with just a small group of people rather than a hosting larger public stenciling campaign.</p> <p>Deliverable #11 – Rain barrels at Henrico Schools Lindy reported that Henricopolis SWCD has purchased the barrels from the Monacan SWCD. She was able to deliver on barrel to Seven Pines School before the COVID shutdown. As soon as the schools reopen, she can deliver the rest. She may see if she can in touch with school administration.</p> <p>Deliverable #12 – Promotion of the Middle James River Consortium JRA is in charge of this deliverable. Amber reported that JRA is working with the Chesapeake Conservancy to provide a landowner tool that would help with riparian program selection. The tool would be available by the end of August.</p> |
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| | Deliverable #13 - WIP III BMP Implementation This is being accomplished through social media, website and newsletter. | |
| CONCLUSIONS | Nine of the grant deliverables have been started and on track. The other four need some follow-up including Annual Conference, Blue Tubes, Storm Drain Stenciling and Exclusion Signage. | |
| ACTION ITEMS | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
| Speakers and agenda for Annual Conference | Steering Committee | |
| Order Blue Tubes | Lorne Field | |
| Organize small group to do storm drain stenciling | Lorne Field | |
| Design and Order Cattle Exclusion Signage | Betty McCracken | |
| Deliver rain barrels to schools | Lindy Durham | |

ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATES

ALL

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| DISCUSSION | <p>Lorne Field – Has been conducting all of our MS4 education and outreach through social media and newspaper ads since all of our events and public programs were cancelled because of COVID-19. He has been doing a lot of pollution investigations since our Stormwater Compliance Specialist position is vacant. That position should be advertised sometime in the next few weeks.</p> <p>Sharon Conner – Reported that they have allocated and paying out on almost \$2 million in Ag BMP Cost-share. This is the largest amount, approximately 4 time’s normal funding, that the District has ever had. It has been a huge undertaking and complicated by COVID. She also reported that VCAP is out of funding for now. There is waitlist for projects until new funding is secured.</p> <p>Amber Ellis – Reported that JRA is working with the James River Correctional Center in Goochland to help them implement a large scale grazing system/conservation project. She also reported that JRA is still doing the buffer program in the Middle James. They are looking for sites and suggested the possibility of some in Henricopolis SWCD.</p> <p>Lindy Durham – no report.</p> | |
| CONCLUSIONS | | |
| ACTION ITEMS | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
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Meeting Adjourned!