

Middle James Roundtable Steering Committee Meeting

MINUTES

MARCH 28, 2016

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

GOOCHLAND
PUBLIC LIBRARY

MEETING CALLED BY	Wood Hudson- Chairperson
TYPE OF MEETING	Steering Committee Meeting
NOTE TAKER	Olivia Hall- Secretary
ATTENDEES	Wood Hudson, Olivia Hall, Kip Mumaw, Betty McCracken, Paul Davis, Chris Gyurisin, Gay Stokes, Amy Robins, Anne Dunckel, Lindy Durham, Blair Blanchette, , Hallie Stephenson, Amber Ellis and Nancy Drumheller

Agenda topics

ROUND ROBIN

WOOD HUDSON

DISCUSSION	Wood called the meeting to order. He briefly touched on the Agenda for today's meeting.	
	<p>The group then went around the table with introductions and round robin. Wood began the round robin with a discussion of the executive committee vacancies as he is now the chairperson since this position was vacated. Wood also briefly discussed the happenings in TJPDC, mentioning watershed protection and general land use controls. Next Chris Gyurisin discussed his efforts with Lynchburg schools and outreach. Amy Robins discussed her role as grant project manager. She mentioned that she had a few comments on our grant and once those issues were corrected we would be good to go. Amy also mentioned the EPA educational RFP which has 27 mill available and the NFWF RFP, whose deadline is May 14th with 10-12 mill up for grabs. Anne Dunckel has joined MJRT on behalf of Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay. They are currently working on EPA grant for citizen monitoring. Blaire Blanchette has joined us on behalf of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. Lindy Durham is our fiscal agent hailing from Henricopolis. She also does the weekly watershed announcements for MJRT. She currently still has MJRT storm drains markers and pet waste dispensers. Henrico Recreation and Parks has asked Lindy to mark all storm drains in the parks and Henrico High School is helping with this. Betty McCracken was present representing the Monacan Soil and Water Conservation district. She indicated that she also has a supply of MJRT dog bags if we want them. Betty asked if there was a desire to attend the webinar series "Effective river and watershed organizations". She mentioned the possibility of applying for a scholarship and all of us meeting in one location. The group agreed that this was a good idea. Gay Stokes, MJRT Treasurer, was present on behalf of the City of Richmond. The City of Richmond gave away 200 dog bag dispensers. Amber Ellis was present on behalf of James River Association. They are working on cattle fencing and selected plantings as part of a larger grant with multiple districts. Paul Davis was present from Nellysford. He mentioned water testing on the south fork of the Rockfish River. Kip Mumaw was present from Ecosystem Services. Kip is a five year member of MJRT and works on the MJRT website. His company is currently working on stream and wetland restoration projects. Olivia Hall was present from Henrico County Public works. She is the MJRT secretary. Henrico will have multiple engineering positions open in the near future. Hallie Stephenson was present on behalf of Keep Henrico Beautiful. 100,000 people were reached through the recycling roundup. Hallie is currently working on a KHB Challenge on Facebook. Week 1 will be a Disposable plastic water/soda bottles challenge. Please share this information.</p> <p>The group also briefly discussed who had supplies left. Kip said he will send the supply spreadsheet to Wood and Wood mentioned possibly getting the spreadsheet on google drive. Betty have placemats. Lindy has a digitized copy of the placemats and Amy also has MJRT coasters.</p>	
CONCLUSIONS	Possibly convert supply sheet to google chrome and send out to group. Wood is now the new MJRT chair.	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Post Minutes to website.	Olivia	When complete
Possibly convert supply sheet to google chrome and send out to group	Wood	May

Send supply spreadsheet to Wood.	Kip	May
Send digital copy of placemat to group	Lindy	May
Look into webinar	Group	April 5th

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

WOOD HUDSON

DISCUSSION	The Executive committee needs to fill vacant positions. Wood Hudson will serve as Chairperson. This leaves the vice chair position vacant.	
	Olivia Hall volunteered to move into the vice chair position as long as someone else volunteered to take over the position of secretary. Blaire Blanchette volunteered to be secretary.	
CONCLUSIONS	Paul Davis made the motion to elect Olivia and Blair into these positions. Kip seconded this motion. Wood put the motion up for a vote and the group voted unanimously to pass the motion.	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Send meeting minute template to Blair.	Olivia Hall	April

2016 GRANT UPDATE

WOOD HUDSON

DISCUSSION	MJRT awarded about \$13,500 in grant money this year.	
CONCLUSIONS	There are four quarterly reports, four steering committee meetings per year and nine executive committee meeting meetings. Domain registration for the website and email is included in the grant and this is handled by Lindy. The grant also covers the meeting, web based outreach, soil test vouchers, rain garden installation and BMP educational signage.	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Begin work on annual meeting.	Annual meeting committee	NOW
Need committees to work on signage and raingardens.	Exec committee to discuss	Next Exec Meeting

ANNUAL MEETING

WOOD HUDSON

DISCUSSION	Review of feedback from last year. Parking was great, let's keep the annual meeting at Deep Run. Grapes would be nice. Sparkling flavored water was a hit. Oatmeal raisin cookies were requested.	
	We forgot to get a present for presenters last year, need to remember to do this. Will Daniels new book might be a nice present. Hallie mentioned that the ballroom would not need to be divided if we did outside sessions. The group agreed to move the meeting to late September. Fridays and Tuesdays were discussed as possibilities. The group decided that Fridays are a risk for low attendance at afternoon sessions. Therefore, Tuesday was selected as the preferable day of the week, preferably Sept. 13 th or Sept. 27 th . Wood asked for volunteers for the Annual planning committee and the following people volunteered: Hallie, Blaire, Olivia, Anne, Betty, Amber and Paul. The following asked specifically to be allocated to tanks: Kip (available for assigned tasks), Nancy (would like to work registration), and Lindy (will print tags and other printed materials). Amy asked if the Albemarle Chowan Roundtable could sit in on one of our phone calls and the group agreed that this was fine. Wood asked how many active watershed groups are there and Amy replied that there are about 10.	
	Possible meeting topics discussed by the group: Mountain bike trail maintenance (outdoor session- bike), Invasive plant removal (outdoor session- hike), Yogaville (outdoor session- yoga), Will Daniel's work (Hallie can reach out to him), Improved filtering practices (Theresa Culver and Pei from UVA are potential speakers), Conservation Assistance Program, V-CAP presentation, Education through soil and water conservation districts (Meaningful watershed experience) (Betty suggested this and knows of a potential speaker), Environmental literacy (Lindy suggested this and could ask Susie from VDGIF to speak), History on James River and Kanawah Canal, Virginia Canals and Navigation Atlas (displayed in Scottsville) (Amber can get someone to speak on this), Preservation (water quality implementation of high quality streams- clean water initiative (Todd Janeski could possibly be the speaker (Kip's suggestion), New Chesterfield park /sound environmental development, Amber suggested ESL education (Choose clean water- Jill Waskowski), Kip suggested Erin Ling (VT) for Social justice element, BMP maintenance (Groundwork RVA green team), Hallie suggested Understanding your audience (using social media analytics) as well as tips for using social media, Coal Ash, Flooding and rising sea levels.	
	Last year there were 14 sessions with intro and voting in the morning, 2 breakouts with three speakers, 4 presenters in the morning and 4 presenters in the afternoon. Olivia commented that breakout sessions were very rushed. Amy mentioned that she appreciated the down time to network. Group pondered having fewer breakout sessions. Kip mentioned it might be nice to have music at lunch, maybe Lobo Marino. The group liked this idea.	
CONCLUSIONS	Annual meeting committee needs to meet soon to divide and concur tasks on the annual meeting spreadsheet.	

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Reserve Deep Run for either Sept 13 th or 27 th	Hallie Stephenson	ASAP

NEXT STEERING
COMMITTEE MEETING

WOOD HUSON

DISCUSSION	Next steering committee meeting should be in July. Group selected July 12 th . A tour of Luckstone might be nice if possible. Annual meeting planning committee will make a report to the group on this date.	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Reserve Luckstone for next meeting.	Betty	ASAP

PRESENTATION AND FIELD
TRIP TO DR. REYNOLD'S
FARM

BETTY MCCRACKEN

DISCUSSION	Betty gave a short powerpoint on Ag BMPS and stream exclusion systems. She passed out a drawing drafted by Keith Burgess for a clay wall and spring box. The Monacan office has about 1.1 million dollars in proposals waiting for funding since there is 100% cost share funding for stream exclusion systems.	
The group then went in the field to see the clay wall and spring box located at Dr. Reynold's farm. Thanks so much, Betty! We enjoyed it!		

Meeting Adjourned!