

Middle James Roundtable Steering Committee Meeting

MINUTES

FEBRUARY 4, 2021

10AM-11:30AM

VIRTUAL MEETING

MEETING CALLED BY	Lorne Field, Chairperson (Chesterfield)
TYPE OF MEETING	Steering Committee Meeting
NOTE TAKER	Sharon Conner, HCSWCD
ATTENDEES	Olivia Hall (Henrico), Betty McCracken (Monacan SWCD), Nat Draper (JRA), Jennifer Clark (RVA DPU), Lindy Durham (HSWCD), Mark Williams (Luck Stone), Nancy Drumheller (CVWMA), Nancy Lily (Lynchburg), Jennifer Palmore (DEQ)

Agenda topics

FISCAL UPDATE

LINDY DURHAM

DISCUSSION	<p>Lindy reviewed financial report.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three quarters listed on financial report. Grant Budget totals \$13,370. Expenses to date are \$7079.50. There is one outstanding invoice for JRA for \$1138.00 that did not make report. 		
CONCLUSIONS			
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

DEQ GRANT 2021 UPDATE

LORNE

DISCUSSION	<p>The group discussed the 2020 grant extension and deadlines to spend FY20 monies. Jennifer Palmore will double-check deadlines and report back to the group.</p> <p>Jennifer noted that there will not be an official issuance of a new grant. The grant will be handled as a modification. The outstanding balance from the 2020 grant projects will carryover forward into 2021. New projects will be submitted with budgets to include the "carried forward" amounts. An updated scope of services will need to be approved by DEQ.</p> <p>Lorne suggested tabling the DEQ Grant 2021 discussion until DEQ gets back with the committee on the specifics of the grant extension/modification.</p> <p>Olivia Hall said that Henrico would like to request 2 more blue tubes from the 2021 grant.</p> <p>Jenn Clarke commented that the Lower James Roundtable is incorporating blue tubes in their 2021 grant. This means blue tubes will span the James from Lynchburg to Bay.</p>		
CONCLUSIONS	Jennifer Palmore will query DEQ about grant modification details and get back with Steering Committee.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	
Acquire grant modification details from DEQ.	Jennifer Palmore	Soon	

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTION

DISCUSSION	<p>Lorne explained roles and responsibilities of Executive Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair – chief grant writer; works with financial agent (Henricopolis SWCD) Vice-Chair – assists Chair; reviews by-laws; moves up to chair in subsequent year Secretary – take minutes Treasurer –assist Henricopolis SWCD (fiscal agent)
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	<p>New slate of officers elected by Steering Committee include the following: Secretary - Sharon Conner Treasurer - Jennifer Clarke Vice Chair - Nancy Lily Chair - Olivia Hall</p> <p>Lorne asked the committee to think about how to bring new members onto committee so that we have new perspectives/ideas. Ideas are welcome!</p>		
CONCLUSIONS	Executive board elected for 2021		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	
N/A			

ROUND ROBIN

DISCUSSION	<p>Jenn Clark – Talked about issues with stream restoration projects. She is looking for good examples where the community is involved and supportive of such projects. Olivia Hall suggested working with Evergreen Cemetery as a possible area for stream restoration with community involvement. John Newton is the contact. Mark Williams suggested looking at the stream restoration work undertaken by the City of Reston. Nat Draper suggested looking at Richmond Community where Summer Schultz is the contact.</p> <p>Nancy Drumheller – Thanked the group for sharing videos. She voiced concerns about litter, particularly PPE. Nancy has reached to litter program managers for help/resources. She noted that Melissa Chase wants to get families engaged in recycling and composting, with prizes available.</p> <p>Nat Draper – JRA is busy doing virtual learning with 32 environmental science classes and over 90 virtual sessions. They have an EPA grant with City of Richmond. Noted that it is hard to get kids engaged during the virtual lessons, particularly at the high school level.</p> <p>Olivia Hall – Recently gave a presentation to VWEA and plugged MJRT. If you would like to add things to the MJRT website, please let Olivia know. Good ideas for black history month would be welcome. She will also be reaching out to get updates for the website on activities completed in 2019 and 2020. Olivia also noted that Osbourne boat landing is undergoing some dredging maintenance.</p> <p>Mark Williams – Reported that Luck stone had good year. Unfortunately, the community stewardship area was lacking due to COVID. Wearing his other hat, Mark reported that Friends of Goochland Park had no events this year and no way to fund-raise for the park.</p> <p>Nancy Lily – Lynchburg received an EE Blue grant with NAEF and NOAA as partners. Unfortunately, there are no afterschool programs right now. Instead, they will be putting together kits for the students including terrarium kits. Nancy also reported the installation of Environmental Monitoring Stations to collect data such as turbidity and conductivity. The monitoring station use sensors and cost approximately \$1500 per station with box and sensors.</p> <p>Betty McCracken – Cattle exclusions continue in Monacan SWCD. Betty noted that the practice has changed some and will offer incentive payments that can provide upwards of 100% cost-share. Education programs in the District are all virtual including Envirothon. Betty also noted that she is helping with cemetery maintenance at Belmead on the James.</p> <p>Lindy Durham – All Henricopolis education programs are virtual, with over 20 programs to 4th grade classes. Lindy reported that this is the last year of B-WISE grant serving all 6th graders and partnering with ACB, Maymont, and Keep Henrico beautiful.</p> <p>Sharon Conner – Reported that 2 new employees, Kemper Marable and Kelsey Williams, have been hired at the District as conservation specialists. The District has been busy working on the installation of over \$1.2 million in Ag Cost-share BMPs and has been offered an additional \$120,000. A new virtual homeowner outreach education program is being offered to communities in the District starting with Lake Caroline. The program provides adult education in the areas of watersheds, soils, and natural resources. Adults participating in the program will receive garden flags and VCAP assistance if they qualify.</p> <p>Lorne Field – discussed 2 big Chesapeake Bay TMDL projects being undertaken on Pocochok Creek and Falling Creek that involve considerable dredging. Lorne announced that Area 2 and Area 6 for SWCDs are combining to host an Envirothon event and Lorne will be serving as a resource professional for the competition. Lorne announced that he has downloaded James River Pet Waste Coalition data and would be happy to share with anyone who needs it for MS-4 education.</p>
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CONCLUSIONS	N/A		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

Meeting Adjourned!