

Middle James Roundtable Steering Committee Meeting

MINUTES

JULY 7, 2020

11 PM – 12:15 PM

VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING

MEETING CALLED BY	Lorne Field, Chairperson (Chesterfield)
TYPE OF MEETING	Steering Committee Meeting
NOTE TAKER	Sharon Conner (Hanover-Caroline SWCD)
ATTENDEES	Olivia Hall (Henrico), Betty McCracken (Monacan SWCD), Lindy Durham (Henricopolis SWCD), Jennifer Clarke (Richmond), Mark Williams (Luck Stone), Nancy Lilly (Lynchburg), Amber Ellis (JRA)

Agenda topics

DEQ GRANT 2020 UPDATE

LORNE FIELD

DISCUSSION	Lorne announced that the MJRT is officially meeting under the FY2020 grant. There are 2 extensions, the first of which will take us to December 2020 and the 2 nd will take us to June 2021. He noted that we might end up with 2 grants running simultaneously once the FY21 grant is awarded.		
CONCLUSIONS	MJRT will seek FY21 grant this fall while wrapping up current grant.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	
None			

DEQ GRANT 2020 DELIVERABLES

ALL

DISCUSSION	<p>Deliverable #5 – Regional Watershed Workshop</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Annual Meeting will be held September 18, 2020 in a virtual format. The topic of the meeting is "Environmental History of the James River." Lorne has reached out to Matt Balazik to provide a presentation on the comeback of sturgeon in the James River. Lorne will contact Bob Steidel with City of Richmond Department of Utilities to be a possible keynote speaker. Bob has a good institutional knowledge of wastewater and Richmond's environmental history. Amber Ellis will reach out to the Monacan Tribe for speakers. Kaleigh Pollak was identified as the Monacan contact. Olivia will research the electronic meeting-hosting platform. <p>Deliverable #7 – Soil Test Vouchers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lindy reported 78 vouchers were redeemed and paid out on. <p>Deliverable #8 – Blue Tube Trash Bag Dispensers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lorne reported that the budget included funding for 10 tubes. Chesterfield Parks and Rec has the need for 4 tubes. Nancy said that Lynchburg could use at least 2 and possibly more. She noted that she could also use pet waste stations. Jenn said that the City of Richmond wanted a low number (1-2) as they found them hard to refill. Lorne will have them delivered to his office and will distribute from there. He will also try to get the word out through social media on how to use the tubes. Signage at the tubes was discussed as a way to explain usage. There may be the possibility of moving some grant funds around to provide 10 aluminum signs. Sharon asked if one could be put at Osbourne Landing and Park in Henrico. Olivia will reach out to Parks and Rec to find out. <p>Deliverable #9 - Cattle Stream Exclusion Interpretive Signs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One-two signs will be designated for Keswick Farm and Robious Landing Park on the Powhatan/Chesterfield line for cattle exclusion BMPs. The MJRT budget includes enough for 9 signs. Betty has the sign template and would be happy to share with any partners. Sharon suggested a sign in Henrico at the Cable property located on the Chickahominy River. The Cable family installed stream fencing and aerated manure composting systems for horses. She will coordinate
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	<p>with Henricopolis SWCD on that possibility.</p> <p>Deliverable #10 – Storm Drain Stenciling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chesterfield, Henrico and Lynchburg will coordinate on this grant element. • There is \$4000 in the budget for the project. • It was noted that Art on Wheels and JRA usually charge for their travel expenses for Lynchburg sites due to the distance. • Lorne has selected several locations in Chesterfield for the stenciling and will limit his expenses to \$1000. • Olivia has projects lined up at 2 libraries in Henrico. • Nancy is targeting several schools in Lynchburg and will also look into the Amherst River Park area for projects. <p>Deliverable #11 – Rain barrels at Henrico Schools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lindy reported that Henricopolis SWCD has delivered 2 rainbarrels to Seven Pines Elementary and Longan Elementary in Henrico. • The rainbarrels were purchased from Monacan SWCD. <p>Deliverable #12 – Promotion of the Middle James River Consortium</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amber reported that JRA is working on a landowner tool that will help in riparian buffer program selection. • The tool, which is slated to be launched in August, will be updated several times a year. • Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay is working with Chesapeake Bay Landscape Professionals (CBLP) to develop buffer training programs. • Amber will provide a presentation on the tool at the annual meeting.
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CONCLUSIONS	All grant deliverables are underway.
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ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
1. Deliverable #5 – Regional Watershed Workshop Speaker	Lorne will contact Bob Steidel	By Next Meeting
2. Deliverable #5 – Regional Watershed Workshop Speaker	Amber will reach out to Monacan Tribe	
3. Deliverable #5 – Regional Watershed Workshop Platform	Olivia will research virtual hosting options	
4. Deliverable #8 – Blue Tubes Acquisition	Lorne will order tubes and have them delivered to his office for distribution.	
5. Deliverable #8 – Blue Tube Locations	Olivia will reach out to Parks and Rec for Osbourne Landing location	
6. Deliverable #9 – Cattle Exclusion Sign Location	Sharon will coordinate with Henricopolis SWCD on a possible farm sign location	

FINANCIAL REPORT

LINDY DURHAM

DISCUSSION	Lindy reviewed the MJRT financial support, which was distributed electronically prior to the meeting.	
CONCLUSIONS	\$1,844.50 has currently been paid out on with grant funds	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None		

DISCUSSION	<p>Mark Williams – reported that the Goochland Parade has been cancelled. They are hoping to still have the James River Clean-up event with diminished participation. The Goochland Fall Festival is still scheduled for October 30th/31st and the Goochland Riverfest for November. All is dependent upon the COVID situation.</p> <p>Olivia Hall –The MJRT page needs to be updated with projects for 2019. She will provide links to videos if provided.</p> <p>Jenn Clarke – reported that the Richmond Wastewater Treatment Plant is being updated. The update will double the capacity so that CSO overflow doesn't happen in real time. She is working with 3 public libraries on green infrastructure. There is an interest in pet waste including reviving the James River Pet Waste Coalition.</p> <p>Nancy Lily – reported on Lynchburg's eeBlue grant. The grant is a partnership between NOAA and NAAEE to provide 21st century community learning centers to improve environmental literacy. They will put together take-home kits to help engage children that have limited internet during the COVID crisis. She also reported that they will be holding an Art Storm which will partner with Big Brothers and Sisters.</p> <p>https://naaee.org/our-work/programs/eeblue for information on eeblue grant</p> <p>Amber Ellis – reported that they could use some help getting out the work for the Green Richmond Public Library Project. The 1st charrette is next week: https://thejamesriver.org/greening-richmond-public-libraries</p> <p>Lorne Fields – reported on the restoration of Falling Creek Reservoir. It's a big dredging project that broke ground last spring. The goal is to restore the capacity of the reservoir.</p>	
CONCLUSIONS		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Update webpage.	Olivia Hall	By the next meeting
Provide some education videos for posting on webpage.	Lorne Fields and Olivia Hall	

Meeting Adjourned!