

Middle James Roundtable Quarterly Meeting

MINUTES

APRIL 13 2017

10:00AM-2:00PM

DEQ OFFICES, RICHMOND

MEETING CALLED BY	Olivia Hall, Chairperson
TYPE OF MEETING	Quarterly Meeting
NOTE TAKER	Blair Blanchette
ATTENDEES	Olivia Hall (Henrico), Wood Hudson (TJ PDC), Betty McCracken (Monacan SWCD), Katie Ranger (DEQ), Amber Ellis (JRA), Liz Chudoba (Alliance for the Bay), Nancy Drumheller (CVWMA), Gay Stokes (City of Richmond-DPU), Erin Jenkins (Enrichmond), Ashley Tucker (Chesterfield County, Environmental Engineering), Lindy Durham (Henricropolis SWCD), Kathleen Ogelvy (Department of Forestry)

ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATES

ALL

DISCUSSION	<p><u>Olivia Hall</u>: Energy Fair on April 24th in Henrico, ask her to participate.</p> <p><u>Betty McCracken</u>: \$623,000 from General Assembly and \$180,000 relocated from other SWCD to address stream exclusion back log, but still won't address the waitlist. Powhatan Earth Day on Thursday April 20th from 4pm to 7pm on Courthouse Lawn; will have paper shredding and Congressman Dave Brat will be there at 4pm. Betty has updated the MJRT brochure and is looking for input on it (sent around room).</p> <p><u>Lindy Durham</u>: Henricropolis SWCD is MJRT fiscal agent (reminder). Will be at Henrico Energy Fair and will promote pet waste removal and soil vouchers at Dog Park opening in May. Envirothon: HS environmental "Battle of the Brains", with opportunity for winners to go international competitions. Henricropolis is hosting the Regional competition on April 26th at Deep Run.</p> <p><u>Erin Jenkins</u>: Enrichmond, started as a Parks and Rec agency in Richmond but 10 years ago rebranded to fiscal agent "Enrichmond", working only in Richmond. Erin is a partner manager, coordinating and aiding organizations in Richmond to do their good work. Enrichmond has started a Tree Lab in Richmond to beautify streets and city property. All 600 trees have been sold for this year, but for future years would be available for donation. Grand opening of the Tree Lab will occur on April 29th next to Henderson High School/Northside Dog Park—Forest Lawn Drive. Tree Lab is now run by Aaron McFarland to coordinate this project. Enrichmond Earth Day is trying a new strategy this year: a "Day of Service" with nine partner groups. Learn more at earthdayrichmond.org, and all opportunities are on HandsOn. Sites include Bryan Park (gate reconstruction), East End Cemetery, Westwood Playground; program ends at Style Weekly.</p> <p><u>Nancy Drumheller</u>: April is a busy recycling month (household hazardous waste, pesticides, tire amnesty, electronics), so go to CVWMA website to find them all, as the localities don't do these days at the same time, and some have a fee. Saturday, April 29th is National Prescription Return Day, so you can find this information on the CVWMA website as well. The CVWMA website also has all local Earth Day events listed.</p> <p>Pesticide Collection: cannot be done in 2017 because the VDACS/Extension offices do not have money for this next fiscal year. This program is not funded by taxes, so the program has died out. However, some other localities do their own pesticide return days—it just depends on your local government, so check CVWMA and your locality pages for more information.</p> <p>Earth Day: CVWMA and Chesterfield County have created a cornhole game for events, which can be borrowed if needed! Will be at Clover Hill HS and Powhatan Earth Day.</p> <p>*Nancy runs the MJRT facebook, so if you want something posted, send it to her.</p> <p><u>Gay Stokes</u>: Partnering with JRPS Environmental Educators to work at Binford MS. Had previously worked at the JRPS to do some WQ testing with Binford. Then at Binford, took students out over two days to mark nearly 200 drains.</p> <p>Household Hazardous Waste Event at K-Mart Parking Lot in Midlothian on May 6th. Will collect Pesticides, Herbicides, and Oil-Based Paint. Clean City Commission will collect electronics.</p> <p>Maury Stream Restoration near J-D Highway, is a beautiful example of stream restoration.</p> <p>Storm Drain Art at Tredegar: will add five more drain paintings to the Canal Street area.</p> <p>City is working with JRA to do art stenciling on drains around schools, but this is in its infancy.</p> <p>Rain Barrel program in schools is going well, and is seeking to display them to get comment from the Mayor.</p>
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Amber Ellis: Art on Wheels, JRA, and City of Richmond are developing art stencils to make designs on storm drains around schools (available as far as Petersburg, Richmond Metro Area).
 -Partnering with USFWS in Charles Lake Fish Hatchery; Albert Spells is turning 2 acres into a pollinator meadow, and he needs volunteers to seed the meadow. Next Wednesday evening 4/26 at the Fish Hatchery, Albert will give out free seeds and educate homeowners on pollinator gardens. Albert is going to send monitoring information to these homeowners to help the gardeners keep track of what their pollinator plants should look like.

Walkable Watersheds: Had funds for green street design on Minefee Street, and is applying for more funding to install. This street includes a bike lane, permeable parking spaces, bioretention bump outs.

Invasive Task Force: JRA is targeting Chapel Island with Capitol Trees. Will be out every month, this next month at April 24th from 1pm-3pm to target different species based on the month. Tree Stewards are at Belle Isle on every third Monday at 9am. Different groups target different areas of the JRPS on regular intervals, so if you want to get involved contact [Task Force members to participate](#).

Just finished Tree Program in Williamsburg, along with Tree Stewards and DoF. Both workshops gave free trees, delivered by Colesville Nursery free of charge (50 homes!). Tree Stewards planted each tree to ensure the trees were planted correctly. The program went splendidly!

Kathleen Ogelvy: Just finished planting season to plant clear cut areas. Fire season is gearing up, especially since it's been so dry. Just hired an Urban Forest Specialist to cover cities like Richmond, Petersburg, Ashland, and Williamsburg. Have also been focusing on urban tree utilization, to prevent trees from ending up in landfill. This is to target tree care companies, someone with a portable saw mill, etc. Sign up available at [TreesVirginia.org](#), it's under a tab at the top. (Side Note: in other states, this lumber has been used at Habitat ReStore).

Liz Chudoba: Job Transition to Water Quality Monitoring and Chesapeake Monitoring Cooperative from Stormwater Program Manager. She will be the point of contact for the SW management for the foreseeable future.

Saturday, June 10th at Mason Neck State Park is the first Annual Back to the Bay Event. Will include up to 5000 people, breweries, wineries, food, and a wade out to see underwater grasses restoration sites. "Back to the Bay" is meant to remind us to put our back to the Bay to look to the headwaters.

[Reduce Your Stormwater](#) program is still underway, and can include 80% professional installation and free plants, soil, etc. Because plants are coming from Watkins Nursery, try to focus on Richmond area, but can go anywhere in the Middle James.

ACB is developing a comprehensive stormwater management plan at Binford MS. Coordinated by Meredith Dash, who is the new Education Program Coordinator at ACB.

Ashley Tucker: Manages stormwater permit programs at Chesterfield County. Chesterfield is hosting two rain barrel workshops on both May 13th and June 10th. Also installed storm drain markers at schools and neighborhoods with pollution problems. Finishing required MS4 projects: stream restorations, retrofits at James River HS, etc.

To pay for this, sending first stormwater utility fee soon. Fee is based on ERUs, \$25 flat fee for residences and higher for commercial zones. No residential credits available yet. Anyone with an MS4 permit is exempt. Outreach includes a website and a billing insert and notifications leading up to first bill. Bill attached to real estate tax, and will be paid first—so if unpaid, owe to real estate tax. Most outreach done to tax-exempt groups like churches and non-profits because this will be so unusual to them.

Katie Ranger: Working on Northern Neck project for DEQ, but in the middle James: assessing cost share rates for residential septic; goal is to make this easier to administer by conservation districts. DEQ is also revising 319 grant applications (relevant to many parties in the room that apply for these). Internally, pushing for more outreach materials for grantees (which would make reporting easier for grantees).

Phase III WIPs are being created, with a meeting on Monday, April 17th in Glen Allen Cox Road office to collect comments.

Regional Round Tables collaborative meeting: likely won't go forward. The goal of this meeting was to potentially share outreach strategies and partners with other round tables.
 *This used to exist as the Virginia Watershed Alliance (in 2006). Betty gave Katie a flyer on this VWA.

Wood Hudson: Charlottesville and Albemarle are working together on Rivanna River activities. Need to wait until budget session starts to see if money can be collected/distributed to PDC to create a master plan for the river.

CONCLUSIONS

Everyone is doing fun, creative, and water-quality protective programs!

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

GRANT PROGRESS REPORT

OLIVIA HALL

DISCUSSION	<p><u>Website Update:</u> Kip isn't at meeting. If you want to add anything to the weekly watershed newsletter, you can send it to Lindy. Gay will also attach to DPU blog. Any facebook updates go to Nancy.</p> <p><u>Sign Committee Update:</u> MJRT was able to purchase eleven cattle exclusion signs (2 by 3 feet, high quality metal, hardware to install included). Two installed in Powhatan and Goochland each. Piedmont SWCD has also taken one to install, will get a picture when installed. Goal is to install in highly visible places: for example, one has been installed on Route 6 near Goochland Courthouse. Westview Boatlanding in Goochland has a sign that is highly visible. Betty is installing a third in Goochland tomorrow (4/14/17).</p> <p>Lorne's rain garden sign in Bon Air will be installed in May. Lindy is working to install a rain garden in a park in Henrico, but having some difficulty. Options might include the Math/Science Center.</p> <p><u>Septic Voucher Committee:</u> No Update. First septic meeting after our next Steering Committee meeting to prepare for next grant cycle.</p> <p><u>Soil Vouchers:</u> Collaborate with Gay to promote (Liz Chudoba and Blair Blanchette to help promote). Reminder, vouchers cover Henrico and Richmond to test soil. Gay Stokes is the contact point. Betty will add to the brochure. (Note this has been added to the Reduce Your Stormwater website that ACB runs)</p> <p><u>Annual Meeting:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Date: Not September the 21st, or November 3rd-5th. Shooting for October at Deep Run Park. -Food: \$2/person for snacks and coffee and \$10 per person for lunch including drinks. Can have someone pick it up if would remove delivery fee. Explore J. Sarge Cooking Classes to cook for us? <p>Suggestions: Subway, incredibly cheap for large groups. Jason's Deli does boxed lunches, and do have a non-profit rate. (We try to avoid boxed lunches to keep our trash down). (Henrico Cafeteria can also cater, will investigate).</p> <p>Snacks from BJ's, will use Liz Chudoba's card. Henrico Cafeteria Coffee is an affordable coffee option.</p> <p><u>Speaker Topics/Theme:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Open the conference with the MJRT Powerpoint and voting -May need to include a break out session about sea level rise, where people impacted speak. EX: Water Quality Monitoring Conference, had a duck hunter speak about the impact on his duck hunting sites, loss of grasses that are critical to duck species. -Economic Value of Restoration: Joe Wood, CBF Staff Scientist -Mental Value of Restoration: Amber Ellis suggested, spoke with VCU Psychology Department or Lorne's photography can be involved -Barriers to Entry to Environmental Change out of VCU: Present findings (J. Ciminelli doing this research) -Jonet Prevost White: History of Richmond and historic flooding -Marketing: Spitfire Strategies or Water Words that Work? Or Water Quality Monitoring Conference speaker that talked about littering reduction strategies. -Theme: "Highlighting Collaborative Partnerships" potentially, "Six Degrees of Separation" <p>Other Themes: Restoration Projects: Speakers could include addressing non-traditional pollutants (PCBs) with BMPs, and Wood's oyster restoration project.</p> <p>Outside Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Stream Geomorphology Workshop, led by Kip -Nature Photography (Lorne Field) -Needs to have a back-up strategy in case of rain. <p>Speaker Gifts: DoF Tree ID Books</p>
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	Future SC Meetings: Powhatan State Park and Paddle (5 Miles to Maiden's). Could meet at Powhatan Library and then do the afternoon paddle. *Paddle includes a small fee). -Push meeting to 9:30am and then move through meeting agenda quickly to do afternoon paddle.	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Discuss Term Limits and By-Laws	Olivia and All	Next Meeting
SC Meeting Date DoodlePoll	Olivia Hall	ASAP

Side Note: received very sweet email from a young Henrico student that wanted to thank MJRT for watershed work. Revel in this!

Meeting Adjourned!