

Middle James Roundtable Steering Committee Meeting

MINUTES

JULY 12, 2016

10:00AM-2:00 PM

LUCK COMPANIES

MEETING CALLED BY	Wood Hudson, Chairperson
TYPE OF MEETING	Quarterly Steering Committee Meeting
NOTE TAKER	Blair Blanchette
ATTENDEES	Olivia Hall (Henrico), Wood Hudson (TJ PDC), Nancy Drumheller, Anne Dunckel (ACB), Chris Gyurisin (Lynchburg City), Betty McCracken (Monacan SWCD), Amber Ellis (JRA), Gay Stokes (RVA DPU), Jennifer Palmore (DEQ), Meghan F., Ashley Tucker (Chesterfield), Mark Williams (Luckstone),

Agenda topics

ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATES

ALL

DISCUSSION	<p>Nancy Drumheller: July 1, 9 Jurisdictions that offer curbside recycling and 11 localities offer drop off recycling, all of which has been expanded to accept plastic #1-7. Please share this expansion, as CVWMA is still updating their communications to spread the word. CVWMA ED is conducting work sessions with localities to illustrate the savings to the localities in recycling vs. landfilling waste, as well as the benefits to water quality (keeping trash out of storm drain, etc). Brochures are being built, collection schedules will be updated by Dec 1. Recycling rate was 58.8% for this year.</p> <p>Litterati App: Helps localities track how much waste is being picked up, and what trash is present.</p> <p>Ashley Tucker: Excited to be here!</p> <p>Gay Stokes: Has been working with DPU employees to educate them about stormwater and their work. She attends their orientation to discuss stormwater and SW management. Also spoke to School Board with two fifth grade students to educate the school board. Also has worked with City Council liaisons. With RVA H2O, have selected five drains by Tredegar that drain directly to the river, received art applications to decorate the drains, and have selected five artists. Jonet Prevost White was invited to speak, but can no longer attend, so Gay may speak at the annual meeting along with an artist. Vote for the best drain on Instagram. (FYI: Recall that storm drain art was also completed in Charlottesville with JRA's Walkable Watershed programs. Children worked with urban ecologists to ID flora and fauna in urban stream (Pollack's Branch) and then worked with an artist to create a mural of what they found).</p> <p>Amber Ellis: Walkable Watershed in Lynchburg, would like to include a storm drain art competition as well. Blue Ridge Prism (invasive management group/cooperative weed management area), covers Albemarle and Nelson, Augusta Green Counties. A landowner started the program to eliminate invasive species. \$894,000 EQUIP grant funds to manage invasive species on "managed lands" (timber, farm). All money must be used on projects, so received extra money to pay a staff person (Ashley Stinson, of Charlottesville) to handle the projects. This group may be looking for partners, will begin to get money out for projects in October. May speak at conference.</p> <p>Also working on James River Park System Invasive Task Force. Management Plan and surveys are done, which are posted on Friends of James River Park website. Has a map that allows you to see the surveys for each part of the park.</p> <p>NFWF Grant focusing on Cattle Fencing and Buffer on August 11th training in C'ville at Ivy Creek Natural Area. Training is led by the four districts in the grant (Monacan, TJ, REL, Natural Bridge). In the morning, open to all interested in cost-share programs and district work and a producer will testify about the process. Afternoon is more for those talking to landowners/explain program: site evals, fencing design, watering systems.</p> <p>Betty McCracken: SWCD minister state cost share (VA Ag Cost Share Program—VACS). DCR's website has the program manual for distribution. Farmers that registered before June 30 2015 received 100% cost share of cattle fencing/stream exclusion. The state didn't have enough money at the time, so a waitlist was formed. Many districts east of 95 don't have this problem because these are croplands, but in the Piedmont has a huge problem. Monacan alone has about a \$1.5M backlog for 34 practices/farms. GA was generous this year, so Monacan expects around \$800,000 for the next two years. With this extra funding, the Board has expanded the hours for the director of Monacan SWCD (Keith Burgess) and their admin, as funding included money for technical assistance. Have projected in the budget to higher an education</p>
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tech and a cost-share tech to cover the load. Extra funds are distributed based on the SWCD need, among other factors.

SEE BELOW: VCAP funds are now available. Mimics the VACS funding, but for urban cost-share. Distributed through the VA SWCD. This year were given \$750,000 this year, \$250,000 last year. Manual is available on the VASWCD association website that describes the 12 practices that are available: permeable pavers, green roofs, conservation landscaping, etc. The only practice that is not funded currently is the pet waste.

FYI too all: Fair Labor Standards Act changes the exempt VS non-exempt employees on Dec 1 2016. Will affect many of us.

Chris Guyrin: Lynchburg has completed a lot of outreach as a part of JRA's Walkable Watershed project. Completed a rain garden on April 23 at Fairview Heights neighborhood that is running off facility and basketball. Will also do some storm drain marking (did some with a camp this summer). Have received calls about waste in the storm drains that is blocking the drains (recently removed 3 dumpster trucks of waste from a storm drain). Find that some of the issue is that when low-income tenants are evicted or move, they leave their trash on the streets, which then enters the storm drain. Also continuing to work with city workers to assure this trash is removed promptly. Part of this is silo-busting: when departments fragmented (stormwater vs utilities, etc) responsibility for the issues was not identified, causing issues.

At Fairview Heights, have a 10'X10' concrete slab that will be repurposed: local artists will paint the slab, similar to RVA H2O project. Also installed rain barrels in the neighborhood and hope to do more rain gardens and plantings.

Now in year 2 of outreach and education plan. Only part that has worked was pet waste campaign. Plan originally focused on septic, which is truly a Dpt of Health issue and ID'ing the areas with septic is difficult. Also lawncare campaign is not enticing to many groups Lynchburg wished to target, so that needs to be redeveloped.

Is also redeveloping website. The content and language is technical (needs to be brought down from a 10th grade reading level to 2nd grade to make it accessible to the larger community).

Working with Clean Water Clear Choices out of Illinois. Developed online outreach tool to engage communities. They are licensing out this tool (\$4000 for two years, including a website). You can log-in to the tool and create a pledge, and then identifies how much waste you remove from the system if you enact your pledge. Whatever issue target you want, this tool can help you develop programming. Has an excellent online presence, which is important for Lynchburg, as LYH does not have a great online presence yet.

Wood Hudson: SW Districts did a BetterBlocks study that looked at a street in downtown C'ville neighborhood and how to put that street on a road diet, how to better use the gutter grass for stormwater treatment, including bike lanes, etc. Was led by a group of students from UVA planning school. Also studied the ecosystem services that urban trees provide. Attached "price tags" to the trees to show how much carbon these trees sequestered, etc. Will repeat this project as a part of the Tom Tom Festival

FYI: Did a land use study of trash entering streams to help MD and DC to prep for trash TMDL requirements. Can send reports of the link of land use and trash. LA and DC are the only localities that have done this type of study.

Anne Dunckel: Alliance's Yard Design Tool. Please spread the word about the tool. WQ Monitoring program: working with RVA DPU to increase the number of sites within the city to ID illicit discharge sites. Will have a training in late August. Right now, teaming up with water quality monitoring programs to create the Chesapeake Watershed Monitoring Cooperative. Will have a database of the citizen science, SWCD, other nontraditional monitors to put their data into this system so that it will be available to all citizens. The Chesapeake Bay Program and EPA will use this data to inform their work. For ACB in VA, that means that ACB has money to have quality assurance on this data/to help other groups get started in monitoring (especially since MD and PA have so much monitoring already). Have completed year 1 of a 6-year project on this monitoring. Trying to make the data as useful for the states and localities, so the conversation includes monitors, governments, and more.

Right now working with state agencies to ID the data holes that they want filled, but NPO's and others can also ID data holes to Anne that need to be filled. DEQ cannot get coverage on second order streams, so need citizen monitors at those sites.

(Put out a census a few months ago about what groups/citizens are collecting WQ data).

	<p>ACB is developing a custom platform. Have contracted with Chesapeake Environmental Platforms (James River Watch website for JRA). Doing water chemistry and benthic macroinvertebrates, for opening up to habitat assessments and SAV later.</p> <p>Will have a spatial component: mappable, graphable, and data on the relative health of the waterways.</p> <p>Data that is being used for permitting that is submitted to DEQ: is this valuable? From DEQ's perspective, that data is not used for delisting, so may or may not be incorporated into ACB's purpose.</p> <p>Working with James Beckley and Chesapeake Bay Program to create tier 3 QA'd data.</p> <p>Olivia Hall: Wrapping Hungry Creek Stream Restoration. Contractor has great time-lapse photos that will be up on the website soon. Starting Belmont Golf Course in Henrico (owned by locality). Had a lot of large trees fall into creek, so are repairing so will not erode more.</p> <p>Have part time jobs that will include site inspections and will give them GIS experience. IDDE training is being completed for employees. Ordered pet waste bags, animal control will give them out when animals are adopted.</p> <p>Update on grants: Last grant included Pet Waste campaign, but isn't a part of this grant. The stations that were installed in Chesterfield and Richmond and Henrico are all installed and being maintained by the localities.</p> <p>Tire Recycling: The city has a recycling program, but it costs money to drop them off. With JRA's Tireless James, Amber would like to have a "tire amnesty" program coupled with the clean-up, which is hard because the city won't be a part of that. Part of the issue is that the central location doesn't work—may need to set up a dumpster for this purpose alone. The tires are difficult to transport, which is also part of the problem. However, sometimes landfills will take them if they can use them to build roads into the facility. Costco or companies like Bridgestone will take the tires (good PR).</p> <p>Gay comments that some smaller dealers are the issue. Police are now required to stop at these dealers to ask for the receipt for where tires are taken, and can be fined if can't prove the tires were taken to a recycling center.</p> <p>CVWMA convenience centers: all localities do tire recycling a little differently (some take rims, some don't, some have a limit of tires per day, some have a charge). (EX: Henrico charges \$3 for up to four tires, a \$1 per tire after that).</p> <p>Wood suggests: camera monitoring of sites with a sign that lists code and fine amount for illegal dumping. Olivia comments that her citizens are very vocal about not being monitored.</p>	
CONCLUSIONS	N/A	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Distribute the canvas bags of pet waste bags to MJRT members	Betty McCracken	Today

INTERIM PROGRESS REPORT

WOOD HUDSON

DISCUSSION	<p>July 15, 2016 Reports are due to DEQ. Lindy Durham and Wood are pulling this narrative together. Members that have completed certain deliverables, send in narratives ASAP.</p> <p>On July 5th Executive Committee held a conference call about the annual meeting (next topic of group discussion). At this EC meeting, EC determined that we needed the larger group work more on the conference, especially having MJRT as moderators to help manage the speakers.</p> <p>Sign Committee Formation: MJRT grant had funding for BMP signage. Per grant, need to develop the signage and install at 3 BMP sites (ex: rain gardens, buffers, cattle fencing). Committee: Betty McCracken, Chris Gyuris, Olivia Hall, Blair Blanchette. \$2500 for sign project.</p> <p>FYI for Sign Committee: UMDCES-IAN (University of MD) have vector images for our use.</p>
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CONCLUSIONS	Interim Report due July 15. Need to install BMP Signage ASAP	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Check narrative for DEQ report, written by Lindy	Wood Hudson	July 15, when report is due
Signage Committee Meet to discuss	Betty McCracken	ASAP, for grant develop deliverables by Dec 31 2016
Send in narratives for your localities grant deliverables	Gay Stokes and Chris Guyrisin	ASAP

ANNUAL MEETING PLANNING

WOOD HUDSON

DISCUSSION	<p>Gay brought a gift for the speakers: a leather-wrapped coffee thermos that says RVA H2O. Olivia/Hallie will provide reusable grocery bags for a collective thank you. Other members can contribute to the thank you's to create a basket for each speaker.</p> <p>Wood ran through conference draft agenda:</p> <p>General Session I/Social Media -Social Media is a critical part of our work, but haven't ID'd a speaker yet. Ashley thought it might be best to start with an expert from outside the environmental field (Ex: Wood saw a speaker at an ag expo that discussed winery social media). -Amber volunteered that VCU has a social media course, so may want to take advantage of their speaker list. EX: Jonah Holland of Lewis Ginter, TFB Agency's Christine Dick, Rocket Pop). -Conclusion: Olivia will reach out to Rocket Pop and Jonah Holland. Moderator for Session I: Olivia Hall</p> <p>General Session II/Watershed Group Organizing and Outreach: -VHB Consulting of JRPS Invasive Task Force -Blue Ridge Prism's Ashley Stinson (Joint Presentation by BRP and VHB) -Conclusion: Amber will reach out to all of the above.</p> <p>General Session II/Success Story: -Definitely want to do the storm drain art presentation, Gay will handle identifying the speaker(s), including West Cary Public Relations group that handled this process. -Want to include examples of projects that have NOT performed well or have gone over EXTREMELY well, leading to the idea of inviting speaker's to focus on Pollack's Branch Watershed Work—presentation by all groups involved. -Pollack's Branch groups include: City of Charlottesville, as Pollack's Branch has been ID'd as a SIA (Strategic Investment Area), JRA's Walkable Watershed, Reinterpreting Pollock's Branch (a UVA Course). The RPB group was organized by a UVA dance professor to "walk meaningfully" through the area, observe actively, etc. Conclusions: Anne Dunckel will reach out about the UVA Class, Amber Ellis will reach out to the other organizations to ID speakers. Moderators for Session II: Amber Ellis</p> <p>Other suggestions that were not absorbed into the morning agenda include: -The Bridge Progressive Arts Initiative (PIA): involved youth from public housing in art projects. -Center for Urban Habitats did an event next to public housing to educate residents about water quality issues while hosting a barbeque. Devon Flord did a trail walk for residents, ID'ing local flora and fauna. -Vernal Pool/Frog Watch: Anne Wright did a training several years ago to allow citizens to find and determine health of vernal pools. Citizen monitors were confirming data from the 80's.</p> <p>LUNCH</p> <p>Breakout I/Working Within the Watershed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) BMPS/Moderator: Gay Stokes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Liz Chudoba will do a demo of the ACB Yard Tool (Ann Dunckel will invite) b) WQ Monitoring/Moderator: Ashley Tucker <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Jamie Brunkow will speak for JRA's monitoring program, Anne Dunckel for Alliance for the Bay's program, Kenny Fletcher for Chesapeake Bay Foundation's program. c) River Tourism/Moderator: Wood Hudson
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	<p>a. Need to add Nathan Burrell of JRPS in this panel. He can discuss economic and cultural value to the region. (Gay will invite Nathan)</p> <p>b. May want to include Beyond Boundaries: take people with disabilities on the river (Amber will invite Beyond Boundaries)</p> <p>General Session III/ Expert Panels to Implementation MODERATOR: Betty McCracken Kevin McLean of VCAP (Betty will invite) MEWE by Lindy Durham History of James and Kanawha (Betty will invite)</p> <p>First week of August, Wood Hudson will host a conference call to assess the below action items.</p>	
	<p>Moderators: Gen Sess I: Olivia Hall Gen Sess II: Amber Ellis Breakout Tourism: Wood Hudson Breakout WQD: Ashley Tucker Breakout BMPs: Gay Stokes Gen Session III: Betty McCracken</p>	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Gifts: Need to ID exact number of speakers and put together a list of what each speaker's gift basket will include.	ALL	ASAP
Reach out to Pollack's Branch team to identify speakers (SKEO, Reinterpreting Pollack's Branch, etc)	Amber Ellis	ASAP
Reach out to Jamie Brunkow for Breakout: WQM	Amber Ellis	ASAP
Invite Nathan Burrell of JRPS for Breakout: Tourism	Amber Ellis	ASAP
Invite Kyle Burnett of Beyond Boundaries for Breakout Session: Tourism	Amber Ellis	ASAP
Reach out to Ashley Stinson of Blue Ridge Prism to speak on invasive species removal/grant for Gen Sess I	Amber Ellis	ASAP
Reach out to VHB Consulting to speak on James River PS Invasive Task Force in Gen Sess I	Amber Ellis	ASAP
Reach out to Bridge Progressive Arts Initiative to speak as a part of Pollack's Branch Watershed Stories in Gen Sess II	Anne Dunckel	ASAP
Reach out to Liz Chudoba for Breakout 1, discussing ACB yard tool	Anne Dunckel	ASAP
Find speaker on history of James/Kanawha for Gen Sess III	Betty McCracken	ASAP
Invite Kevin McLean for Gen Sess: III	Betty McCracken	ASAP
Invite Kenny Fletcher for Breakout I: WQM	Blair Blanchette	ASAP
Let Erin Hawkins know she has been invited to speak in Breakout: BMP's and filter practices	Chris Gyurisin	ASAP
Reach out to West Cary Group Public Relations Group and artists for the storm drain marking program to speak in Gen Sess II	Gay Stokes	ASAP
Reach out to SWCD re: MEWE	Lindy Durham	ASAP
Reach out to Jonah Holland of Lewis Ginter and Rocket Pop to speak on Social Media in Gen Sess I	Olivia Hall	ASAP
Reach out to Ingrid Stenbjorn to speak in Breakout: BMP's and filter practices	Olivia Hall	ASAP

LUCKSTONE PRESENTATION

MARK WILLIAMS

DISCUSSION	<p>The Value of Environmental Stewardship at Luck Companies</p> <p>Overview of Luck: Luck focuses on values-based leadership and finding the potential in every member of their projects. Luck has been around for 93 years, and focuses on community and social responsibility to assure that Luck Companies continues for years to come.</p>
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Their Environmental Ethic has three areas of focus: Long-Term View (have community amenities, education, water storage), Beyond Compliance, Restorative Practices

For example, their quarries and facilities are multi-use and for the community. For example, Luckstone also won a reclamation award for restoring site post-removal to full agricultural use. They also seek the community's approval before opening a new site, regarding what needs to be done before, during, and after the site is used. Localities have also used their facilities for water storage.

In addition to their quarry practices, they want their facilities to be green as well. Facility Green Practices: Roof stormwater goes into a pond, which is used for irrigation. Lights are motion-activated, low-flow toilets, carpet is tiled so replacement is easy, walls are stone (stone is not renewable but it is durable) architecture is such that heating and cooling is using natural environment more than HVAC.

At quarry sites, they make sure that some of the property is still accessible and useful to the community. For example, they install area trails, overlooks, etc. Bull run has maintained natural areas that include VA blue bells and constructed wetlands to mitigate the impacted wetlands and streams on site.

Additionally, Luck has ~600 acres of wetlands in New Kent County that were going to be purchased as part of a wetlands bank exchange for the King William Reservoir Project. When the project fell through, they kept and maintained the wetlands.

Luck is a part of the VA Environmental Excellence Program, a DEQ elective program to illustrate their commitment to environmentalism. This program Most facilities started at E2 level and have progressed to E3 (standards illustrate how far they have developed and completed their environmental management plan). They are also a member of B4B program run by Alliance for the Bay.

Luck has also worked with JRA on sturgeon reef project: 20,000 cubic yards of rock put into a football field area off Presquille to act as sturgeon habitat. JRA and VCU are studying how fish interact with this hard rock river bottom. The James River now has 3 sturgeon reefs in the river, and these reefs have other fish eggs on them but not sturgeon eggs.

CONCLUSIONS	N/A
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ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

Meeting Adjourned!