

# Middle James Roundtable Quarterly Meeting

## MINUTES

JULY 21 2017

10:00AM-2:00PM

MAYMONT RICHMOND

MEETING CALLED BY	Olivia Hall, Chairperson
TYPE OF MEETING	Quarterly Meeting
NOTE TAKER	Blair Blanchette
ATTENDEES	Olivia Hall (Henrico), Betty McCracken (Monacan SWCD), Katie Ranger (DEQ), Amber Ellis (JRA), Gay Stokes (City of Richmond-DPU), Erin Jenkins (Enrichmond), Lindy Durham (Henricropolis SWCD), Cynthia Scheuermann (DOF), Anna Surroca (Monacan SWCD Intern), Lorne Field (Chesterfield), Chris Gyurisin (Lynchburg), Blair Blanchette (CBF), Kip Mumaw (Ecosystem Services)

### ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATES

ALL

DISCUSSION	<p><u>Gay Stokes</u>: Hosting a faith-based workshop centered around stormwater to spread information about possible projects on faith properties.</p> <p><u>Cynthia Scheuermann</u>: New Ashland, Richmond, Hopewell Area Urban Forester, seeking to increase knowledge about urban trees.</p> <p><u>Anna Surroca</u>: Majoring at Environmental Engineering at MW. Interning with Betty McCracken and with DEQ.</p> <p><u>Betty McCracken</u>: Provided Monacan SWCD Annual Cost-Share statistics, which demonstrated impressive results! Monacan has benefitted over 5,000 acres with financial assistance, fenced out 621 cows, put 68 acres into buffer, and fenced out 102,811 feet of stream since 2015.</p> <p><u>Lorne Field</u>: Completed rain garden with Kip Mumaw and MJRT funding this fall, working fine. Working with VCAP (Virginia Conservation Assistance Program, a Soil and Water Conservation District program) to do projects in Chesterfield. Update as Chair of Episcopal Diocese of VA, Creation Care Committee: committee changing to a task force set-up. Working with Church of Holy Comforter to install a rain garden a few years past, and will do a rain barrel workshop at St. James Episcopal.</p> <p><u>Amber Ellis</u>: JRA will open a riverside outfitters in Lynchburg on August 12<sup>th</sup>. Working with Summer Schultz at Community HS to redo the greenhouse there and create a community garden and native plant nursery for restoration programs.</p> <p><u>Kip Mumaw</u>: Working with RVA H2O's strategic plan. Developed subgroup within RVA h20 to discuss the possibilities, limitations, and best practices with stream restoration. Also working with Chesapeake Bay Program, Chesapeake Stormwater Network and Center for Watershed Protection to develop a protocol for stream restoration. Ecosystem Services has also hired new staff, including new staffer that will use drones for mapping of these types of projects.</p> <p><u>Chris Gyurisin</u>: 15'x15' storm drain mural finished at one of the recreation centers in Lynchburg, and parks and rec wants to do more at other rec centers. With downtown being refurbished and new storm drains added, there's a lot of potential for new drain art. FYI: storm drain mural was added at same community center that JRA had installed a rain garden. Just hired a dedicated communications and PR person. Had 2500 people attend the "Hug a Tree" event around earth day to try to break the world record. Did not break world record, but was impressive nonetheless!</p> <p><u>Erin Jenkins</u>: Enrichmond has just bought Evergreen Cemetery, a 100 acre property, the majority of which is not cemetery but forest/streams. Will be doing work on the two streams on the property, as well as a preservation plan and record keeping of the headstones and a forestry plan/conservation plan. Note that they have a Department of Humanities grant that requires an archeologist to assess the sight when trees are removed to protect the property. This is the first time there will be a preservation plan for this cemetery, which will be completed by a company that works solely on African American cemetery plans. Also hiring 8-12 Americorps staffers to survey the property and develop pieces of the plan, as well as a caretaker for the property. *The property is where Maggie Walker was buried and had been entrusted to several funeral home directors. The last director is aging, so they bought the property and paid all of the back taxes on it.</p> <p><u>Katie Ranger</u>: DEQ has been hosting many face-to-face meetings with individuals, collecting input from</p>
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	<p>partners and grant recipients about the roundtable process</p> <p><u>Brooke (speaker, intern with Virginia Environmental Endowment)</u>: Rising Junior at George Mason and VEE intern with Maymont's Education Department.</p> <p>Lindy Durham: Fiscal Agent</p>	
<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>	Everyone is doing fun, creative, and water-quality protective programs!	
<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>	<b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>

GRANT PROGRESS REPORT

OLIVIA HALL

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<p>Only outstanding project is signage for rain garden in Henrico.</p> <p>Grant Cycle Components:</p> <p><u>Stream Exclusion Signage</u>: Betty McCracken has six signs left to install, although the total number of signs installed to date has met our grant requirements. It's difficult to install with the heat this time of year. Betty did install one near Goochland CH and Sandyhook on 526 a few weeks ago. The stream exclusion project is housed at the back of the property from Courthouse Creek, but the sign is visible from the road. This brings the total up to six.</p> <p><u>Soil Test Vouchers</u>: Given out at Varina Days; Gay Stokes (Richmond DPU) posts on social media about the vouchers because bringing them to events was not effective. That is, people would take them at events and not return them. Vouchers: a little over 100 have been used this spring quarter, more will be used in the fall.</p> <p><u>Coasters</u>: Will not order more coasters, but in the future we should have a photo contest to create a new coaster. *Coasters: also given out at Hug a Tree Event in Lynchburg, James River Rundown (Betty McCracken), and Varina Days. Don't forget: track the places you bring MJRT materials to so we can report.</p> <p><u>Septic Voucher Committee</u>: Email Olivia to participate in this committee (Betty and Chris and Katie all agree to participate). Will add into the next grant cycle.</p> <p><u>Centralized Virginia Website</u>: Sara Stamp (JRAC/Chesterfield) is heading effort to create one website for all things JR. Olivia is representing MJRT for this effort. Olivia will check to see if we can contribute funding to this effort. Note that the website could include information from other round tables, which Katie will help draw together.</p> <p><u>Pet Waste/Dog Bags</u>: JR Pet Waste Coalition now only exists on facebook. Is meant to be a collaborative, multi-jurisdictional effort to get MS4 credit, so it needs to be grown. The stations installed using this grant are being tracked closely, for MS4 credit.</p> <p>Chesterfield has bags to last years (ex: used 18,000 bags in the first year, many times that left). Note that the City of Richmond also received pet waste stations through JRA grant/Pet Waste Coalition, but burned through their bags quickly. Bags are owned by JRA, technically, so there is the potential to redistribute with JRA's permission.</p> <p>For next grant: Will apply to purchase more clip-on, small pet waste bag holders. May consider purchasing some more standing pet waste stations for Henrico schools, as many people walk their dogs there. *For future installations: plan to purchase only the bag holders and install next to existing trashcans instead of buying the stands that have a trash can attached. This cuts down on the number of trash cans that need to be emptied. Moreover, the small trash cans overfill quickly.</p> <p>Pet Waste Photo Contest and expanding JR Pet Waste Coalition: Consider working with Richmond Animal League, canine adventures, RSPCA, Doody Calls or similar to reach folks outside of the environmental field.</p> <p>Action: Resurrect Pet Waste subcommittee. To join, contact Lorne. Interested: Olivia, Erin.</p>
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	<u>Funding</u> : There will not be an RFA next year, but current round tables will receive level funding from CBIG. Will amount to max of \$13,500. MJRT will seek maximum funding next cycle.	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Create Soil Voucher Committee	Olivia, Betty, Chris, Katie	Fall
Check to see if we can use MJRT money for Centralized Virginia Website	Olivia Hall	ASAP
Create Pet Waste subcommittee	Lorne Field, Olivia, Erin	Fall
Build Relationships with RAL, SPCA, Doody Calls, etc	Pet Waste subcommittee	After above completed
Assess how to seek maximum funding if no RFA available (?)	Katie Ranger/Olivia Hall	ASAP

COMMITTEE UPDATES

OLIVIA HALL

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<p><u>Website</u>: Maintained by Kip, who also checks the associated email. Will use Anna Surroco, may continue during college, to maintain website</p> <p><u>Soil and Septic Vouchers</u>: see Grant Progress Report above.</p> <p><u>Newsletter</u>: Katie was seeking to create a newsletter for round tables. Six are active, 2 are inactive. The newsletter would be generated from the quarterly reports. Katie is developing an example newsletter to help kick this off; will distribute via constant contact. This will help pollinate new ideas.</p>	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Train Anna Surroco to maintain website	Olivia	ASAP-
Develop roundtable newsletter	Katie Ranger	ASAP

ANNUAL MEETING

OLIVIA HALL

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Discussed agenda for annual meeting, mostly around speakers and who will request those speakers. Please see the attached agenda for the details of that discussion	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Request Speakers	Individually, see agenda for details	ASAP

Meeting Adjourned!