

YORK RIVER AND SMALL COASTAL BASINS ROUNDTABLE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

AUGUST 22, 2007

The meeting began with a welcome by May Sligh, the York/Rappahannock Watershed Coordinator. Matt Criblez, with DCR, shared what Roundtables have accomplished in Virginia. He spoke about the Virginia Waters Clean Up Plan and that the plan was becoming much more specific. He mentioned that DCR was revising the model 5.0, and that the future model would have county specific loads rather than basin specific, and eventually, allocations would be county based. State and federal government will have plans to reach goals, but local government will be critical to implementing the tributary strategies. Local officials will tie into agriculture as a way to reach goals, and the general assembly has recognized the implementation as a priority, however, funding will be a problem because of state deficits.

May Sligh brought up the goals that were set by the Roundtable at the meeting held in October of 2006. Among those goals were building some support for local initiatives, special projects and website development and maintenance. May pointed out that Hanover-Caroline has kept up the website payments and domain, but all agreed that the current website was not useful without regular maintenance and input. Hanover-Caroline has represented the York Roundtable with VAWA, (Virginia Alliance of Watershed Associations). VAWA wants to link the York website to their website.

Potential projects for the York Roundtable included a social marketing campaign mentioned by Dawn Shank, in the form of coasters for use in restaurants within the watershed. Dawn said that they had been well received at other times. Also mentioned was a commercial that was shown in the Hampton Rhodes, DC and Northern Virginia area on local channels and kiosks.

Brian Noyes of Colonial District asked about the amount of funding that was available and was told by Matt Criblez \$14,400 was the total budget, some of which had been spent for the present meeting.

Sharon said the website needed to be considered first, and asked if there was another district that would like to lead the York Roundtable, and if there was another district which would like to take responsibility for the website with no response. Anne Ducey-Ortiz commented about the potential of the website to highlight the work of projects being implemented within the watershed.

Brian Noyes asked the group to think about future funding possibilities and the need for real implementation and initiatives. If the York Roundtable is active, there is more chance for funding.

May Sligh asked the group to talk about any projects going on within the watershed.

Brian Noyes shared with the group a grant project with homeowners associations within his district. He said there had been enthusiastic participation from the groups, as typically there was a lack of funding for erosion control projects in urban areas. Brian said the great reduction in costs associated with grounds keeping was driving participation in the program. Brian questioned how we would quantify the

improvements. He suggested a project that would measure improvements in a stream or project.

May Sligh introduced Karen Reay, who had been contacted about working on the York website because of time limitations. Karen explained that she could make changes and improve the website, but that the group would have to do the information gathering (pictures and stories) for the website. Karen showed a mockup of the website to the group and suggested material for the site.

Matt Criblez explained to the group the time limitations concerning the grant, that Richmond (DCR) had to have the specifics of the grant in order to consider it, and that the money must be spent by December.

The group discussed having mapping resources on the website, to give local organizations resources through the web page, such as public access points, John Smith's map tract, sample ordinances for local officials and links to local PDR programs.

Chip Rice, of DCR (DSW) mentioned if people didn't know about the website, it would not be used, that a press release and links from other websites were needed.

Sharon Conner of Hanover-Caroline District talked about her concern of having projects with products that would end up in the landfill (such as the coasters).

Laurel Woodworth of Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay asked what was the most useful way to use the Roundtable, that it might be most useful as a means of communication among ourselves or to work on projects as a group. Sharon said that the Roundtable and website needed to be geared to the general public. Dawn Shank added that numbers meant nothing to the public, that there should be information on things to do. Chip Rice added that we should not try to meet the needs of too many audiences (public and government). Sharon Conner questioned then, who is our audience? Matt Criblez said that the Roundtable should be districts because districts are connection to public. Brian Noyes added that the Roundtable should be connection between private, districts and local government, such as a bridge. Laurel suggested the Roundtable highlight different organizations to get to know each other. Brian asked who will strategize for the group. Anne Ducey-Ortiz noted that local governments are not in the business of education. Sharon Conner mentioned how local governments do have some education requirements because of the stormwater management requirements, and that districts can step up to partner with local government to meet those objectives. Brian Noyes spoke about the need for incentive based programs and that localities need to understand that Ag land is needed to solve many of the problems and mentioned the agriculture's success in making strides in nutrient and sediment reduction. Local officials need to be educated that agriculture is the less expensive alternative also.

Matt Criblez and Sharon Conner both spoke about hearing about the experiences of others keeps someone else from replicating work done somewhere else.

An amount of \$3000 was decided as an amount to be dedicated to develop website after discussion.

Brian Noyes asked Matt Criblez if there was a TMDL model for urban situations. Discussion followed about numbers given on TMDLs by DEQ. Brian Noyes asked if it was possible to do testing on proposed TMDL streams. Sharon mentioned her district's testing work on TMDL stream. May Sligh asked how we could better serve DEQ in bringing people to the table, and that EPA could have major resources toward a pilot project for scientific monitoring. Discussion followed about monitoring of specific area

with volunteers, would the numbers be accepted by DEQ or EPA. Laurel Woodworth said that they may accept them now, whereas they were not accepted in past years. Laurel felt that monitoring would not benefit the Roundtable, whereas Brian was interested in monitoring a change in a situation after installment of BMPs. Matt said that TMDL studies have to be done by DEQ. 12 TMDLs have been done statewide. Some allocations for nitrogen and phosphorus have been made, but most are for fecal bacteria loads. Greg Wichelns spoke about cleanup strategies for the Muddy River in the western part of the state, and how it has been held up as an example for the rest of the state. It has an urban component.

Matt Criblez spoke about the Rappahannock River Basin Summit on October 30, with Jack Frye and representatives from the Assembly in attendance.

May talked about the need for a committee for the planning of the website. Sharon Conner and Anne Ducey-Ortiz agreed to serve on a committee to work with Karen Reay and May Sligh. Karen stated need for graphics to be sent in j.peg format. There was a consensus that implementation plans and mapping resources were needed for website. It was asked for districts to affect website content, or to query localities for information for website. Hanover-Caroline agreed to coordinate with other districts to get project information for webpage.

Brian noted we were looking at about \$7000 between 7 districts for projects or proposals. It was decided that localities may submit proposals also but must partner with a district. All districts but Tidewater were represented, and it was decided by the group that proposals under \$2000 could be submitted by a date selected by committee and guidelines would be written by Sharon Conner and May Sligh, using the grant guideline from the Virginia Naturally site and Randy Shank grants as their guide. It was decided that a committee of Chip Rice, May Sligh and Matt Criblez would make decisions on proposals, and a deadline of September 14 was selected as deadline for proposals. Committee will meet on September 17 to consider proposals.

Then planning for the November meeting began. Sharon Conner suggested that a representative of VAWA be invited. Potential speakers mentioned were some from the Coastal Gems Program, Chesapeake Bay Program, Julie Portman, a speaker who talks about community involvement, engagement, and "Sense of Place". Also mentioned was Brian Noyes speaking about his Homeowners association grant project and Estie Thomas from the Virginia Outdoors Foundation.

Possible speakers for September 18 meeting was Marjorie Mayfield, who was involved from the beginning of watershed protection. Brian Noyes suggested subject of how to build bridge between government, districts and private industry. Sharon Conner suggested a speaker to talk about zoning (perhaps by-right clustering and how it works).

It was announced the meeting on September 18 will be at Union Bankshares. Meeting on November 1 will be at VIMS.

Attending meeting:

Connie Bennett- York County
Marian Moody-Hanover-Caroline
Sharon Conner-Hanover-Caroline
Karen Reay (webpage master)

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Not in attendance:

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