

Notes on the March 3, 2008 YRSCB Roundtable Steering Committee Meeting

Attendees:

Michelle Carter, Pat Tyrell, Wayne Davis, Kilby Majette, Claire Jones, Ann Edmonds, Anne Ducey-Ortiz, Brian Noyes, May Sligh

- The meeting began with May Sligh, WFC for the Tappahannock DCR office, announcing that we had a signed agreement now for the proposal for 2008
- Michelle, Chairperson for the group, announced that we had a mailing list with 243 names; some data missing; she will send to the SC and ask for a thorough review and corrections by a certain time so we can begin using it for announcements, etc
- Since agreement signed, May announced that each representative group on the SC is eligible for \$25 travel stipend for the year. May will e-mail details to SC members
- **Next meeting to be held at the Lake Anna State Park, May 22; will continue planning for the fall Green Infrastructure event, have a special speaker on York and Small Coastal Basin concerns, and have time to canoe on the lake if weather permits**
- May also announced that we will support approximately 5 river clean-up events during the spring and fall. Three events are known about at this time: 1 in Louisa is being planned by the TJSWCD on April 26, 1 in Gloucester Co on Sarah Creek on June 7 and 1 on the Mattaponi by MPRA on June 7 (June 7 is CBF's Clean the Bay day and they will have our YRSCB materials for volunteer packets. We hope to also partner with Clean VA Waterways on a fall clean-up event). The Roundtable funds can be used to assist in advertising and for food for volunteers. It is expected that 1 or more YRSCB RT members will be present at each event. Events will be listed on the website as information becomes available.
- The Community project identified in our proposal was seen as a very positive move by staff in Richmond and so we'd like to continue with coordination with the Town of West Point on the educational signage and doggie pot stations. May will meet with them soon to discuss details and determine whether it will be necessary to get assistance from other sources, such as CBF or Smurfitt Stone. The Alliance folks may be interested in assisting with sign development since they have done several along greenways in Richmond.

- Brian Noyes brought up an idea for another project involving re-vegetation of schoolyard where erosion and grass establishment are a problem (York Co.). He believes that by doing this project, it would set a good example for the county maintenance of school grounds and provide a demo site for other schools and students to learn the value of properly maintained vegetation and nutrient management. He expects the school to share in the expenses. May will see whether there are some funds to assist with this effort, thought the project in West Point will take precedence for now.
- Brian also announced that he'd like to advertise the Watershed Tour they will do April 15th. This will be added to the website as soon as we obtain details.
- May announced that all groups need to send event announcements by e-mail so that our webmaster can get them on the website. She will send out an e-mail to remind folks to do this. **May will send out a message to all of our contacts to visit our website to learn about the various opportunities with your organizations and other resources.**
- Pat and Wayne mentioned that Wendy Moors keeps an event calendar for NRCS and we may want to check it and add from there too. Pat has since sent me a copy which I will refer to and add events as necessary.
- Ann E. announced that HCSWCD will host the 9 district Envirothon on April 16 (on website now).
- May announced that there will be a photography contest for river pictures in the York and Small coastal basins, though there is no money yet for prizes. We may be able to get gifts instead for prizes. May will work with Michelle on the criteria and get out to each member. We are shooting for each SC member picking a high school to work with or perhaps other contacts they have in the watersheds. We plan to have a photo gallery on our website and use photos for other publications, such as the revised Fact Sheet and State of the York.
- We discussed the Fact Sheet as it seemed a number of folks had never seen the old one. May will get copies of the Fact Sheet to every one soon. We need to update the demographics, land use info and TMDL information, among other things. Claire, Ann Ortiz and May will work on this project, but input from all is greatly appreciated.

The remainder of the meeting was dedicated to planning for the fall Green Infrastructure (GI) event. The GI planning idea incorporates the interests of all and provides a platform for resource first based development,

considering the protection of ecological functions, working forests and farmland , recreational and economic opportunities along our rivers: the Mattaponi, Pamunkey, Dragon Run, Sarah Creek to name a few. May began with an update on funds for the event. The roundtable grant has \$2000 earmarked for the event. May also had a meeting with Sandra Erdle of NOAA-CBNERRS concerning their ability to support the event and as it stands now it appears we will have an additional \$1000 to cover speaker fees and materials. Sandra has also offered to assist with the logistics at VIMS. Pat also assisted May with some phone discussions with the RC&D and National Park Service staff who organized the event in Charlottesville last fall. It appears that we will be able to get some facilitation assistance and financial assistance. May is still working on securing speakers: Eric Walberg (HRPDC), Karen Firehock (Green Infrastructure Center), Jodi Stacey (Conservation Fund), Jennifer Cotting (Univ. of MD) and possibly Jason Bullock (DCR – Natural Heritage). May will check their availability for the 2 day event in different locations, but if it appears they can only do one we will seek other arrangements to encourage those from long distances to attend. **May and Michelle will put together a “save the date” announcement which will be sent out to our contact list as soon as speakers and locations are secured.**

The format for the workshop is as follows: speakers in the morning will cover topics including GI basics, funding, tools for resource compilation, and a case study. The afternoon will include a panel discussion and time for an exercise so that attendees can walk through some of the basic steps required for putting a plan together. Much discussion ensued over how the exercise should be done...should we develop a mock plan for a fictional community or should we consider doing a regional York and Small Coastal Basin GI plan, with real data? The overall goal of the exercise is to provide a tool for attendees to leave with to inspire them to carry out the same exercise in their own communities. May will discuss these ideas with the person leading the exercise (Karen F.?) and see what seems to be the most reasonable in the allotted time we will have for this (maximum 2 hours). SC members discussed the need to get the “concept” and not the actual plan. May’s discussion with a presenter from the RC&D fall 2007 GI event revealed that mock exercises don’t necessarily go over so well with most planners and that if we could provide real data for the YRSCB area and offer a more regional approach, it may be more relevant. *A member of the SC shared that it would be interesting to have a mock allocation of nutrients involved in the exercise to help place value to land use and water quality and

since localities will soon have jurisdictional loads to deal with from tributary strategies.

Also, considerable discussion continued with how to get these plans implemented, so perhaps some specifics on this topic could be explored during the panel discussion, with pointed questions that could validate the practicality of the plan. Since the overall goal of the YRSCB Roundtable is to provide a “bridge” between land use management and water quality issues of localities and technical resources that can be offered by SWCD’s and others, it would be wise for us to consider the “how” GI planning can be implemented...who does what and what are the local objectives and partnerships that will make it happen? So the interactive panel can discuss the vision for implementation in the York and Small Coastal Basins. Some suggested who to include for the panel: TNC, an HOA, military, DEQ/DCR, HRPDC, district, CZM, etc. The sharing of different perspectives and sharing of different management issues is key. We plan to have a resource booklet for attendees to take with them, which will include presentations, where to go for the information needed to develop a GI plan, several case studies and a summary of the panel discussion on implementation methods.

GI planning is used to help us figure out what we want for the future. We want to help the locals think more about prioritizing protected corridors which translates directly to protecting water quality.

Again, many thanks to those who attended and we hope to see everyone at the May 22 meeting at Lake Anna State Park. For those unable to come, your thoughts are appreciated! We may also try to meet again in late July in the Gloucester area to fine tune details for the event and also check in on the progress of our other projects in the watersheds. Thanks also to Michelle for organizing lunches and to the staff of the USDA Quinton Service Center for hosting our productive meeting.