

York Roundtable Meeting
3/26/09
Pamunkey Indian Reservation

The meeting began a little after 10A.M.

There was no formal agenda for the meeting. The group was there to discuss the York and small coastal basins plan for the year in general and May Sligh, Watershed Field Coordinator, DCR, wanted to discuss proposed changes to the grant agreement.

The roundtable receives a grant from DCR, each year, in varying amounts; \$8,000 to \$13,000. This year the roundtable received \$12,500.

For the annual roundtable work plan, May...with recommendations received last fall from 3 steering committee members (all were asked last fall)...shared the primary goals.

1. Develop some strategic planning that would assist the group with an overall vision and 2010 project planning (and beyond for several years), with the assistance of the Dragon Run Steering Committee/Middle Peninsula PDC (budget details to follow)
2. Continue with Basin Community Project idea from 2008 (West Pt project), designing a sign with actions citizens can take to improve water quality to go along greenways or in well seen pedestrian areas. One recommendation from a steering committee member not present at this meeting was to assist the new State Fairgrounds with interpretive signage for either the wetland creation area or where bioretention features were incorporated into the parking facilities. This idea was incorporated into the 2009 plan, with \$2000 for the sign project.
3. Support an annual "celebrate the York watershed" event somewhere in the watershed. One steering Committee member agreed to coordinate the event, speakers, canoe trip, etc. \$2500 was budgeted for this event.
4. Hold 4 Steering Committee meetings in different parts of the watershed, arranging for speakers and researchers to provide information relevant to water quality concerns of the group and the York basin.

A full project budget was distributed as a part of the grant agreement at the meeting.

A proposed change to the agreement was put on the table (sent to group well before this meeting in an e-mail). In last years grant the money earmarked for travel stipends was not used to its full extent (\$500). May suggested that the funding be made available to districts (or other interested stakeholders) to support stream clean-up efforts. The group agreed and asked that an announcement be prepared soon to request proposals. Debbie Cross asked that a small group be pulled together to review proposal in the interest of fairness to those requesting support. This effort may be expedited through contacting Clean Virginia Waterways and Virginia Naturally. (May coordinated with Katie Register of CVW last year in order to find some groups with scheduled clean-up events. Last year, what worked well was to ask SC members to share the offer with groups they knew of. May also had prior knowledge of some from various e-mails from NGO's she works

with in other capacities as WFC. The \$ was available first come, first serve, and was stated so in the announcement. May has already had a request from a group that received \$ last year. May will work up announcement to be shared with groups in the watershed and it is expected that SC members will spread the word).

The annual meeting is currently planned to be serve as a river celebration event this year. May has been working with Dawn Shank of the Mattaponi Pamunkey River Association to plan the event. It looks as though middle July might be the best time for the event. River guides and speakers will ensure that participants are educated about key issues of water quality, quantity and habitat needs in the area.

There was some money leftover last year since the group received a grant to assist with the Green Infrastructure event. That money was used to purchase dog pot stations, 2 for each of the 7 districts. In the event a district turned them down, they would be offered to other SC member groups. So far, Tri County and Three Rivers have theirs. At the meeting Culpeper and Tidewater got theirs. Thomas Jefferson had turned them down because of Parks and Rec. concerns with upkeep, so theirs are available to the Alliance for CB who'd requested 2 for use in Ashland for an area with a large percentage of pet waste in the TMDL. The Colonial and Hanover Caroline folks still need to collect theirs, and May will coordinate with them.

May has been working with Middle Peninsula Planning District on two fronts. Her previous e-mail to the SC suggested a slight change: roundtable would be supporting the Dragon Run Day and the PDC will be working with the roundtable to facilitate the strategic planning.

The group discussed both events and essentially requested more formal scope/deliverable be provided on each to better understand:

For Dragon Run, the Roundtable would like to review

1. How the money will be spent
 - a. What specific tasks will it cover
 - b. Is there a way to support the increase in advertising?

What is the outcome in regards to environmental education/water quality awareness? Essentially, how is the roundtable benefitting from providing support? We need to be able to show that, in the long run, we are spending the grant dollars effectively and toward protecting and improving water quality.

With regard to the strategic planning:

1. The group would like a draft approach to the planning budget/project deliverables

(May provided much of this information in the previous e-mail about proposed changes....below is additional detail from Sara Stamp of the PDC. The only clarification is that they can only receive \$2000 total, not the total listed....Sara will make adjustment. Event reached 1800 people last year, raising awareness about the watershed. Event is

right on the Piankatank R, which leaves Dragon Run swamp just around the corner. May reports that she gained 3 speaking engagements out of the last event).

TASK 1: Dragon Run Day Coordination

June - \$50

- *Coordination of 1 Dragon Run Day Planning Committee Meeting*

July - \$100

- *Coordination of 1 Dragon Run Day Planning Committee Meeting*
- *Coordination of event planning (outreach to exhibitors, sponsors and logistical contacts)*

August - \$100

- *Coordination of 1 Dragon Run Day Planning Committee Meeting*
- *Coordination of event planning (outreach to exhibitors, sponsors and logistical contacts)*

September - \$350

- *Coordination of 1 Dragon Run Day Planning Committee Meeting*
- *Coordination of advertising and printing*
- *Coordination of event planning (outreach to exhibitors, sponsors and logistical contacts)*

October - \$650

- *Coordination of 1 Dragon Run Day Planning Committee Meeting*
- *Coordination of advertising and printing*
- *Coordination of event planning (outreach to exhibitors, sponsors and logistical contacts)*
- *Event Coordination on Dragon Run Day*

TASK 1 SUBTOTAL: \$1250

TASK 2: York and Small Coastal Basins presentation by Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission staff to provide an overview of the report (November)

- *Milestone 1 – Development of presentation* \$220
- *Milestone 2 – Presentation to Roundtable* \$220
- ***Guided plan development exercise* \$310**

TASK 2 SUBTOTAL: \$750

TOTAL: \$2000

Their model – what working for them- will be shared. They will assist us with By- law structure, mission development, action items, covering stakeholder base, plan for 2010, Committees, work plan, budget, goals..what is our purpose anyway.

There was some concern about just trying to adapt a Dragon Run model to the roundtable, about what was the intended outcome of the planning (were we trying to establish vision for the group, strategic objectives for the following year).

If the roundtable members could have something in hand to review for each concern (Dragon Run Day and the strategic planning effort) they could have a chance to comment and amend as they feel appropriate for the funding. (provided above.... Please comment to May directly).

Stakeholder updates

VIMS/CBNERRS – Currently studying the movement of salinity up into basins and the effects on marshes.

They are finishing a grant project looking water supply in the York Basin. When the project is complete they will be looking to set up some meetings in the basin with the localities.

There are going to be two workshops coming up:

1. Two day stream identification workshop (4/28 & 29)
2. May 12 – Managing small docks and piers

Greg Wichelns reported on some Natural Stream projects occurring in his district but they are outside of the York Basin.

Thomas Jefferson SWCD reported on their project supporting the repair of failing septic systems. They have completed four and have funding for possibly two more

Tidewater is currently planning their June Ag BMP tour as well as Earth Day event.

Tri County city SWCD shared that they were getting ready for educational outreach effort with local school children and their plant sale was happening soon.

Next meeting; possibly near Lake Anna, shooting for May 20-21 or mid June. May will send out an email with date preferences and location availability.

Meeting followed by conversation with the new Pamunkey Chief, Kevin Brown and with a visit to the Shad hatchery where Warren Cook provided the details of the operation and the significance to their people. Some then headed for the unveiling of the sign at West Point along the Mattaponi River.