



SOUTHERN RIVERS ROUNDTABLE

Southern Rivers Roundtable Quarterly Meeting

Location: [Virtual via MS Teams](#)

Date: Friday January 17th, 2025

Time: 10am-12pm

Attendees:

Kit Friedman (CPDC), Andrew Franzysen (CPDC), Hannah Woehrle (CPDC), Jay Ellington (CPDC), Robert Hendrick (Mecklenberg), Stephen Edwards (Dinwiddie), Mike Rae (Emporia), Jonathan Chumney (Lunenburg County), Stacey Feken (APNEP), Nicole Layton (Albemarle COG), Meghan Mulroy-Goldman (VDOF), Charles Ware (FORVA), Karen Forget (LRNOW), Bill Sweeney (VDOF), Elli Walker (Franklin City), Forest Shepard (NC DEQ), Carolyn Heaps-Pecaro (DCR), Dan Hannon (DCR), Nathan Burrell (VDOF), Rob Evans (DCR), Elise Turrietta (DEQ), Patricia Nylander (VDOF), Giancarlo Richardson (APNEP), Kevin Mack (NOAA), Lorenzo Turner (Surry), Deya Ramsden (VDOF), Ben McFarlane (HRPDC), David Conmy (Sussex), Emma Corbitt (HRPDC), Madison Whitehurst (DEQ), Gabi Kinney (Wetlands Watch), Jaime Craig (Beechtree Group), Christin Jackson (CRC), Beth Roach (Nottoway Tribe), Darryl Walker (Petersburg), Horace Wade (Surry)

10:00am-10:15am: Welcome & Introductions

10:15am-10:30am: CPDC Staff Update, October Kickoff Meeting Review, Legislative Update

- **Staff Update**
- CFPF Application for City of Emporia Stormwater Hydrology/Hydraulics Study
- Recently contracted with Weston & Sampson to complete Crater Regional Resilience Plan, kickoff on 2/7 during CREST meeting
- Timmons completed Nottoway River Blueway/Greenway Master Plan for Sussex, still in draft form



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- NOAA Restoring Fish Passage through Barrier Removal Grant Assistance for Emporia
- Kit took their floodplain manager course!
- **10/18 Meeting Review**
- Logo unveiling
- Presentations
- Mapping activity
- Committee discussions
- Scope of Work Goal Review
- **Legislative Updates**
- SB1341
- SB1365
 - o Conflicting interpretations from roundtable members who are opposing the bill
- HB863
- HB2077

10:30am-11:00am: Survey Results and Organization/[Committee Structure Discussion](#)

- Full group meeting quarterly, every other one will be in person/hybrid
- Committees meeting virtually every other month
- Voting = simple majority from attendees, 9 votes = quorum, Crater staff will not vote

11:00am-11:30am: Emporia Dam Feasibility Study Application to NOAA's Restoring Fish Passage through Barrier Removal Grant Program—Roundtable & Locality Letter of Support Workshop Session

- **Background & Project Team**
- **Letter of Support Workshopping**
- Letter for localities adjacent to Emporia/localities that the Meherrin runs through
- Kevin Mack: limited potential for increased fish passage, conservation benefits to upstream access, not having an impoundment is better



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- Charles Ware: this section of the river might present recreation opportunity if the dam is removed, removal might present some minor rapids which aren't available now
- Rob Evans: what would happen to sediment islands if dam is removed?
 - o A: that's part of feasibility study, dredging is an expensive option, possibility for staged removal, we don't expect any toxicity, it's possible there may be some potential use for the sediment
- David Conmy: impact on water system and downstream property?
 - o A: to be covered in feasibility study & hydrology study. Water intake is just upstream, there have been sediment issues.
- Locality Letter: [Emporia Fish Passage Grant Letter of Support Template.docx](#)
- [Southern Rivers Roundtable Letter of Support.docx](#)
- Charles Ware: The study appears to me to be warranted by the condition of the dam and the sediment-filled reservoir.
- Votes
 - o Aye: majority
 - o Abstain: HRPDC, CZM
 - o Approved

11:30am-11:45am: [44 CFR 60.3 \(a\)-\(f\) Floodplain Ordinance Crosswalk Exercise](#)

Introduction

- Based on an exercise Kit did at floodplain manager training
- Horace Wade: DCR has a sample ordinance, they may be helpful in providing the most up-to-date versions
- Encouraged on your own time but not mandatory

11:45am-12:00pm: Group updates/roundtable discussion

- Charles Ware: SB794 failed last year, had opposition from VA manufacturers. FORVA proposing a bill similar to a law in Connecticut and Canadian statute that require tire distributors and manufacturers to join an authority that is responsible for collecting and properly disposing tires. <https://lis.virginia.gov/bill-details/20251/SB794>



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- Roundtable could put in a letter of support?
- Karen Forget: SB1365 interpretation is that any locality outside the Chesapeake Bay watershed can revert back to 2014 stormwater standards rather than more strict standards that exist statewide, resulting in more pollution and erosion. Position is opposed.
 - Roundtable does not support the bill
- Karen Forget: April 11 Albermarle-Pimlico Forum in VA Beach
- David Conmy: over 30 miles of Nottoway River in Sussex, limited to no public access. Working with Timmons to develop recreational master plan. Reviewing draft before bringing it to stakeholders and BOS. Neighboring localities encouraged to play to the strengths of natural resources in rural areas.
 - Plan to be shared with Roundtable once approved.
- Charles Ware: cleanup on Blackwater River?
 - Nottoway Tribe hosts in the Spring, contact Beth Roach for more info
- Gabi Kinney: landscape professionals' program – sending 7-8 staff from Chesapeake Bay localities to pursue certification, 15% discount code for folks not being sponsored by us (Discount Code: **CRATER**)
 - Contact Gabi for more info: gabi@cblpro.org
- Karen Forget: The VCN Environmental Lobby Day is January 22nd. You can register today.

12:00pm: Adjourn

- Next Meeting: in-person/hybrid April 18th
- Contact Kit if you have meeting space and would like to host!