



**SOUTHERN RIVERS  
ROUNDTABLE**  
Coming Together to Protect & Enjoy Our Local Watersheds

**Southern Rivers Roundtable Kickoff Meeting**

**Location:** 1964 Wakefield Street, Petersburg VA, 23805

or [Virtual via MS Teams](#)

**Date:** Friday October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**Time:** 10am-2pm

**10am-10:15am:** Arrival and Refreshments (coffee, tea, fruit, and donuts provided)

**10:15am-10:30am:** Welcome & Introductions

**10:30am-11:00am:** *Official Roundtable Kickoff Presentation & Logo Unveiling/Feedback.*  
Kit Friedman

**11:00am-11:15am:** *Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Partnership (APNEP),* Stacey Feken

**11:15am-12pm:** *Tribal Coastal Resilience Connections (TCRC) & Nottoway Indian Tribe of Virginia,* Beth Roach

**12:00pm-12:30pm:** Lunch (provided)

**12:30-2:00pm:** Visioning Exercise & Organizational Structure Discussion

- ❖ Review the goals outlined in the scope of work & make any language changes necessary
- ❖ Breakout groups: Geospatial SWOT analysis
  - Blue: Strengths, Red: Weaknesses, Yellow: Opportunities, Green: Threats
  - Place a colored sticker on a location and number it, then write a short description at the bottom/on a sticky note.
  - Virtual version via [JamBoard](#)
- ❖ Discuss committee structure & membership, strategic planning, and bylaws



# SOUTHERN RIVERS ROUNDTABLE

Coming Together to Protect & Enjoy Our Local Watersheds

## MEETING MINUTES

### Attendees:

- Kit Friedman, Crater Planning District Commission
- Andrew Franzyszen, Crater Planning District Commission
- Stacey Feken, Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Partnership
- Beth Roach, Nottoway Indian Tribe of Virginia/The Sierra Club
- Allison Tillett, Virginia DCR Recreation Planning
- Rob Evans, Virginia DCR Natural Heritage
- Mary Bennett, Virginia DOF
- Meghan Mulroy-Goldman, Virginia DOF
- Deya Ramsden, Virginia DOF
- Madison Whitehurst, Virginia DEQ
- Lucas Manweiler, Virginia DEQ
- Elise Frazier, Virginia DEQ
- Brianna Mooring, James River SWCD
- Dianna Fare, Piedmont SWCD
- Rhonda Davault, Southampton NRCS
- Forrest Shepherd, NC DWR
- Ben McFarlane, HRPDC
- Emma Corbitt, HRPDC
- Lauren Pugh, Commonwealth Regional Council
- Naomi Siodmok, Petersburg
- Darryl Walker, Petersburg
- Matthew Culbreath, Dinwiddie County
- Stephen Edwards, Dinwiddie County
- Haley Keene, Dinwiddie County
- Melvin Prince, City of Emporia Dept. of Public Services
- Clay Ferguson, City of Emporia Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Michael Rae, City of Emporia Emergency Services
- Meg Pittenger, City of Suffolk
- Elli Walker, City of Franklin
- Shawnee Beasley, Isle of Wight County
- Savannah Newbern, Wetlands Watch
- Karen Forget, Lynnhaven River NOW
- Charles Ware, FORVA
- Barbara Gavin, Ducks Unlimited
- Nathan Burrell, Virginia Outdoors Foundation
- Jamie Craig, Beechtree Group



# SOUTHERN RIVERS ROUNDTABLE

Coming Together to Protect & Enjoy Our Local Watersheds

**10:30am-11:00am:** *Official Roundtable Kickoff Presentation & Logo Unveiling/Feedback.*

- Presentation Link: [Kickoff Presentation.pptx](#)
- 
- **The Southern Rivers Roundtable aims to convene regional agencies and stakeholders to facilitate dialogue and collaboration on initiatives pertaining to the well-being of the watershed's ecosystems and communities, ranging from water quality improvement projects to expanding access to outdoor recreation opportunities.**

**12:30-2:00pm:** Visioning Exercise & Organizational Structure Discussion

## **Organizational Structure:**

Discussion on the future of the organization—committees, full meetings, meeting formats

- 5-6 committees/working groups: bylaws/internal governance, water quality, land conservation, outdoor recreation, flood resilience
  - Charles Ware, FORVA: Bring in elected officials, create a public policy/advocacy/lobbying committee

Potential opportunities to partner and support across member organizations:

- Watershed master plan/watershed protection plan update
  - Allison Tillett (DCR) will help connect SRRT with Dr. Garman (Rice Rivers Center)
- NRCS federal funds—private landowner funds for conservation practices similar to VCAP; unable to advertise program through calls, letters, etc. so little engagement and fund utilization
  - Potential to work with Chowan SWCD since program is so similar to VCAP/VACS

Precedent for VCAP to be administered by outside entities on behalf of SWCDs—can help with low capacity