



NEW RIVER WATERSHED ROUNDTABLE 2017 Q1 Meeting
New River Valley Business Center | New River Room
2/22/2017 | 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM

ATTENDING

Anthony Akers – Pulaski County	James Money maker – VA Dept. of Environmental Quality
Bill Long – Montgomery County	Kevin Byrd - NRV Regional Commission
Brad Buchanan - Montgomery County	Laurie Buchwald - Pathways for Radford
Chelsea Blount – New River Conservancy	Megan Scott – VA Department of Transportation
Cheri Strenz - Friends of Claytor Lake	Melissa Skelton - City of Radford
Chris McKlarney - Giles County	Mike Harvey - NRV Regional Commission/Friends of the New River
David Ridpath - City of Radford	Patricia Colatosti - Town of Christiansburg
David Yolton – ReNew the New Committee	Pete Jackson – NRV Trout Unlimited
Deb Cooney – City of Radford	Terri Morris - Floyd County
Denny McCarthy – VA Department of Forestry	Michael Gottfredson - NRV Regional Commission
George Santucci - New River Conservancy	

NOTES

1. Welcome
 - a. Kevin Byrd welcomed those in attendance, and had all introduce themselves.
2. Reviewed Tasks from Kickoff Meeting (12/2/2016)
 - a. Michael Gottfredson reviewed the status of tasks identified by members of the Watershed Roundtable at the Kickoff Meeting in December 2016.
 - i. Website Creation: Mr. Gottfredson informed the group a website for the organization was being pursued. The group referred Mr. Gottfredson to former Watershed Roundtable members for more information regarding the old website domain.
 - ii. Creation of Database for New River Segment Emergency Response Times: Mr. Gottfredson informed the group the database for emergency response times on the New River would be hosted on the new website.
 - iii. Review Tax Deductible Status for Future Contributions: Mr. Gottfredson said the New River Valley Regional Commission had their auditor review the State Code

regarding contributions. The Regional Commission auditor found it permissible for individuals to contribute to the Regional Commission for the Watershed Roundtable, and advised for individuals to consult with their tax preparer and state and federal laws. Mr. Gottfredson said the Regional Commission will prepare a simple letter to thank donors for their gift.

3. Group Discussion

a. New River Water Trail Expansion

- i. Chris McKlarney provided an overview on the New River Water Trail. He reviewed the [New River Water Trail website](#), and signs designating different float segments in Giles County. The group discussed how to package the signs so they can be set up as template to be set at any segment of the New River. Mr. McKlarney informed the group the signs cost \$1,200, were installed by Giles County, and included unique content, such as a map, unique assets, any falls, and the length of the stretch. He also informed the group that restrooms were being installed at many of the sites where the signs are posted. **The group decided to develop a template for unique content for different segments of the New River within the New River Valley. This template would be sent to the different localities to fill out. A subcommittee would be set up to review the content, and discuss the possibility of sponsorships and educational information for each sign. The group discussed the possibility of having a sign, or information about the New River Water Trail at the Southwest Virginia Outdoor Expo in April.** Funding sources for the purchase of the signs were discussed, and could include Appalachian Regional Commission funds and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality.

b. Spring Clean-up Activities

- i. David Yolton reviewed the Ramps and Roads clean-up activity put on by the ReNew the New Committee on March 25th. He discussed the logistics of the event, including how they recruit, who is involved in the administration of the event, what equipment is used, and volunteers needed.
- ii. Patricia Colatosti said the Town of Christiansburg will be holding a spring clean-up event as well at Diamond Hills Park on March 25th. Ms. Colatosti said they were asking members of the local HOA to be involved. Mr. McKlarney said the Christiansburg event could be advertised with the Ramps and Roads event.
- iii. Bill Long reviewed the upcoming Broomin' & Bloomin' clean-up event in Montgomery County on April 22nd. He discussed how their group has had a relationship with VDOT and the Montgomery Regional Solid Waste Authority for trash collection at the event.
- iv. The group discussed the different logistics of the different events, along with future clean-up events at Claytor Lake. Volunteers came from different sources, such as students, local groups, and neighbors. Different resources the group could draw on were identified, such as Radford University's Office of the President,

Virginia Tech's Residential Leadership Council, possible adopt-a-stream programs, and others. The group decided the role of the Watershed Roundtable this year would be to provide some co-branding with ReNew the New and to provide press releases for the event. There would be a press release prior to the events, and then a follow-up press release after the events.

- c. Fall into the New 2017
 - i. The group reviewed the takeaways from the September 2016 follow-up meeting regarding the ReNew the New event in August 2016. These included having a way to get as many resources to different locations as possible for local clean-up events. It also included having a strong leader from each locality to head up these clean-up events.
 - ii. The group discussed some of the challenges for having the regional clean-up event, such as keeping a sense of community and connectivity while having clean-ups at different locations. It was recommended to have a centralized approach, with some more local options. These options could be land-based, or on tributaries to the New River. The group decided to come up with some different scenarios for the group to review at the next meeting.
- d. Recreation-oriented Development on the New River
 - i. Mr. Byrd discussed recent developments on the New River in Giles County. The group discussed how some localities have developed river plans for their localities regarding the New River. The group noted the regulation of the water on the New River was handled by the Army Corp of Engineers and Appalachian Power on Claytor Lake. No action was taken.
- e. Report Out
 - i. Denny McCarthy informed the group of different species of trees and shrubs that are available from the Virginia Department of Forestry (see attachment). Mr. McCarthy encouraged the group to get in touch with him for requests for these plants (dennis.mccarthy@dof.virginia.gov). He is placing orders for the plants within the next few weeks.
 - ii. Mike Harvey told the group Virginia Tech has bought a farm in Ellett Valley, and intends to develop the property for institutional use. This new development would have bridges span some of the creeks in the area.

4. Next Steps

a. Upcoming Events

- i. [Ramps N Roads Spring Clean-up](#): March 25th, 2017, at Eastern Elementary School, Giles County.
 - ii. [Diamond Hills Park Clean-up](#): March 25th, 2017, at Diamond Hills Park, Christiansburg.
 - iii. [Virginia's Outdoor Lovers Expo Southwest Virginia](#): April 22nd, 2017, at Bisset Park, in Radford.
 - iv. [Broomin' & Bloomin'](#): April 22nd, 2017, in Montgomery County.
 - v. [New River Symposium](#): May 16th, 2017, at the Selu Conservancy in Radford.
- b. The group decided to reserve the 5th Wednesday in May, August, and November 2017 for upcoming watershed roundtable meetings.
- c. Next Meeting: May 31st, 2017 at the New River Valley Business Center from 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM.

END OF MEETING