



NEW RIVER WATERSHED ROUNDTABLE Q2 MEETING

New River Valley Business Center | New River Room

August 30th, 2017 | 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM

ATTENDING

Alex McMahon-New River Conservancy

Kevin Byrd-NRVRC

Ann Goette-ReNew the New

Laura Walters-New River Conservancy

Anthony Akers-Pulaski County

Laurie Buchwald-Pathways for Radford

Brad Buchanan-Montgomery County

Melissa Skelton-City of Radford

Cheri Strenz-Friends of Claytor Lake

Michael Gottfredson-NRVRC

Chris McKlarney-Giles County

Mike Harvey-NRVRC/Friends of the New River

Chris McKlarney-Giles County

Patricia Colatosti-Town of Christiansburg

Daniel Sowers-On the Water Outfitters

Terri Morris-Floyd County

David Ridpath-City of Radford

Notes

1. Welcome

- a. Kevin Byrd welcomed the group.

2. Fall ReNew the New Regional Clean-up Event

- a. Mr. Byrd noted some of the highlights of the Clean-up Event

- i. Results: 475 volunteers, 401 tires, 357 bags, 11 tons of trash and tires, 19 miles of river cleaned-up, 11.5 miles of streambank and road cleaned up
- ii. Locations: Event held on the Little River (Floyd County); New River in Pembroke (Giles County); Whitethorne Boat Launch (Montgomery County); Mt. Olivet Road, leading to Gatewood Park (Pulaski County); and Bisset Park (Radford).
- iii. Media Coverage: WSLS, WDBJ, Roanoke Times, Southwest Times, the Floyd Press, the Virginian Leader all ran stories leading up to the event, or covered the event. Local governments, nextthreedays.com, and Radford Outdoors all shared on social media.
- iv. Online Registration: 158 registered online; 71 said to have uploaded waiver online; special thanks to Giles County and Alisa Moody for hosting the online registration.

- b. General Observations

- i. Volunteers are “unlimited”.
- ii. Message about regional aspect of the event was unclear in some localities.
- iii. Some sites had too many volunteers, some didn't have enough.

1. City of Radford

- a. Nervous about the event, but pleased with outcome. Optimistic for next year.

- b. Wanted more of a regional feel to the event. Need to connect to Radford University; need to create awareness.
 - 2. Giles County
 - a. Much less to pick up this year.
 - b. Request for Regional Commission to create a poster for the event. Would like to see more of an emphasize of the regional aspect of the event.
 - 3. Montgomery
 - a. A lot of energy, with 60 people attending. Not a lot of “people” trash, but there were tires and greasebuckets. Over 100 tires pulled out of the river.
 - 4. Pulaski
 - a. Pleased with results. Clean Community Council took charge of the event this year.
 - b. Would like to leverage more people at next year’s event.
 - 5. Floyd
 - a. Good turnout, with a positive feel. Coordinated with the Floyd Chamber of Commerce Rubber Duck Race. 10 miles of the Little River cleaned, along with 3.5 miles of streambank. 300 lbs of trash and 92 tires removed by 56 volunteers.
- c. Debrief Meeting
 - i. The group decided to have a more in-depth debrief later in September to discuss how to build on the strengths, and address some of the concerns, of this year’s event.
- 3. New River Water Trail Expansion
 - a. Michael Gottfredson discussed the progress of the New River Water Trail Expansion efforts by the Watershed Roundtable.
 - i. Spoke with outfitters about river access distances and times from Claytor Lake Dam to Big Falls. Still gathering data for New River stretch from Allisonia through Claytor Lake State Park.
 - ii. Will meet with local governments and outfitters to gather further information, and will present findings at November meeting.
- 4. New River Watershed Roundtable Website
 - a. Mr. Gottfredson showcased the new New River Watershed Roundtable [website](#). He noted the website will be used for future posting of agendas and notes, and will be used to coordinate work of Watershed Roundtable.
- 5. Citizen Water Quality Monitoring
 - a. Alex McMahon from the New River Conservancy presented to the group regarding citizen water quality monitoring efforts within the New River Conservancy.
 - i. The New River Water Watchers is a group supported by the New River Conservancy.
 - ii. DEQ provides some high level guidance on citizen water quality monitoring.
 - iii. More info at www.newriverwaterquality.org, or contact Alex at alex@newriverconservancy.org.

- iv. There are needs for 10 people to do water quality monitoring within the Virginia's section of the New River Watershed.
 - 1. Requirements are to sample a stream or river in the same spot, once per month, for 12 months.
 - b. The group requested Mr. McMahon to provide them with a brief writeup for potential volunteers. The group agreed to promote the need for citizen water quality monitors from their own contact networks.
6. Report Out
- a. Friends of Claytor Lake held their July clean-up event, retrieving 104 bags and 22 tires from residents on and around Claytor Lake. With Pulaski County, the group pulled over 2,000 tons of debris from the lake.
7. Next Steps
- a. Upcoming Events
 - i. ReNew the New 2017 Debrief Late September, 2017
 - ii. Pulaski County Hazardous Waste DaySeptember 9th, 2017
 - iii. Friends of Claytor Lake Fall ClassicSeptember 16th, 2017
 - iv. Friends of Peak Creek Fall Clean-up..... October 9th, 2017
 - v. NR Watershed Roundtable Quarterly Meeting November 29th, 2017
 - b. Next Meeting: November 29th, 2017, at the New River Valley Business Center from 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM.

END OF MEETING