

**New River Valley Green Infrastructure, Committee Meeting**  
**New River Valley PDC, August 25, 2008, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

**Meeting goals:**

1. Provide overview of possible mapping outcomes.
2. Begin discussion of next steps for mapping a GI network in the NRV.

**Attendees:**

Katherine Smith, Town of Blacksburg  
Nichole Hair, Town of Christiansburg  
Ursula Lemanski, NPS- Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program  
Paul Revell, VA DOF  
Randall Rose, Virginia Tourism Corporation  
Courtney Kimmel, VT Dept. of Forestry  
Chris Burkett, VA DGIF  
Debbie Lineweaver, Pulaski County citizen  
Blaine Keesee, Draper Aden Associates  
Susan Garrison, Town of Blacksburg  
David Richert, VA DOF  
Bruce Hull, VT Dept. of Forestry  
Laura Belleville, Appalachian Trail Conservancy  
Chuck Dietz, VA DCR  
Kim Steika, VT Community Design Assistance Center  
Barbara White, VA DOF  
John Eustis, New River Land Trust  
Lola Reglair, Conservation Management Institute  
Ken Convery, Conservation Management Institute  
Regina Elsner, New River Valley Planning District Commission

**Agenda Items:**

1. Welcome  
Regina welcomed the group to a meeting designed to overview and to discuss the mapping and GI network design that CMI will be helping with. Regina handed out the newest version of the GI network design goals that have been edited and revised based on committee comments since the previous meeting. These goals are still a work in progress, but provide a framework and foundation on which to base the conversation of the day.
2. Mapping Presentation  
Ken Convery from the Conservation Management Institute gave a presentation on the mapping and prioritization of natural and cultural resources, as he has had experience with them in the past. The presentation is included as a .pdf file for future reference. The example of Amherst County and the Virginia Conservation Lands Needs Assessment serve as a foundation from which to build our work. It is important to understand and utilize these data, making the necessary changes to make the products relevant for our region. We can take the base maps and add additional attributes as we see fit.

### 3. Mapping Discussion

Following the presentation there was a detailed discussion of the mapping products and the next steps to be taken to develop useful mapping products. There was some concern that there needs to be a concerted effort to ensure the relevancy of this mapping at various scales, from regional to county to local. One possible solution is to form locality groups dedicated to obtaining the opinion of their respective communities to rank and prioritize the data once the committee identifies such data.

It was also discussed that these mapping exercises can serve as the starting point for some visioning and scenario building. Instead of letting the mapping function as simply an illustration of what's important, overlay comprehensive plan mapping and future land use maps to determine areas of conflict between natural resources conservation and growth. These maps may assist localities in identifying and defining their urban growth areas, directing that growth away from significant or sensitive areas.

An underlying concern was to ensure that the process was focused on green infrastructure and the interconnectivity of hubs and corridors. That focus should be present as either a constraint to the mapping or a second step in mapping to identify not only areas where there currently are hubs and corridors, but also areas where restoration is possible.

### 4. Wrap-up and Adjourn

The meeting ended with Regina identifying several action items to be developed prior to the next committee meeting. Those items can be found below.

#### Next Steps:

- Regina will identify a small group of individuals to work with Ken to develop some initial base mapping.
- Regina and Ken will identify datasets available to be included in the mapping analysis, to be distributed to the committee and reviewed.
- Regina will set reoccurring meeting dates.