



**NEW RIVER WATERSHED ROUNDTABLE
QUARTERLY MEETING
January 26, 2022 | 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM**

Zoom

Minutes

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Radford University Sustainability Plan.....Josh Nease
3. Sustainability Manager, Radford University Sustainability and Climate Action Plan, takes a three-prong approach to sustainability focusing on environment, social, economic sustainability. R U signed the Carbon Commitment, 2040 target date for net carbon neutrality. New task force on sustainability at the University. Stars program used by higher ed around the world to measure sustainability progress. Radford received a silver star rating. Using five pillars and focal areas, attached in slides, includes improving a focus on connection with the New River. Looking to tie project-based learning to river experiences and working in the community with ReNew the New. Plans to enhance the University MS4/stormwater program. University installed a retention wetland between river and one of their parking lots. Link to more information about the plan: <https://www.radford.edu/content/sustainability/home/Pathto2040.html>
4. ReNew the New All
Radford University + Virginia Tech Classes start / 8.22.22
VT Football first game / 9.3.22
Labor Day / 9.5.22
Potential Date / 8.27.22 – Nicole will confirm with all locality leads over the next month.
5. New River Water Watchers Report.....Suzanne Joyner/Cathy Hanks
Suzanne is leaving the Conservancy at the end of February. Chelsea and Cathy are going to take over the program until they can hire a new coordinator. Cathy invites people to shadow a monitor before committing to a training session. Nicole mentioned a potential water quality monitoring connection with MS4--counts as public participation event.
Patricia Colatosti shared that the New River Valley Master Naturalists are working to remove invasives from a stream in Christiansburg. Recently a second group of master naturalists began work with Save Our Streams (SOS) to monitor two stations, one on Town Branch. Cathy noted that SOS is invertebrate counting vs NRC does chemical tests. Patricia shared that monitoring should respond to impairments. In Christiansburg it is sediment and E. Coli which can be monitored through invertebrate counts. The Town needs to report monitoring to the state twice a year.
6. River Builder ProgramCathy Hanks/Chelsea Blount

Expansion into Giles and Montgomery Counties of the New River Valley. Interest in getting more landowners involved in protecting our riparian buffers. Sediment is the leading cause of pollution in our streams. Buffers should be at least 35 feet in the New River Watershed. River Builder program started in 1998. Provide three major services: 1. Consultation, 2. Riparian Buffer Restoration, 3. Educational Workshops. Chelsea’s slides are attached. Contact Cathy Hanks for the New River Valley Program Coordinator, cathy@newriverconservancy.org. More information about River Builder at this video: https://youtu.be/MVo_BqBZvI

7. New River Water Trail..... Nicole

The Region is wrapping up the ARC Technical Assistance grant and preparing to apply for ARC Implementation/Construction funds. The goal of the implementation is to improve/install four new access points, one in each locality, improve and expand the New River Water Trail website, install mile markers and signage, both on and off river, create marketing materials, and continue to promote river stewardship and safety. A report on the years’ work will be available in the coming months.

8. Report Out All

i. New River Symposium Nicole

April 10-11 // New River Gorge National Park / Registration, Call for Proposals, and Sponsorship info now live:

<https://www.newriverconservancy.org/2022-events/2022-new-river-symposium>

ii. Giles County, Ramps and Roads Spring Cleanup March 26, 8:30 am

<https://renewthenew.org/projects/>

iii. Karst Workshop – Save the Date, April 4 -5, 2022. Registration Coming Soon.

iv. Stormwater Days, April 11 + 12, Montgomery County Public Schools, a partnership with the Isaac Walton League. Reach out to John Burke for more info. burkejw@montgomerycountyva.gov or visit <https://cburgiwla.org/>

v. Christmas for the Fishes Ciara

FOCL: DWR, Claytor Lake State Park, Christmas for the Fishes, habitat structure project. Sink live Christmas trees into habitat hotspots. John Copeland fisheries biologist heads up the program.

<https://www.wsls.com/video/news/2022/01/25/christmas-for-the-fishes-at-claytor-lake/> Ciara to share photos. End of January event. Collect your tree in a parking lot. Claytor Lake ambassadors monitoring the habitats with cameras this year. Looking for results on habitat quality with 200 – 400 trees.

Meeting Dates

April 27, 2022

July 27, 2022

Oct 26, 2022