



**NEW RIVER WATERSHED ROUNDTABLE
QUARTERLY MEETING**

April 21, 2021 | 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM

Zoom + In-person

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85135271628?pwd=UFRzMmxnSzFwdkVJODd5N0RJMkpuUT09>

Meeting ID | 851 3527 1628

Passcode | 924471

Call in | +1 301 715 8592

Minutes

1. Attendance: We had 21 people remotely, and 6 people join in person.
2. Floyd Scouts..... Greg Sazonov
Greg Sazonov and his pack are a part of the New River District of Scouts, which has about 31 troops and packs. They became involved with the Watershed Roundtable last year, by participating in ReNew the New and partnering with Bob Popp, who is a Water Watcher for the Little River. In May, 2021, Greg will lead his pack to float the entire length of the Little River. He is also has the vision for a GIS project in partnership with DRCS, DOF, and DEQ to evaluate riparian areas that need buffers and complete the native plant restoration with scouts. Reach out to him with any interest in partnering: scoutingtroop19@gmail.com.
3. ReNew the New: August 28, 2021 All
Greg Sazonov is interested in having the boy scout logo printed on the shirts. Nicole will send out a planning email to the ReNew planning committee and the committee can discuss the shirts. Nicole mentioned the idea of a t-shirt design contest.
4. TMDL Implementation Plan Peak Creek James Moneymaker
This project was initiated by the Town of Pulaski. Biological Systems Engineering at Virginia Tech will serve as the contractor for the project. DEQ will host the first public meeting to discuss development of an Implementation Plan for the bacteria TMDL on Tue, May 11 at 6 pm. At this meeting, development of the Implementation Plan to restore water quality in the Peak Creek watershed will be discussed, and citizens will learn how they can be part of the water quality improvement process. Register here:
<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3935635215561379343>
5. New River Water Watchers Report..... Suzanne Joyner
Suzanne shared that COVID has created flux for the Water Watcher program as people are changing their locations or taking time off of monitoring. There have only been two sites that have been consistently monitored, one along Peak Creek and one along the Little River. NRC has

a need more additional monitors and would like to better understand what creeks/streams should be monitored and why. You can email suzanne@newriverconservancy.org to provide feedback/suggestions. Cathy Hanks is helping out with recruiting and training volunteers. The equipment for each water quality monitor costs approximately \$350.

Important numbers, Suzanne shared:

- a. Dissolved Oxygen, ideal min of 6 mg/L
- b. Trout like a water temperature between 13 – 20°C
- c. E Coli count should be under 200 for human contact

6. Spring Clean-ups All
Friends of Peak Creek clean up is postponed until their rain date on May 1.

Friends of Claytor Lake is planning a cleanup event for the month of July, details TBD.

Broomin' & Bloomin' was held April 24.

Virginia Tech has had a lot of success with smaller group cleanups. As a result of continued interest, they have begun to partner with Christiansburg and send folks to Patricia for additional cleanup locations.

Christiansburg has also seen continued interest in cleanups this spring.

Ramps n Roads was a great success. 106 people, picked up over 300 bags of trash and 157 tires. Additionally, they ran a free tire disposal day in which over 4,000 tires were submitted.

Pulaski County has launched a new program, called Adopt-a-spot. 11 groups have adopted a spot with 90 bags of trash collected. More info here: <https://www.pulaskicounty.org/>

Trout Unlimited participated in their twice annual cleanup this year on the site day as Ramps n Roads.

7. Crab Creek Implementation Project Nicole
DEQ recently announced funding for a BMP installation project within the Crab Creek watershed. Partners include NRVRC, Downtown Christiansburg, Inc, Balzer and Associates, Town of Christiansburg. Patricia and Nicole to touch base and provide more details in the future.

8. New River Water Trail Nicole
NRVRC has launched an online engagement platform for many of their projects, including the New River Water Trail Expansion Project. Learn more and participate here:
<https://www.engagenrv.org/nrwt>

9. Report Out All
- DWR Boat Launch Fee..... Kevin/Rick Roth
Friends of the Rivers of Virginia are looking to challenge the legality of the boat launch fee. It is believed that boat launches should be funded through infrastructure budgets and not funded by recreational users. (Kevin can you help me edit this section?)

- Plant SWVA Natives Campaign Nicole
NRVRC received funds to great a Plant SWVA Natives Guide and to launch a native plant propagation center at the Hale Community Garden in Blacksburg. Nicole will send out a survey in the coming months to learn what sort of native plant needs regional projects might have. It would be great
- Stream Improvements along Big StonyPete Jackson
Giles County received funds for a national Recreation Economies for Rural Communities Program. Through this program, some stream and trail improvements will be made to Big Stony.
- Beaver damage Paul Moody
Paul Moody is interested in understanding beaver management. They are consistently doing extensive damage to his riparian canopy. Chelsea Blount suggested ninebark as a species that seems consistently undesirable to beaver. Pete mentioned wrapping wire around the base of the tree. More info here:
<https://dwr.virginia.gov/wildlife/nuisance/beaver/>
- AEP Cheri Strenz
There is a new deputy executive director of AEP, Sierra (I didn't actually hear this part)
- MS4 story mapsJohn Burke
Regional MS4s are working on a variety of interactive storymaps. The first one to launch will be "Scoop the Poop" which will encourage folks to pickup after their animals and tag themselves on a regional map. More info soon.

10. Upcoming Events

April 24th Friends of Peak Creek Clean up

April 30th Stream cleanup at VT – on-going until April 30th.

May 11th 6 pm Peak Creek Water Quality Improvement Plan. Registration required:
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3935635215561379343>

May 14-16: New River Gorge Fest <https://aceraft.com/event/new-river-gorge-fest/>

Meeting Dates

April 21st, 2021 (location tbd) *Please note, changed from April 28th due to a scheduling conflict.

July 28th, 2021 (location tbd)

Oct 27th, 2021 (location tbd)