



**NEW RIVER WATERSHED ROUNDTABLE
QUARTERLY MEETING**
New River Valley Business Center | New River Room
April 27, 2020 | 10:30 AM to 11:30 PM

Minutes

1. Welcome and Introductions
 - Attendance was not formally recorded due to the online format, however, we had 30 partners connect to the meeting.
2. VT Engage..... Catherine Cotrupi
 - Community driven, reciprocal relationships, looking to make connections between students and the broader systems which surround them.
 - Includes service-learning, leadership education and civic engagement.
 - Reach out to Catherine Cotrupi, Assistant Director of VT Engage @ (540) 231-9186 or cotrupi@vt.edu, with any ideas and to start a conversation.
 - Catherine will work to connect you with faculty, students and opportunities
 - Friends of Peak Creek has worked extensively with VT Engage and highly recommends pursuing the relationship.
3. ReNew the New All
 - ReNew the New, tentatively set for August 29, 2020
 - Kevin Byrd shared that localities are meeting with the local health district 3 x per week. The region also formed the Public Health Task Force. These conversations will help guide planning or cancelling our event. Additionally, there will be a new virtual Town Hall series, topics include public health, education, first responders and local business—more information available here: <https://montva.com/coronavirus/nrvtownhall>
 - Ultimately, it is too soon to make definitive plans for ReNew, but we will be in touch with event leaders in June.
 - Many localities are interested in adapting social distancing to the event. It will take reformatting our approach.
 - Katelyn Kast mentioned that it will depend on if VT's students come back.
 - John Burke is considering solo cleanups with a #--similar to #TrashTagNRV
 - Brad Buchanan mentioned the compactness of Whitethorne and is interested in evaluating creation of a safe, healthy event.
4. #TrashTagNRV..... Nicole
 - The #TrashTagNRV Campaign asks folks to go out a clean-up trash on their own, posting their results on social media.

- *TrashTagNRV flyer is attached. Please post on your social media. Paul Moody with New River’s Edge donated 10 weeks of prizes. We have nine more weeks of prizes to award. The prize is a day for two at New River’s Edge in Pembroke.
5. Giles County River Art Charlie/Ann
 - Giles County came up with the idea to ask local kids to create river inspired art while they are out of school. The contest is called, “A River Runs Through It”.
 - Over 100 submissions, ages 4 thru 18. Cash prizes will be awarded in every age group, as well as a grand prize of a full day at New River’s Edge for 10 people.
 - Judging will occur on Monday, May 4.
 6. POWER Grant Nicole
 - New River Water Trail Expansion Project application was submitted on April 24, 2020. We will find out this summer if our application is being considered.
 7. Peak Creek/Doodle Dust Update George Santucci
 - New River Conservancy has received some initial funds to explore the restoration needs of the eroding doodle dust in Pulaski. Initial estimates say that 2.2 miles of restoration will cost approximately \$700,000.
 - Clean Water Act mandates a 319 funding source for water quality improvement projects. 319 funding requires a 9-element watershed plan. New River Conservancy is looking to utilize 319 funding and needs funds to create the 9-element plan. The Quick Guide to Developing Watershed Plans is attached.
 - Field analysis of the 2.2 miles will begin in May or June with an estimated complete date of the end of 2020—depending on the ability to conduct stakeholder engagement.
 8. New River Water Watchers Report.....New River Conservancy
 9. Water Quality Monitoring..... All
 - Water quality training event was postponed. There is a potential to host a partial training online this summer. Training and retraining is required by DEQ to certify testing knowledge and accuracy in order to utilize data.
 10. New River Watershed .org..... Nicole
 - www.newriverwatershed.org is live
 - Reach out to nicole@nrvc.org with content ideas or logo files, if your logo isn’t currently on the partners page.
 11. Report Out All
 - Karst Workshop Primer coming online this summer. Also look out for a self-guided regional karst tour.
 - Doggie Waste Bags are currently at the commission waiting for distribution once things are clear. If you have a means or an idea to distribute reach out to nicole@nrvc.org to make arrangements for pickup.

- Plant SWVA Natives Campaign is live
<https://www.plantvirginianatives.org/plantswvanatives> The greater website has a myriad of information about utilizing native plants in the landscape and is a great VA resource.
- Of particular interest to water quality folks is the resource: “Better Backyard: A citizen’s guide to beneficial landscaping and habitat restoration in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.” Good information for ALL Watersheds. Download it here:
<https://www.plantvirginianatives.org/learn-more-about-landscaping-with-natives>

Upcoming 2020 Meeting Dates

July 29th, 2020 (likely online)

September 30th, 2020
