



**NEW RIVER WATERSHED ROUNDTABLE
QUARTERLY MEETING**

September 30, 2020 | 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM

Zoom |

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85737060107?pwd=L242a1VMd2k0RWljRHJiSkRxQldyQT09>

Meeting ID: 413 087 2159

Passcode: 8S3uGb

Call in | +1 646 558 8656

Meeting ID: 857 3706 0107

Passcode: 769162

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. ReNew the New Update..... All
 - Giles: Handed out over 100 shirts. Found it is hard to track participants and trash quantities, working on an estimate. Ben Reid and Eric Gates from Celanese collected over 20 bags of trash and 9 tires and will plan on holding future clean-ups.
 - Radford: Handed out 15-20 shirts. Deb Cooney will work with Josh Nease and other community groups to increase number of participants
 - Montgomery County: 10-day event, very successful. Handed out almost all 100 shirts
 - Pulaski: Given out around 20 shirts, partnered with Rockhouse Marina along the mouth of Peak Creek as a trash bag and t-shirt distribution site. Friends of Peak Creek looking to give out shirts at their upcoming clean-up event.
 - Floyd County: Greg Sazanov organized over 40 scouts to clean-up areas of the Little River and is looking to continue partnership in future years.
3. DEQ Lucy Baker
 - Lucy Baker is looking for ideas on how to address the Impaired Waters Priority List— which will be in effect from 2022 – 2028. Total Daily Maximum Load studies are done on priority water lists, with possible implementation plans to follow. These studies are

significant, because they open watersheds to 319 funds. The public comment period expired on Oct 5th, but there will be time to comment on drafts of the priority list over the coming year.

- John Copeland brought up Toms Creek for its bacteria and temperature impairment. Baker mentioned that there has been a change in metric that put Toms Creek on hold and that she needs to go back and look at it. George Santucci mentioned that perhaps citizen scientists can work to meet new metric standards to allow bacteria samples to be collected by volunteers with DEQ paying lab fees. Additionally, Santucci shared that improving temperature and habitat is an easier result to achieve but will have resounding benefits including improving bacterial loads. Baker responded that she thinks the idea of using citizen scientist weekly testing data to delist impaired streams has potential and DEQ will need to investigate it further. She also acknowledged finding solutions with overlap, such as bacteria and sediment. DEQ requires tier 3 testing and laboratories. Currently NRC has tier 2 trained citizen scientists and a tier 3 laboratory.
- NRC interest in TMDL IP for Peak Creek

4. Peak Creek New River Conservancy/FOPC
George Santucci shared that the Silver Jackets, mostly focused on flooding, are producing a report for the Town of Pulaski. Their draft report has creative ideas to reduce flooding including stormwater capture, rain gardens and some armoring. Cathy Hanks shared that they have begun work on a restoration plan and started their field work this past Monday. A GO Virginia grant and partnership with Draper Aden has allowed them to develop testing protocols and locate six testing sites throughout the planned restoration area. Chelsea Blount shared that she is looking for two tools, a hand site level and a clinometer. Lucy Baker offered to provide those tools.

5. NRWT Mile Marker System..... Charlie Mullins/Deb Cooney
Charlie Mullins shared that they have marked 8 of the 9 bridge pilings in Giles County and have begun to order signage for the new boat ramps. Is currently working to understand how to get google maps to acknowledge the river mile marker system and would like any support he can get for this. Nicole Hersch will look into it. Mullins shared that they went with a standard black satin spray paint.

Brad Buchanan has two bridges Montgomery County would like to mark. The bridge over Rout 114 and the bridge below the arsenal property. Nicole Hersch will get him a map with those mile markers on them.

Deb Cooney rolled out new river signage this summer and received excellent feedback on the effort. She ordered vinyl banners from vista print with grommets for easy hanging, placing them in five key areas, advertising boat take out locations. Additionally, the City of Radford is currently in talks with an outfitter to utilize the kayak and tubing rental in Bisset Park.

Cathy Dowdy with Affordable Decals makes the stencils. Her contact info is: 540.921.7329. cdowdy@pemt.net.

6. New River Water Watchers Report..... Suzanne Joyner

Suzanne Joyner shared that NRC lost monitors and are currently in need of more. They were able to train two this summer and have two more interested in being trained. Of the five current testing locations, there are a few outliers, but overall data looks good and healthy. There is some high E. Coli counts in Toms Creek due to livestock accessing the waters.

7. Report Out All

- Doggie Waste Bags Nicole
Still available. Please contact Nicole if you would like some for distribution.
- New River Documentary by Lisa Fenderson is currently being produced. John Copeland has spoken with her about the Candy Darter and Big Stoney Creek. Copeland is working to connect Ms. Fenderson with other folks doing good work in our watershed.
- Greg Sazanov from Floyd County works with many youth through Scouts. He is interested in learning more about citizen science opportunities and is hoping to connect with an individual who can teach the scouts about water quality monitoring efforts done on the Little River. Please reach out to Greg at scoutingtroop19@gmail.com.
- Plant SWVA Natives Nicole
<https://www.plantvirginianatives.org/plantswvanatives>
- New River Natives Nicole
NRCVNPS raised over \$4000 at their recent plant sale, which will be used for native plant education grants. Email nrchaptervnps@gmail.com for more information and to be notified when the grant is available.
- Blue Ridge Eco Fair..... Woody Crenshaw
Sustain Floyd is hosting the Blue Ridge Eco Fair, which is going all digital this year. They are looking for community groups to talk about their local efforts in 5 to 10 minute video clips. More information is attached. If you would like to learn more please reach out to Mr. Crenshaw at William@swva.net.
- 15 Minute Talks..... All
Nicole Hersch is looking for volunteers to present 15-20 minute talks to the New River Watershed Roundtable about the work they are doing around the watershed. Please reach out to Nicole if you are interested or know someone who might be. The individual does not have to be someone who regularly attends our meetings.
- Winter Salt Watch..... Nicole
Izaak Walton League is distributing free salt watch test kits. Groups in the region are already participating. Request your free kit and learn more here: <https://www.iwla.org/water/stream-monitoring/winter-salt-watch>. Please let Nicole know if you are currently participating, she would like to include regional efforts on our map.

8. Upcoming Events

- Through 2020: **ReNew the New 2020**
- Oct 1: 8:00 AM: **Virginia Department of Forestry Seedling Sale Opens**, sale sells out every year. Recommend purchasing asap. www.BuyVATrees.com

- Oct 14: 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM: Webinar: **Building Municipal Resiliency through Nature-based Approaches**, <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-green-connector-building-resiliency-through-nature-based-approaches-tickets-118210632183>
- Nov 10: 7:30 PM -8:30: **Chelsea Blount, Restoration Director at New River Conservancy** will talk to the New River Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society via Zoom. Call is open to everyone.
ZOOM:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87397450413?pwd=SVBBRGZtOUlmSGxEYUQ3amx5RmZCUT09>
Meeting ID: 873 9745 0413
Passcode: 601304
- Nov 14-15: **Blue Ridge Eco Fair**, <https://sustainfloyd.org/programs/blue-ridge-ecofair/>
- **2021 New River Symposium** (Hosted at Virginia Tech/Zoom) Details + Date TBD

2020 Meeting Dates

September 30th, 2020 (online)

January 27th, 2021 (online)

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

July 28th, 2021 (tbd)
