



**NEW RIVER WATERSHED ROUNDTABLE QUARTERLY MEETING**

**New River Valley Business Center | New River Room  
October 30, 2019 | 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM**

**Minutes**

Attendees: Steve Rapp, Cathy Hanks, Josh Nease, Brad Buchanan, Ralph Robertson, Anthony Akers, Laura Walters, Pete Jackson, Andy Borak, Catherine Cotrupi, Lara Nagle, Katelyn Kast, Laurie Buchwald, Bill Long, John Burke, Patricia Colatosti, Chelsea Blount, George Santucci, Paul Moody, Chris McKlarney, Michael Harvey, Steve Knowles, Kevin Byrd, Nicole Hersch

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. ReNew the New-Report out..... All
  - And the River was a cleaner place. 751 participants, up from 350 in 2018
  - We will continue with paper waivers—it worked!
  - NRVRC will reach out to VDOT about providing bags and gloves for next year’s event.
  - Water level @ 2’-2.5’ should be used next year.
  - Musky, Inc sent jet johnboat to Mont Co and Giles Co. Both counties were very grateful for their participation and would like to continue that relationship.
  - Jackson shared TU has many float pontoons which could be an asset to the event.
  - ReNew the New 2020- likely each locality will set their own date to ensure the best turnout with the most support:  
 Radford – after student move-in  
 Pulaski – first weekend in Sept  
 Giles Co- avoid Labor Day

<b>Location</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Participants</b>	<b>Lbs.</b>	<b>Miles</b>	<b>Tires</b>
<i>Floyd</i>	8.24.19	104	200	6	12
<i>Mont Co</i>	8.31.19	154	4000	4	57
<i>Giles Co.</i>	8.31.19	305	6100	9	62
<i>Radford</i>	8.31.19	178	2000	5	18
<i>Pulaski</i>	9.7.19	10	500	1	10
<b>Totals</b>		<b>751</b>	<b>12800</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>159</b>

3. New River Water Trail Mileage Markers.....Giles County ReNew Committee

- Trail numbering adapted from Nat Geo water trail map.
- Stencil Vendor:

Affordable Decals  
Cathy Dowdy,  
540.921.7329,  
[cdowdy@pemt.net](mailto:cdowdy@pemt.net),  
2733 Virginia Ave, Narrows, VA 24124



- If you are interested in implementing the Mile Marker system, but need GIS/mapping support: Contact Nicole Hersch

4. Emergency Management Coordinators Meeting .....Kevin

- Held Oct 9, 2019, include reps from Pulaski Co., Radford, Mont Co., and Giles Co.
- NRVRC to create first responder map with private and public boat landings
- Explore ARC grant to fund NRWT Implementation and User Safety Project
- Emergency Managers + Outfitter Roundtable to be scheduled Jan/Feb 2020
- Santucci suggested looking for an ARC grant that would affect a larger region.

5. New River Water Watchers Report..... New River Conservancy (NRC)

- Water quality database management tool, WQX, allows for NRC to have, manage and share data with local agencies.
- Short two water quality monitoring volunteers for the New River Valley Region. They are year-long role, once/month sampling required.
- There is a need to discuss water quality monitoring sites and prioritization of additional sites at a regional level.
  - NRC + TU both studying Big Stony Creek. A need at Crab Creek and Plum Creek.
  - At our next meeting we will spend some time dedicated to discussing potential monitoring sites

6. Report Out ..... All

- **Riparian vegetation planting workshop** ..... Nicole/Chelsea Partnership with the Watershed Roundtable and NRC to host at least one Riparian Vegetation Planting Workshop late winter/early spring 2020. We are currently looking for riparian properties to host the workshop (public or private). A riparian buffer is the least expensive and most productive way to reduce sedimentation. Workshop will include a classroom session, as well as an outdoor planting session and participants will take live stakes home to plant on their properties. Reach out to Nicole @ [nicole@nrvc.org](mailto:nicole@nrvc.org) if you have property suggestions.
- **River Trash:** Pete Jackson requested that bear proof trash cans be placed at each boat landing. McKlarney confirmed that boat landings in Giles County have bear-proof

trashcans. Paul Moody is implementing a boater's pit stop on his private landing. It will have bathrooms, trashcans, as well as provisions

- **Giles Co awarded EPA Grant:** Giles won a national grant competition for technical assistance; project will focus on connecting outdoor recreation assets to communities.
- **Carcass Collection:** Giles County is implementing their Carcass Collection program again this year. If your locality has a need to implement carcass collection, Giles has a great program modelled.
- **Wonder Universe:** The updated Children's Museum at the Christiansburg Mall is opening Nov 7 and will have a watershed exhibit to include a water table sponsored by VT and AEP which will be a model of the New River—water table coming this Spring.
- **Upcoming Events**..... All Systems Thinking Workshop to be held in January, put on by NRVRC and the Community Foundation of the NRV will include a component about systems thinking and watershed collaboration. Nicole will be reaching out to Watershed Roundtable members to participate.  
-See e-mail body for other events
- **FOCL Update**..... Steve Rapp  
Debris removed from the lake as of Oct 28<sup>th</sup>:  
243- 30 cubic yard roll-off loads of wood debris (approximately 3,645 tons)  
55- tires with steel wheels  
239- bags of trash  
16- barrels  
9- docks  
1- freezer  
1- large tractor tire  
\*The drawdown is scheduled to begin at one foot per day on Monday morning, November 4, until the lake reaches its full drawdown depth of five feet (1841 elevation) by Saturday morning, November 9. The lake is to remain five feet down until Sunday p.m., November 18, when refilling will begin. Depending on inflow, the lake is targeted to return to its normal level by Friday p.m., November 22.
- **Website Updates**..... Nicole  
Website updates have begun. If you have suggestions on content please send them to [nicole@nrvc.org](mailto:nicole@nrvc.org).

7. Dominion Pump Storage Project Presentation.....Jason De La Cruz  
Cruz presented at the potential pump storage project in Tazewell that will pull about 6.5 billion gallons of water from Wolfe Creek (a tributary of the New River) for an initial fill and then require approximately another billion gallons/year. From feasibility study to construction is about a 10-year process. This project is different from Smith Mountain Lake which built the pump storage within the river system. This project had a eutrophication problem and created scouring and excessive sedimentation. Harvey and Santucci brought up pipe size between the reservoirs, as well as, from Wolf Creek to the pump storage project. Reflecting on the recent MVP construction impact. De la Cruz referenced the pipe size in Bath County by saying you could drive a semi through it. Byrd indicated the Regional Commission is involved with the Commonwealth

Intergovernmental Review Process which requests feedback from the Commission on all environmental permits. Burke suggested meeting with fisherman to understand their needs and adding a recreation/education piece as the Dominion project advances.

### **2020 Meeting Dates**

January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020

April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020

July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020

September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020

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