

How's Our Water and Who's Paying Attention to It?

Information about the speakers, their organizations, and their topics

DRINKING WATER

Sally Thomas

Member, Natural Resources Committee of the League of Women Voters of the Charlottesville Area
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For over 30 years, the Natural Resources Committee, a small but strong part of the League of Women Voters of the Charlottesville Area has watched over local governmental decisions that affect our natural resources, especially water and land use. After studying an issue, our League becomes an effective advocate and educator. Residents and/or elected or appointed officials from Charlottesville and Albemarle, Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa, and Nelson Counties are always welcome to join our membership.

Topic groundwater - out of sight and out of mind?

Additional information:

The LWV publication, *Groundwater, Our Unprotected Resource*, was compiled by Treva Cromwell with assistance from committee members and technical input from David Hirschman, Water Resources Manager, and Nick Evans, geologist with the Virginia Division of Mineral Resources. Graphics were provided by Nick Evans.

<https://www.lwv-cva.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Grndwater-1.pdf>

Bill Mawyer

Executive Director, Rivanna Water and Sewer Authority
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The Rivanna Water and Sewer Authority produces drinking water for the City and urbanized areas of the County including Crozet, Scottsville and Red Hill. We treat wastewater from these same areas (except Red Hill) and return the treated water to streams in our area.

Topic visual presentation of our complex water system and problem being tackled currently

Additional information:

<https://www.rivanna.org/drinking-water/>

The RWSA Capital Improvement Plan is in the January, 2021 Quarterly Update

<https://albemarle.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=9054798&GUID=9A21934C-8BE4-46F5-AE57-09B7EF020B2E>

WATERSHED

Chris Hawk

Land Use Representative, Piedmont Environmental Council

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The Piedmont Environmental Council is a non-profit land use and conservation organization that works in the 9-county region from Albemarle to Loudoun County along Route 29. PEC works with the citizens in our region to conserve land, create thriving communities, strengthen rural economies, celebrate historic resources, protect air and water quality, build smart transportation networks, promote sustainable energy choices, restore wildlife habitat, and improve people's access to nature.

Topic judicious land use protects water quality while careful reservoir and transport plans protect the supply

Additional information:

- Water Supply

The water supply for the City of Charlottesville and the Albemarle County urban area is entirely self-contained, which means that it is crucial to protect the land and terrain that collects rainwater and recharges groundwater. In the 2000's, the community came together to reject options that would see water piped in from the James River. By working with area landowners to conserve land in the drinking water supply area, PEC has helped protect hundreds of miles of waterways. We work to help push for the highest standards in stream buffer protection and work to ensure that the county's water protection rules are enforced.

- Rural Area Stats

109,000-acres in conservation easements

690 square miles / 441,600 acres (including Shenandoah National Park)

95% of county land area

24,378 parcels with 45,000 theoretical, additional lots

18,451 dwellings

Average of 159 building permits per year for single-family detached residential units in Rural Area (1994-2013)

- Albemarle County Comprehensive Plan

"New homebuilding is not desired in the County's Rural Area because it undermines the preferred uses. It can also cause rural landowners to feel financial pressure to subdivide their land. The County is interested in helping property owners find ways to keep properties intact rather than subdividing." (p.190)

- Albemarle County Water Supply Plan

The water line will be a 9-mile-long, 36-inch diameter pipe with the capacity to transfer 25 million gallons per day of untreated water from the South Rivanna Reservoir to Ragged Mountain Reservoir, or transfer 16 million gallons per day of untreated water from the Ragged Mountain Reservoir to the South Rivanna Water Treatment Plant. In addition to the water line, the project will include an intake structure at the South Rivanna Reservoir, two raw water pump stations, and a pretreatment facility at the South Rivanna Water Treatment Plant to remove sediment and nutrients. This project is estimated to cost \$80 million (in 2017 dollars).

- With higher rain events coupled with periods of drought (anticipated effects of climate change) we as a community are going to need to think about water resilience. PEC, working with partners like C3, Resilient Virginia and SELC will be spending more time on climate work.

Travis Pietila

Staff Attorney, Southern Environmental Law Center

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The Southern Environmental Law Center is a non-profit, non-partisan organization that works throughout the Southeast to protect the basic right to clean air, clean water, and a livable climate; to preserve our region's natural treasures and rich biodiversity; and to provide a healthy environment for all. We have been headquartered in Charlottesville since our founding in 1986, and our Charlottesville-Albemarle program focuses on promoting environmentally-sound policies and decisions in our local community.

Topic climate action planning and how climate resiliency, flooding, and water quality interrelate

Additional information:

Albemarle County Climate Action Plan:

- Website: <https://www.albemarle.org/government/facilities-environmental-services/environmental-stewardship/climate-protection>
- Here you will find the Phase 1 Climate Action Plan the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors adopted last fall, as well as background information on the County's climate goals and opportunities to participate in the upcoming Phase 2 process.

City of Charlottesville Climate Action Plan:

- Website: <https://www.charlottesville.gov/1085/Climate-Action-Planning>
- Here you will find information on the City's climate action planning process, which kicked off this winter, including background information, upcoming events and participation opportunities, and the proposed timeline for the planning process.

Lauriston DaMitz

Outreach/Education Coordinator, Thomas Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation

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The Thomas Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District (TJSWCD) provides programs & services, technical assistance and financial assistance opportunities for eligible landowners to protect our local watersheds and the Chesapeake Bay. Healthy watersheds protect water quality, and also benefits the people and wildlife that live there. We are 1 of 47 Soil & Water Conservation Districts across Virginia. Thomas Jefferson Soil & Water Conservation District proudly serves Albemarle, Fluvanna, Louisa and Nelson Counties and the City of Charlottesville. One of the many current focuses of the TJSWCD is point and non-point source pollution, or water pollution that runs off the land regardless of land use i.e., agriculture, urban development.

Topic assisting land owners

Additional information:

- For Homeowner Best Management Practices and Erosion & Sediment Control contact chris.gyurisin@tjswcd.org
- <https://www.tjswcd.org/>

SURFACE WATER

Nesha McRae

TMDL Coordinator, VA DEQ Valley Regional Office

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The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality is the state agency responsible for administering laws and regulations related to air quality, water quality, water supply, renewable energy and land protection. Virginia's abundant natural resources provide a rich environment for people, plants and wildlife...and benefit agriculture, industry, commerce and economic development. To ensure the continued vitality of these precious and valuable resources, DEQ carries out its mission to protect and improve the environment for the health, well-being and quality of life of all Virginians.

Topic Virginia's water quality improvement process

Additional information:

Nesha will be hosting a virtual meeting on February 23rd at 3:00 pm regarding a water quality study of the South Fork Rivanna River and its tributaries currently underway. Meeting information can be found at the link below. Anyone interested in learning more about the health of these streams and pollutants that are impacting the aquatic insects that live in them is welcome to participate:

<https://www.deq.virginia.gov/Home/Components/Calendar/Event/180/17>

Lisa Wittenborn

Executive Director, Rivanna Conservation Alliance

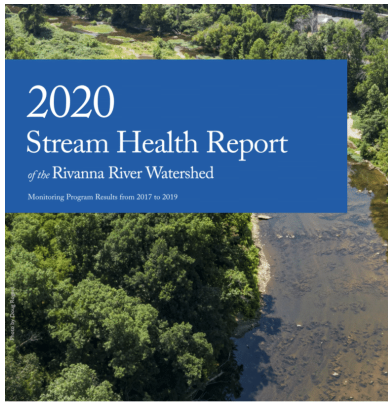
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The Rivanna Conservation Alliance (RCA) is a nonprofit organization that works with the community to conserve the Rivanna River and its tributaries through water quality monitoring, restoration, education, and advocacy. RCA's volunteer-supported bacteria and benthic macroinvertebrate monitoring programs are certified by the VADEQ at the highest level of scientific quality. The data they generate inform decision-making at all levels of government and improve the public's understanding of the condition of the streams and rivers in the Rivanna watershed.

Topic how and where RCA monitors water quality in the Rivanna watershed

Additional information:

- RCA's 2020 Stream Health Report: https://www.rivannariver.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/RCA_Stream_Health_2020.pdf



Our Mission

Working with the community to conserve the Rivanna River and its tributaries through monitoring, restoration, education, and advocacy.

Our Vision

We envision a healthy Rivanna River and watershed that benefit an engaged community.



- RCA's Water Quality Monitoring website: <https://www.rivannariver.org/monitoring-about/>

Donna Shaunese

Chair of the Piedmont Group of the Virginia Chapter of the Sierra Club

Volunteer with The Nature Conservancy, James River Association and Rivanna Conservation Alliance

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The Piedmont Group of the Virginia Chapter of the Sierra Club holds regular meetings to share information on environmental issues and works on state and local issues. We'd love to have some new folks join us!

Topic surface water clean-up

Additional information:

- Piedmont Group of the Virginia Chapter of the Sierra Club:
<https://www.sierraclub.org/virginia/piedmont> or <https://www.facebook.com/PiedmontSierraClub>.
You can also get on our weekly email of environmental events by emailing jcruickshank4@gmail.com
- The Nature Conservancy: <https://www.nature.org/en-us/about-us/where-we-work/united-states/virginia/> for general information about what we do in Virginia. Or email Jennifer Dalke jdalke@tnc.org to get on the list for volunteer opportunities.
- The James River Association: <https://thejamesriver.org/> For information about the River Rats program: <https://thejamesriver.org/what-you-can-do/river-rats/>
- Clean Virginia Waterways is an award-winning, statewide, nonprofit organization located on the Longwood University campus in Farmville, Virginia. They organize cleanups and produce scientific reports on plastic pollution in Virginia. <http://www.longwood.edu/cleanva/>
- PEC plastic bag report. <https://1drv.ms/w/s!A1MLGbpI6rqOqDWhI9SsJlbVXd0o>
- The plastic bag legislation: <https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?201+ful+CHAP1023>
- Styrofoam legislation: <https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?211+sum+HB1902>

STORM WATER

Laurel Williamson

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Among other roles, the Facilities and Environmental Services Department ensures local compliance with storm water management regulations and promotes pollution prevention and stewardship of the County's waterways.

Topic the County's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) program - a community-level team effort

Additional information:

Albemarle County's Water Resource Protection page:

<https://www.albemarle.org/government/facilities-environmental-services/environmental-stewardship/water-resource-protection>

Stream Health Initiative Phase 2 – the Rural Area: The goal of the Stream Health Initiative is to develop strategies for improving stream health in Albemarle County using a collaborative and inclusive process. To get involved, visit:

<https://publicinput.com/StreamHealth>

Jack Dawson, PE

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The Department of Public Works Engineering Division, among other engineering functions (Traffic, Transportation, ROW development, etc.), administers the Virginia Stormwater Management Program and Virginia Erosion and Sediment Control Program for all regulated Land Disturbance activities within the City of Charlottesville. This includes review of SWM/ESC plans, administration of local permits and the State General Permit registration, inspection and enforcement of permitted development activity, and inspection of all SWM BMP's within the City.

Topic urban stormwater management and erosion and sediment control

Additional information:

Reference Links:

<https://www.charlottesville.gov/267/Process-Guides>

<https://www.charlottesville.gov/603/Stormwater-Management-Documents>

<https://www.charlottesville.gov/598/Erosion-Sediment-Control>