



Rivanna River Basin Commission

Board Meeting Minutes

August 19, 2025, from 1:00 to 2:30 P.M.

Rivanna River Basin Commission	Attendance
Ann Mallek, Albemarle BOS Chair	X
Bea LaPisto-Kirtley, Albemarle BOS	X
Lonnie Murray, Appointed Citizen	X
Lloyd Snook, Charlottesville City Council	X
Michael Payne, Charlottesville City Council	
Jason Halbert, Appointed Citizen	
Timothy Hodge, Fluvanna County BOS	X
Tony O'Brien, Fluvanna County BOS	X
Reese Peck, Appointed Citizen	X
Davis Lamb, Greene County BOS	
Francis McGuigan, Greene County BOS	
Alex Vidales, Appointed Citizen	
Steve Morris, Culpeper SWCD	X
Aaron Mills, Thomas Jefferson SWCD (incoming)	X
Staff/Public	
Isabella O'Brien, TJPDC	X

Materials in Packet: Agenda and April 10, 2025, Meeting Minutes

1. The Powers of the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Areas

At the time of the meeting starting, there was not yet a quorum present. Staff recommended moving the agenda to have the guest speaker share their presentation first while those who had confirmed attendance arrived. The commission welcomed Justin Williams, Heather Mackey, and Maura Christian from DEQ's Office of Watersheds and Local Government Assistance Programs for a presentation on the Powers of the Chesapeake Bay Act, specifically focusing on the regulatory powers enabled by the Act to local governments outside of Virginia's coastal zone.

2. Call to Order, Attendance, Read Electronic Meeting Notice

The Rivanna River Basin Commission (RRBC) Chair Ann Mallek, called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m. The notice of electronic meeting was read, attendance was taken, and a quorum was determined.

3. Approval of Agenda and April 10, 2025, Meeting Minutes

The April 10, 2025, minutes were adopted through a motion by Timothy Hodges, seconded by Lonnie Murray. The agenda was adopted through a motion by Timothy Hodges, seconded by Lonnie Murray.

4. Comments from Public

There were no comments from the public.

5. The Powers of the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Areas

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6. Staff Updates

Chesapeake Bay Agreement Update and Engagement Process

Staff informed the commission of the Chesapeake Bay Program's Beyond 2025 Initiative to plan for the future of the Watershed Agreement. The public comment period is open and there was a local leaders fact sheet shared.

TJPDC IJIA Program Updates

Staff shared details about the Septic Assistance Program, funded by DEQ's Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. The program supports low-income homeowners and is under review in DEQ's Office of Financial Management. Once the program begins, 35 septic projects are expected to be completed and submitted to the DEQ BMP Warehouse. The TJSWCD is partnering with the TJPDC and provides initial funding to homeowners. The Septic Assistance Program funding will supplement costs for low-income homeowners.

Chair Mallek and others noted similar work of the RRBC and importance of communication and outreach efforts to ensure resources are publicly available and effectively coordinated. Another board member noted potential issues of self-selection in the application process and the importance of targeting high-risk areas. Staff shared that the goal of this program is to promote more regular maintenance rather than a targeted approach.

Staff also shared information about 8 rain barrel workshops in 2025, which instruct members of the public on installing rain barrels to prevent excess runoff during storm events. These workshops are held in counties across the region and partners with SWCDs and local stewardship organizations. This program is also funded by the DEQ's Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act as the TJPDC is allowed the pre-award cost.

Rivanna River Story Map

As part of the RRBC work plan, the TJPDC completed, with the support of an intern, a historical and water quality focused Rivanna River Story Map. Staff shared a link for commissioner review and notified commissioner that QR codes would be posted in parks across the watershed to make it accessible to the public.

RRBC Annual Conference

The conference will discuss water resilience, data centers, and droughts on September 24th from 9:30 – 2:30 at the Center at Belvedere. Staff discussed registration, the marketing schedule, speaker bios, and budget details.

7. Roundtable Discussion: Each Commissioner was invited to share updates from their jurisdiction.

Aaron Mills expressed excitement regarding the Septic program partnership between the TJPDC and TJSWCD. There was discussion about if a pump out could be required upon transfer of ownership on properties and putting on a legislative agenda. Other supervisors echoed that this would be a great idea and that maybe we should talk with realtors about whether this already occurs or could be a possibility.

Supervisor Mallek mentioned that at the next Albemarle County Board meeting, there will be a work session on the next phase of the Riparian Buffer Protection standards. Lonnie Murray finds it important to craft a strong ordinance in Albemarle County that would require performance criteria under resource management areas for streams that may disappear (there was a recent case with a homeowner burying a stream to then develop the area. This would help to close the loop hole so that performance criteria don't go away once the stream is removed.

Ann Mallek suggested it may be helpful to discuss the general assembly at the next full board meeting in March 2026.

There was also discussion about river access and visibility along trails. Bea Lapisto-Kirtley asked if it would be beneficial to have some areas cleared by trails so that the river was more visible to visitors. Lonnie mentioned that removing all vegetation creates more water pollution, as there is no barrier of vegetation to absorb excess nutrients and water running off into the stream. Alternatives to trees, like shrubs and native grasses like little bluestem may help to improve visibility while still providing a science-based vegetative buffer. Lonnie also mentioned that having safe, accessible access points is a good way to help the community utilize the river. Aaron Mills remarked that the type of vegetation is really site specific based on soil and other conditions.

Fluvanna County is doing a sweep for tires in the coming weeks.

8. Adjourn

The meeting concluded at 2:32pm. Commission meeting materials may be found at <https://rivannariverbasin.org/meetings-events/>.