

Lewis Creek Watershed Advisory Committee
03 April 2023, 5:00pm EST
Agenda

Call to order & roll call

Mission and purpose of the Lewis Creek Watershed Advisory Committee (LCWAC), as resolved September 23, 2004.

Minutes of previous meetings

Proposed Agenda for this meeting:

1. ***Acknowledgement of and remarks by fellow citizens present***, and recent public interactions and/or local press reported by LCWAC members – **All**.
2. ***Ongoing monthly E. Coli testing of 12 sites throughout the Lewis Creek Watershed***, by City of Staunton, Department of Public Works – **Fred B. + All**
 - a. **Gypsy Hill Park** – 2 added test sites behind the municipal pool and train.
 - b. **Weller Woods**, behind Bessie Weller Elementary School
 - c. **Old Staunton Treatment Plant**, at YMCA farm property, off New Hope Rd
3. ***PCBs in the Lewis Creek Watershed*** – update & next steps by CSX, Buckingham Branch, EPA, DEQ, Virginia Passenger Rail Authority (VPRA), and the City of Staunton – **Fred B. has now spoken with all stakeholders except CSX.**
4. ***Proposed Solar Project*** - on recently sold Moore family farm, along Route 11, between Stuart Hall ball fields and VDOT – potential watershed impacts? – **All**
5. ***2023 Education & Youth Projects:***
 - a. ***Trout Unlimited's Trout in the Classroom @ Ware Elementary (Shane Brubaker + 65 students) – Trout Release in GHP + FOMR's "Something Fishy" / "River Roundup" – now scheduled for Friday, 28 April 2023 – Arbor Day***
 - i. Benthic testing – FOMR – Paul Bugas
 - ii. Environmental testing – Trout Unlimited Team – Fred, Nancy & Eli
 - iii. Nutrient testing – Jerry Siford
 - iv. E. coli testing – City of Staunton, Dept of Public Works
 - b. ***Trout Unlimited's Trout in the Classroom @ Stuart Hall (Hunter Murray + 11 students) – planned trout release in Middle River headwaters along Summerdean Rd.***
6. ***Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) – 2023 Clean the Bay Day (CBD) – Saturday, 03 June 2023 – Fred B.***
 - a. ***Gum Springs Branch, in Gypsy Hill Park - Skyline Rotary + JMU Valley Scholars + Shenandoah Green (SG)***
 - b. ***Stuart Street, across from Jones Garden - Staunton/Augusta YMCA's Youth Volunteer Corps + SG***
 - c. ***Asylum Creek, from Bessie Weller to the Villages - ???***

- d. Lewis Creek, along VSDB property – *SVCD + SG*
 - e. Lewis Creek, along Commerce & New Hope Road – *FOMR + SG*
 - f. New Hope Road, between Stuart Hall Fields and YMCA Farm - ???
7. ***Stream Naming Project***, for consistency across Lewis Creek Watershed – **Doug**
8. ***Wharf Parking Lot Painting Project*** – let's paint the lot where Lewis Creek runs underneath the Wharf – **Fred H.**

Consideration of future agendas & possible guest speakers for upcoming meetings

LCWAC meeting adjournment.

Primary resources for continuing reference by LCWAC:

Decision Rationale of Total Maximum Daily Loads for Aquatic Life Use Impairment on Lewis Creek in Augusta County, Virginia, as published by US EPA, Water Protection Division on 02 August 2006 (9 pages)

Consideration of UVA Green Infrastructure Strategies for Staunton, VA, as published December 11, 2009 (Water Resources Policies & Strategies, pages 91-116)

Consideration of UVA Lewis Creek Subwatershed – Stormwater Management Site Analysis & Masterplan, as published 2011 (46 pages)

PCB Total Maximum Daily Load Development for Lewis Creek, Staunton, Virginia, as prepared by Department of Biological Systems Engineering, Virginia Tech & Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, and as submitted by Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, ***Draft Report*** published June 2021 (80 pages, plus Appendices)

City of Staunton, Virginia MS4 Program Plan 2018-2023, as updated 4/29/2020; General Permit No. VAR040132, for the Virginia Stormwater Management Program, General Permit Registration Statement, for Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4).

Trout Unlimited's "Trout in the Classroom" (TIC) - Trout, Steelhead and Salmon in the Classroom (TIC or SIC) enhances science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics curriculums. Students study and raise trout from eggs to fingerlings (small fish) in a coldwater aquarium during the school year. It is a unique opportunity used to teach the relevance of watersheds. Where permitted, the program culminates with a field trip to a community stream, river, lake, or pond where students release their fish into a state-approved location.

<https://www.troutintheclassroom.org/>

Partnerships Are at the Core of the Program's Success - In many areas, Trout Unlimited chapter and council volunteers facilitate the program in partnership with state or federal agencies at public and/or private schools. However, a variety of partnerships exist between other non-profits, agencies, private businesses and individuals to make the program happen.