

Lewis Creek Watershed Advisory Committee
05 June 2023, 5:00pm EDT
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**
3. ***Remediation of 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. EPA Project Manager Ruth Prince can Zoom with us both this coming Fall and next Spring.**
4. ***Proposed Solar Project*** - on recently sold Moore family farm, along Route 11, between Stuart Hall ball fields and VDOT – **Fred B. was contacted by and had coffee with the Dixons, about their concerns as neighbors, including stormwater runoff. Staunton City Council will hold final vote on the project on Thursday, 22 June 2023.**
5. ***Education & Youth Projects:***
 - a. ***Trout Unlimited's Trout in the Classroom (TIC) @ Ware Elementary (Shane Brubaker + 65 students)*** – approx. 75 trout were released into Gum Springs in GHP on 27 April 2023, with instructions & commentary by FOMR, LCWAC & Staunton City Arborist – Shane also confirmed he is onboard for Fall 2023.
 - b. ***Trout Unlimited's Trout in the Classroom (TIC) @ Stuart Hall (Hunter Murray + 11 students)*** – approx. 175 trout were released in Middle River headwaters along Summerdean Rd. during the week of 08 May 2023 – Hunter is still working with his colleagues to plan for Fall 2023 or 2024
 - c. ***Fred met with Ruth Jones-Turner & Stephanie Haskins of Staunton Public Schools, on 18 April 2023 – TIC is now permanent to SPS 5th Grade curriculum, and is now being planned as follows:***
 - i. Maintain **Ware Elementary** program from **Fall 2022 onward ...**
 - ii. Begin **Bessie Weller Elementary** program in **Fall 2023** – plus ongoing support to Weller Woods Project to ensure health of Asylum Creek for planned trout release site
 - iii. Begin **McSwain Elementary** program in **Fall 2024** – plus support Staunton High School Nature Trail Project as possible release site (see attached plan)

- 6. Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) – 2023 Clean the Bay Day (CBD) – Friday, 02 June 2023, 6-7pm and Saturday, 03 June 2023, 10am-12noon – Fred B.**
- a. **Friday, 6-7pm, Stuart Street, across from Jones Garden - Staunton/Augusta YMCA's Youth Volunteer Corps + Shenandoah Green (SG) for data**
 - b. **Saturday, 10am–12noon, Gum Springs, in Gypsy Hill Park - Skyline Rotary + JMU Valley Scholars + SG for data – start @ west entrance pavilion.**
 - c. **Saturday, 10am–12noon, Asylum Creek, from Weller Woods, past Bessie Weller – Staunton Rotary Club + SG for data – start @ Bessie Weller parking lot.**
 - d. **Saturday, 10am–12noon, Lewis Creek, along VSDB property – Shenandoah Valley Club for the Deaf + SG for data – start at east maintenance entrance.**
 - e. **Saturday, 10am–12noon, Lewis Creek, along Commerce & New Hope Road – FOMR + SG for data – start at Columbia Gas parking lot.**
- 7. Stream Naming Project**, for consistency across Lewis Creek Watershed – **Doug**
- 8. Wharf Parking Lot Painting Project** – let's paint the Wharf parking lot to show where Lewis Creek runs underneath – **Fred Coye H.**
- 9. Farewell & best of luck to LCWAC member Jerry Siford!** – Jerry, Kayla & Bennett will be making their new home in University City / St. Louis, MO starting this coming.

Consideration of future agendas & possible guest speakers for upcoming meetings

Fall 2023 – Ruth Prince, EPA Project Manager

Spring 2024 – Ruth Prince, EPA Project Manager

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)

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).

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)

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.

Staunton City Schools Proposal for Staunton High School Outdoor Learning Space and Nature Trail