

Lewis Creek Watershed Advisory Committee
07 August 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. ***LCWAC + FOMR*** – quick discussion about continued partnership and collaboration between Lewis Creek Watershed Advisory Committee and Friends of the Middle River; introduction & welcome to new FOMR rep to LCWAC – **Marion Bittinger**
3. ***Ongoing monthly E. Coli testing of 12 sites throughout the Lewis Creek Watershed***, by City of Staunton, Department of Public Works – **Fred B. + All**
4. ***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.**
5. ***Possible expansion of FOMR's Benthic Monitoring Program*** within Staunton's Lewis Creek Watershed
6. ***Staunton's "Flood Awareness System"*** – it's up and running! – **Pete**
7. ***Education & Youth Projects:***
 - a. **Trout Unlimited's "Trout in the Classroom" (TIC) in Staunton Public Schools** - now permanent to **SPS 5th Grade curriculum**, and being planned as follows:
 - i. **Maintain Ware Elementary program from Fall 2022 onward – teacher Shane Brubaker + 65 students.**
 - ii. **Begin Bessie Weller Elementary program in Fall 2023 – teacher Ashley Cole; plus, ongoing support to Weller Woods Project to ensure health of Asylum Creek for planned trout release site.**
 - iii. **Plan for McSwain Elementary program in Fall 2024 – teacher TBD; plus, support Staunton High School Nature Trail Project (teacher Nate Lawrence) as possible release site for McSwain**
 - iv. **Shelburne Middle School - teachers Milton Rodriques (8th grade) & Kirsten Evans (6th grade) – this is a new development arising from teacher interest.**
 - b. **TIC @ Stuart Hall (teacher Hunter Murray + 11 students) – on hold for Fall 2023**

- c. **Staunton's Adopt-a-Stream Program**
 - i. **Shenandoah Valley Club for the Deaf (SVCD) @ VSDB / Lewis Creek**
 - ii. **YMCA Youth Corps – *Stephanie Mason (YMCA Student Programming Coordinator & SPS School Board) – Buttermilk Spring along Stuart Street @ Jones Garden AND possibly Lewis Creek @ YMCA Farm***
 - iii. **Asylum Creek @ Weller Woods – *Staunton Rotary Club (the Noon Club)***
 - iv. **Stuart Hall – (teacher Hunter Murray?) - Lewis Creek along New Hope Road @ Stuart Hall Ballfields**
 - v. **Staunton High School's "EARL Club" – the creek running through their proposed Nature Trail Project, behind SHS**
 - vi. **Other local neighborhood interests – *possibly additional stretches of Buttermilk Spring Road, and/or Lewis Creek along New Hope Road***

8. *Wharf Parking Lot Painting Project* – Let's paint the Wharf parking lot to show where Lewis Creek runs underneath! – **Fred Coye H.**

9. *Stream Naming Project*, for consistency across Lewis Creek Watershed – **Doug**

Consideration of future agendas & possible guest speakers for upcoming meetings

Summer 2023 – *Kurt Plowman, City of Staunton IT*, about Staunton's flood monitoring

Fall 2023 – *Ruth Prince, EPA Project Manager*, about CSX's PCB Remediation proposal

Spring 2024 – *Ruth Prince, EPA Project Manager*, about CSX's PCB Remediation progress

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