Development of the New River Watershed Roundtable Resource Directory

By Brad Belo[1] for the New River Watershed Roundtable
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1 This version incorporates changes made by STEP to the August 14, 2002, draft submitted by the student listed. The current version has been approved as the student's final project report.—Alan Raflo, STEP assistant director, October 2, 2002

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Executive Summary

The New River Watershed Roundtable strives to provide a forum for open dialogue, information exchange, and the creation of effective partnerships that help to maintain, improve, and protect the water quality of the New River and its tributaries. In order to encourage partnership building, the Roundtable's Steering Committee asked that a summer 2002 STEP intern be dedicated to compiling a New River Watershed Roundtable Resource Directory. The four primary elements of the directory included: 1) Partner Summaries; 2) information about Best Management Practices in the New River watershed; 3) current water quality conditions in the watershed; and 4) erosion and sediment control information. These elements were enhanced through their inclusion in a model New River Watershed Roundtable website. The website provides an excellent communication tool that the Steering Committee should take advantage of to ensure broad stakeholder input and support during the Strategic Planning process that will take place over the next one to two years.

Relevant Definitions

Roundtable –a regular gathering of stakeholders who have a vested interest in their communities and are concerned about a common issue (in this case the water quality of the New River watershed).

Roundtable Partner –federal or state agencies, regional or multi-county organizations, non-profit organizations, educational institutions, county, city and town governments who recognize a certain level of responsibility toward the maintenance and protection of the water quality of the New River watershed and who are interested in cooperating with others to help meet this responsibility.

Roundtable Stakeholder – Individuals concerned with or impacted by the water quality of the watershed of interest to the roundtable.

Steering Committee – Small group of individuals appointed by the general membership of an organization to guide the group through the early stages of a group's organization, including the development of by-laws and a Strategic Planning.

Strategic Plan – A plan of action for a specified time, which states the objectives, goals, and values that define an organization and provides long-term direction[2].

Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) – TMDL is a term that represents the total pollutant a waterbody can assimilate and still meet standards[3].

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[2] Judy Burtner and Associates' "Facilitator's Manual for Strategic Planning," Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation and Judy Burtner, January 2001.
[3] Va. Dept. of Environmental Quality, "Welcome to the TMDL Homepage," http://www.deq.state.va.us/tmdl/, Accessed August 14, 2002.

Introduction

In Urban Planning, the term "community" is divided into two categories. A "community of place" has a membership limited by geography. The concerns of the community are generally related to and limited by the geographic boundaries of the community. A "community of interest" has a membership defined by common concerns of the membership. These communities need not be limited by geography and can, therefore, span broad expanses of space and time.

The "community of place" to which the work of this internship was dedicated is the population of the New River watershed, which covers roughly 3100 square miles of all or part of 11 counties in southwestern Virginia, including Bland, Botetourt, Carroll, Craig, Floyd, Giles, Grayson, Montgomery, Pulaski, Smyth, Tazewell, and Wythe. Roughly a quarter of a million people call this area home and the population continues to grow as more and more people move into the region[4]. Whether an individual is interested in the New River watershed or not, the entire population of the watershed falls into the "community of place" that the New River Watershed Roundtable tries to represent in its efforts to maintain and protect the water quality of the New River.

The New River Watershed Roundtable (the Roundtable) is the "community of interest" that will make use of the final products of this internship. The Roundtable is a collaborative, multi-stakeholder effort intending to initiate watershed-based planning in the New River watershed of Virginia. The Roundtable is a led by a Steering Committee that is guiding the organization through the 1-2 year Strategic Planning process.

The Roundtable is an umbrella organization that provides a common forum for open dialogue, information exchange, and effective partnership building dedicated to the maintenance, improvement, and protection of water quality in the New River and its tributaries. Roundtable partners include federal and state government agencies, regional or multi-county organizations, businesses and industry, educational institutions, non-profit organizations, and county, city and/or town government.

Although the membership of the Roundtable is impressive and expands as interest in the group grows, the infrequent interaction of Roundtable partners, the vast area of the watershed and a basic lack of understanding about who is actually a partner of the Roundtable make productive interaction among group members difficult. Convenient information exchange for all current and future partners and stakeholders is lacking. In addition, there is no clear consensus on the exact nature of the problems facing the New River watershed.

The STEP intern was hired to help remedy some of the information-exchange problems being faced by the Roundtable. The Steering Committee hoped to create a "Resource Directory" for the New River Watershed Roundtable that could be used through the 1-2 year long Strategic Planning process that they had recently begun.

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[4] The New River Valley Planning District Commission predicts that the New River Valley's populations will grow by 18% between 1999-2040 (New River Valley Planning District Commission, "New River Valley Regional Data Book," http://www.nrvalliance.org/demographics/data04.php#2, accessed August 14, 2002.

Project Goals / Objectives

Goal #1

The primary goal of this project was to create a "Resource Directory" that improves information exchange, thus facilitating increased cooperation and coordination, among current and future Roundtable partners. The directory was to contain information about the following: 1) the various partners of the Roundtable, their projects, plans, and activities related to water quality of the New River and its tributaries; 2) the current water quality of the New River and its tributaries; 3) Best Management Practices being used in the watershed; 4) erosion and sediment control in the watershed; and 5) natural resource education.

Objective 1

To collect information about Roundtable Partners ("Partner Summaries") that will assist in the formation of appropriate partnerships between current and future Roundtable Partners. This information was to include summaries of the organizations, contact information, and the types of plans, projects, and activities the organization conducts in the New River watershed.

Objective 2

To provide information on the current water quality conditions in the New River watershed. To achieve this objective, as many water quality reports as possible were to be collected and made available to the Roundtable Partners, including information at the level of the entire watershed as well as of smaller, local watersheds.

Objective 3

To provide information about the types of agricultural, forestry and urban Best Management Practices available to and used in the New River watershed to maintain and protect water quality.

Objective 4

To gather information about erosion and sediment control in the New River watershed. This information was to include 1) what erosion and sediment control laws and regulations are applicable in the New River watershed and 2) who is responsible at the municipal level for enforcing these rules and regulations.

Objective 5

To collect information on local organizations that teach about watershed-related natural resources in the New River watershed.

Goal #2

The second goal was to expand the ability of the Resource Directory to function as a watershed-wide communication tool. To do this, the Resource Directory would become one of several elements included in a model New River Watershed Roundtable website. This website would provide information about the Roundtable to much broader communities of "interest" and "place" throughout the 3100 square miles of the watershed in Virginia. The web-based Roundtable Resource Directory is to provide easy access to other information resources available on the Internet. In addition, I will add several other pieces of information above and beyond the original Resource Directory, including 1) Steering Committee minutes, 2) Work Group information, 3) information about the Roundtable process provided by Roundtable Partners, and, eventually, 4) the Strategic Plan.

Methods

The information contained in the Partner Summaries was gathered throughout June and July through personal and phone interviews, e-mails, previously published literature and the Internet (for those partners who had websites). Partners were asked to review the information included in their organization's summary to ensure that both the validity and the presentation of the information met their organization's requirements. Responses to this request were overwhelmingly supportive and helpful, with many partners adding pertinent information that had been lacking from the first draft of a Partner's Summary. Once the partners had a chance to review their organizations' summaries any information gaps that remained were ignored, as it was assumed that the partner did not consider such information important to the other partners of the Roundtable.

Current water quality data were compiled through web searches, interviews with Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) staff and attendance at TMDL and Soil and Water Conservation District meetings.

Three types of Best Management Practices were researched. First, the Skyline Soil and Water Conservation District and the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) New River District office, provided information about Agricultural BMPs. Second, forestry BMP information was available on the VDOF website. Third, urban BMPs information was gathered through attendance at meetings for the Stormwater Management for Southwest Virginia initiative, sponsored by the New River-Highlands Resource Conservation and Development Council and the DCR-New River District. Note that, although "urban" BMPs' is a very broad category, I limited the information to stormwater management.

Erosion and Sediment control contact information was gathered from the DCR-New River District. Each contact listed was then e-mailed or called to check on their community's compliance with state's erosion and sediment control laws. Other information about erosion and sediment control was gathered from the DCR website.

The Natural Resource Education objective was given the lowest priority by the Steering Committee, so I did not work on this objective.

The New River Watershed Roundtable website was developed using *Dreamweaver 4*, by Macromedia, Inc. The design of the website was kept as simple as possible to help ensure the availability of website's information to the broadest audience.

Results and Discussions

Goal 1: Resource Directory

The complete Resource Directory is available on the New River Watershed Roundtable website. The website is temporarily at http://filebox.vt.edu/users/bbelo/; that will be the location until the Steering Committee determines what it wishes to do with the website, where to have it hosted, and how to fund its maintenance. The only part of the Resource Directory currently available in print in the Partner Summaries (see below), which is approximately 60 pages long (two pages per partner). This document was transmitted to Cynthia Hancock, Skyline Soil and Water Conservation District, Christiansburg, Va., in August 2002, with the assumption that it would be forwarded to Steering Committee members and shared with any other interested parties. Until further notice, the Roundtable facilitator or Ms. Hancock should be contacted to request a printed copy of the Partner Summaries portion of the Resource Directory. The rest of the directory was not produced in print because of its heavy dependence on Internet-based information.

Objective 1: Partner Summaries.

Over fifty federal and state agencies, non-profit organizations, regional/multi-county governments, educational institutions, county, city, and town governments were listed in an initial inventory of important Roundtable partners compiled in mid-June 2002. Thirty of these groups were summarized in the Roundtable Resource Directory, which is available on the model New River Watershed Roundtable website and as a paper copy, by the end of July 2002, including the following:

Federal Government Agencies
Natural Resources Conservation Service
USDA Farm Services
US Army Corps of Engineers, Huntington District
US Forest Service, George Washington-Jefferson National Forest

Virginia State Government Agencies
Department of Forestry
Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
Department of Environmental Quality
Department of Health
Department of Conservation and Recreation, New River District
Division of Natural Heritage
Virginia Karst Program
Erosion and Sediment Control Program
Nutrient Management Program
Stormwater Management Program
Regional or Multi-County Organizations

Va. Soil and Water Conservation Districts
Skyline SWCD
New River SWCD
Big Walker SWCD
Tazewell SWCD
Mountain Castles SWCD

Evergreen SWCD
Mount Rogers Planning District Commission
New River Valley Planning District Commission
New River-Highlands Resources Conservation and Development Council
Virginia Extension Office
Natural Resources Conservation Service
USDA Farm Services
Virginia Department of Health

Non-Profit Organizations
New River Land Trust
The Nature Conservancy
National Committee for the New River
New River Community Partners
Friends of Claytor Lake

Each partner summary includes the following seven categories of information.
Organization Description – This section provides a summary of the organization based on Mission and Vision Statements, Annual Work Plans, discussions with members and staff of the organization, and/or review of published documents or the group's website.
Examples of Recent Plans, Projects, and Activities in the New River Watershed – This section provides a summary of the plans, projects, and/or activities organized by this organization in the New River watershed. This list presents examples of the potential types of work done by this organization. For a more extensive and complete list of the work done by this organization, the reader is asked to contact those individuals listed in the contact section.
Related Strategic Plan "Categories of Concern" Covered by the Organization - The Strategic Plan for the New River Watershed Roundtable is divided into several "Categories of Concern" based on input from public meetings held in the watershed. The categories listed in this section are those in which the organization has the most expertise or involvement. "Categories of Concern" include:
Agriculture
Forestry / Wildlife
Urban (Post-development issues)
Transportation
Recreation-Tourism
Development / Planning
Water Supply / Wastewater Treatment (includes industry and mining issues)
Solid Waste Management / Land Reclamation

New River Hydrologic Units Covered by the Organization – If the jurisdiction of the organization is limited geographically in the watershed, this section lists the New River Hydrologic Units the group is responsible for.
Regularly Scheduled Events – This section provides the most up-to-date schedule of regularly held meetings and events available at the time the information was published.
Contact Information – This section provides the most up-to-date contact information available at the time the information was published.
Website Information – This section provides the most up-to-date website address information available at the time the information was published.

The thirty groups summarized for the Resource Directory represent a good start at the compilation of a valuable resource for all Roundtable partners and stakeholders. To allow current and future partners of the Roundtable to pursue effective partnerships dedicated to water quality maintenance and protection, it must be clear to all whose help is available. That is what this Resource Directory begins to do.

But the Resource Directory, like the New River Watershed's Strategic Plan, is a "living" document that is in constant flux and therefore must be maintained and updated regularly. Two sections that may need to be updated on a regular basis include the **Examples of Recent Plans, Projects, and Activities in the New River Watershed** and **Related Strategic Plan "Categories of Concern" Covered by the Organization**. The former should be updated to present the most recent, germane plans, projects and activities groups are working on in the New River Watershed. The latter may need to be updated to reflect changes in how the Steering Committee organizes the various "Categories of Concern". In addition, the contact and website information must be kept up-to-date, reflecting changes in this information as soon as possible.

The information included in partner summaries is general in nature reflecting the information needs expressed by the Steering Committee at the beginning of the internship period. The completion of the New River Watershed Strategic Plan, the needs of the Work Groups (or sub-committees), or the future needs of Roundtable partners may require in the future that more specific information be included in partner summaries. Entire new sections may need to be added. Until the needs of the Roundtable are more clearly defined, however, the information presented in the partner summaries must remain general in nature.

Goal 1: Resource Directory
Objective 2: Current Water Quality Information

A sampling of the most readily available reports and resources related to the current water quality of the New River was compiled into a single document included on the model website. This information was divided into three categories.

Basin-Wide Studies – This section lists seven major scientific studies of the New River watershed, including documents from the United States Geological Service, United States Army Corps of Engineers, and the Va. Dept. of Environmental Quality. These documents will help interested persons gain a general understanding of the water quality of the New River river basin.

Local Condition Studies – This section lists several studies and reports of local or sub-watersheds of the New River Watershed. This section provides examples of the type of information available, or potentially obtainable, from throughout the watershed.

Water Quality Databases – This section lists three large databases provided by the federal government that can be used by the general public to obtain information about river basins throughout the United States.

Like the Partner Summaries, this section is also a work in progress. The number of studies and resources included in this section was largely limited by the amount of time available to gather the studies. It seems unlikely that there are many more Basin-wide studies or Water Quality Databases to add to the list, although there may be some. On the other hand, there may be numerous Local Condition Studies that could still be added to the list. The number of documents included in this section of the Resource Directory depends on how the Steering Committee comes to view this resource. It currently provides a suitable

sampling of the types of information available related to the water quality of the New River watershed. If the Steering Committee wishes this document to be a *comprehensive* resource, perhaps with the goal of being a central depository of all such information in the watershed, the Local Conditions Studies section would have to be expanded.

Goal 1: Resource Directory
Objective 3: Best Management Practices (BMPs) Information

The collection of information on current Best Management Practices (BMPs), for agriculture, forestry, and urban areas, was limited, at best. Information about agriculture BMPs encouraged by the Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Natural Resource Conservation Service and the Department of Conservation and Recreation was compiled in a general format. Summaries of the number and type of BMPs being implemented in the New River watershed was collected from the Soil and Water Conservation Districts, but this information seemed not to be very valuable and was therefore not included in the Resource Directory.

Forestry BMPs were simply summarized from the Va. Dept. of Forestry website, where all recommended Forestry BMPs are listed.

Urban BMPs may include a variety of homeowner practices as well as municipal regulations and procedures all of which are designed to help protect water quality. Because this section was never clearly defined, it was limited to stormwater management efforts being coordinated by the Va. Dept. of Conservation and Recreation and the New River-Highlands Resource Conservation and Development Council.

This section of the Resource Directory is probably less useful than other sections because it provides only a very general discussion of a subject that in practice requires detailed coordination with appropriate government agencies or organizations.

Goal 1: Resource Directory
Objective 4: Erosion and Sediment Control Information

The information provided for Erosion and Sediment Control is of limited value in the Resource Directory. A list of Local Erosion and Sediment Control Programs and personnel responsible for the implementation of such programs was obtained from the Va. Dept. of Conservation and Recreation. This information is probably of limited value to most partners and stakeholders in the watershed because it is really of use only to those individuals planning to conduct land-disturbing activities, e.g., bulldozing a building site. A permit is required in all parts of Virginia if the land clearing will disturb over 10,000 square feet (5,000 square feet in some areas).

A link to the Erosion and Sediment Control Law has been provided on the web-based Resource Directory, for those interested in the subject.

Finally, a short survey on the adoption of the 2001 Virginia Erosion and Sediment Control Law and Regulations was distributed to local jurisdictions in the New River watershed. The results, however, were incomplete and of little interest and were, therefore, not included in the Resource Directory.

Goal 1: Resource Directory
Objective 5: Natural Resource Education Efforts

Information on Natural Resource Education efforts in the New River Watershed was given the lowest priority by the Roundtable Steering Committee. Due to time restrictions, no effort was placed on gathering this information.

Goal 2: Expansion of the Roundtable Resource Directory by creation of a **model New River Watershed Roundtable website**.

The Resource Directory developed under Goal 1 was expanded to create a model Roundtable website (see Appendix 1 for the opening page of the website) that will serve as a communication tool for a broader segment of the New River Watershed community. The website, which is temporarily at http://filebox.vt.edu/users/bbelo/, includes the following elements:

The Resource Directory (as described under Goal 1 results; see Appendix 2 for the opening page of this part of the website)
Steering Committee Information (see Appendix 3 for the opening page of this part)
Minutes and Notes from the Steering Committee
By-Laws
The New River Strategic Plan
Roundtable Work Groups
Education
Land-Use
Stormwater Management
Water Quality
What is a Roundtable?
What is a Strategic Plan?
Issues and Concerns (all comments provided by participants at public meetings)
Share Your Thoughts (for visitor feedback)
Roundtable Listserv instructions
Roundtable Newsletter

On the model website, the Resource Directory information has been enhanced by the addition of hyperlinks (links to information available elsewhere on the website or on the World Wide Web). This feature is especially useful in providing information on government agencies in the Partner Summaries and for the studies and resources listed in the Current Water Quality section.

Along with the Resource Directory, the model website includes several other elements that help create a more open and inclusive communication tool for the Roundtable process. Additional documents, provided by the Dept. of Conservation and Recreation, explain the importance of Roundtables and Strategic Plans. The Steering Committee membership, minutes, and notes are all available as is documentation from the Work groups. The website also provides a convenient location for the publication of the Roundtable by-laws and, eventually, the New River Watershed Strategic Plan. Finally, the website can act as a tool to access additional communication tools offered by the Roundtable, including the Roundtable Listserv, a possible newsletter and a visitor feedback area that allows visitors to share their thoughts and concerns for the New River via e-mail.

The enhanced Roundtable Resource Directory found on the Internet offers easy access to more information than is feasibly possible to provide in a cheaply produced paper Resource Directory. The information is available to all interested parties with access to the Internet. It also offers an easy and convenient way to provide regularly updated information without the hassle of regularly reprinting a paper Resource Directory.

Although the enhanced, web-based Roundtable Resource Directory will be a superior resource, Roundtable partners can make available copies of the Partner Summaries to interested stakeholders who do not have Internet access. This will help get such stakeholders involved in the initiatives of the New River Watershed Roundtable.

Conclusions and Recommendations

According to its Mission and Vision statements, the New River Watershed Roundtable is dedicated to facilitating effective partnership building, open dialogue and information exchange related to maintaining, improving and protecting the water quality of the New River and its tributaries. One tool the Steering Committee of the Roundtable determined it needed was a "Resource Directory" that provided a common information resource for all current and future Roundtable partners and stakeholders. Four of the five categories of information requested by the Steering Committee were included in the directory, including Partner Summaries; current New River water quality information; Best Management Practices for agriculture, forestry and urban land; and erosion and sediment control information.

To allow the broadest and least expensive distribution of the information related to the water quality of the New River and the Roundtable itself, the Resource Directory was enhanced and combined with other elements in a model website. On the website, several categories of information accompany the directory, including a listing of the Steering Committee members, and their minutes and notes; Work Group information; directions to join the Roundtable listserv; a link to a planned on-line newsletter; and other items.

Recommendations

It is very important that the Steering Committee adopt and continue to add to and enhance the Roundtable Resource Directory and other items on the model website. Failure to keep the website updated will negate many of the benefits provided by this type of communication tool.

Maintenance of and addition of information to the website can be done, largely, through the work of the several Work Groups and the Steering Committee itself. Any information produced by either of these groups should be added to the website as soon as possible. The part time facilitator, recently hired, may be the appropriate person to make these additions to the website. In addition, the Steering Committee may be able to find an interested stakeholder or partner to volunteer some time and expertise, on a regular basis, to maintain the website.

At a minimum the website should be updated before each public meeting. The website can then be announced to the public at this meeting so that stakeholders can take advantage of this resource. It would be best to update the website at least monthly, if possible.

To ensure that those stakeholders without access to the Internet have access to the information in the web-based Roundtable Resource Directory, copies of the Partner Summaries should be available at each public meeting. Interested persons without Internet access can then use the Partner Summaries to gather more information.

References

References listed here refer specifically to those cited in this report, not the many references that have gone into the Resource Directory.

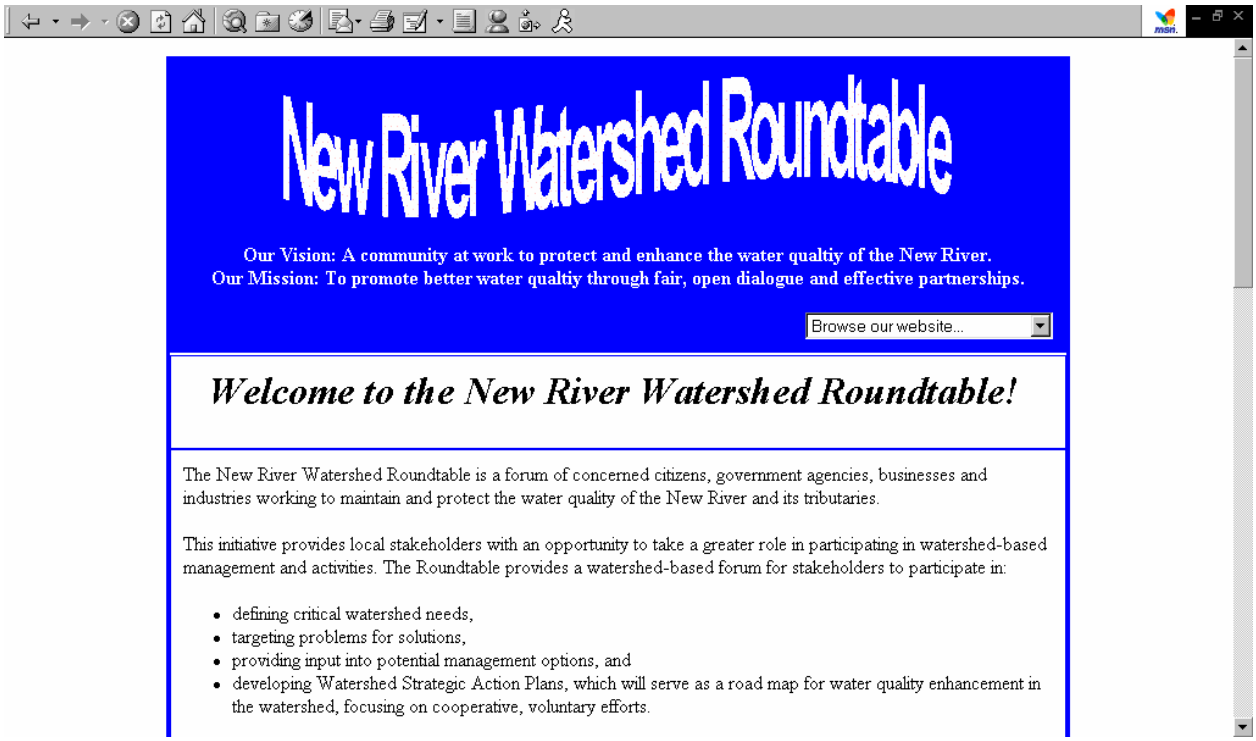
Burtner, J. "Facilitator's Manual for Strategic Planning." Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation and J. Burtner & Associates, January 2001.

New River Valley Planning District Commission. "New River Valley Regional Data Book," on-line at www.nrvalliance.org/demographics/data04.php#2, accessed August 14, 2002.

Va. Dept. of Environmental Quality, "Welcome to the TMDL Homepage," on-line at www.deq.state.va.us/tmdl/, accessed August 14, 2002.

Appendices

Appendix 1: New River Watershed Roundtable Model Website Opening Page



New River Watershed Roundtable

Our Vision: A community at work to protect and enhance the water qualtiy of the New River.
Our Mission: To promote better water qualtiy through fair, open dialogue and effective partnerships.

Browse our website...

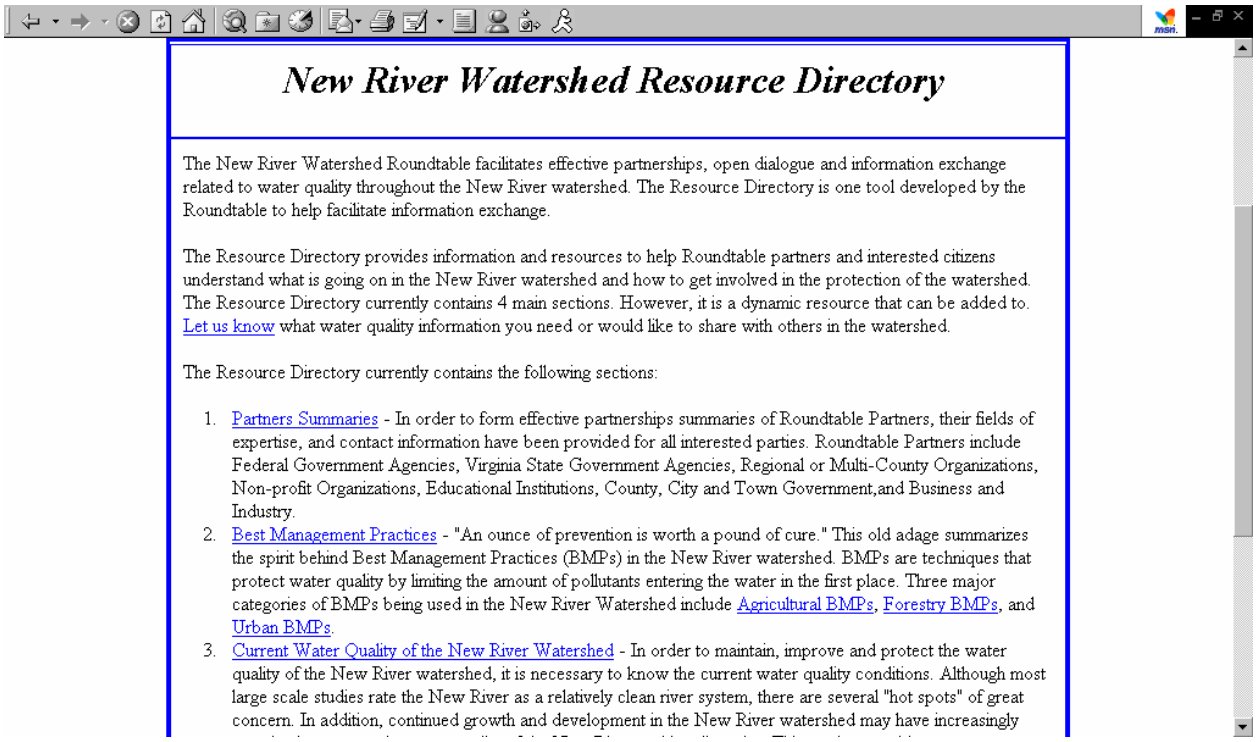
Welcome to the New River Watershed Roundtable!

The New River Watershed Roundtable is a forum of concerned citizens, government agencies, businesses and industries working to maintain and protect the water quality of the New River and its tributaries.

This initiative provides local stakeholders with an opportunity to take a greater role in participating in watershed-based management and activities. The Roundtable provides a watershed-based forum for stakeholders to participate in:

- defining critical watershed needs,
- targeting problems for solutions,
- providing input into potential management options, and
- developing Watershed Strategic Action Plans, which will serve as a road map for water quality enhancement in the watershed, focusing on cooperative, voluntary efforts.

Appendix 2: Model Website's Opening Page for Resource Directory



New River Watershed Resource Directory

The New River Watershed Roundtable facilitates effective partnerships, open dialogue and information exchange related to water quality throughout the New River watershed. The Resource Directory is one tool developed by the Roundtable to help facilitate information exchange.

The Resource Directory provides information and resources to help Roundtable partners and interested citizens understand what is going on in the New River watershed and how to get involved in the protection of the watershed. The Resource Directory currently contains 4 main sections. However, it is a dynamic resource that can be added to. Let us know what water quality information you need or would like to share with others in the watershed.

The Resource Directory currently contains the following sections:

1. Partners Summaries - In order to form effective partnerships summaries of Roundtable Partners, their fields of expertise, and contact information have been provided for all interested parties. Roundtable Partners include Federal Government Agencies, Virginia State Government Agencies, Regional or Multi-County Organizations, Non-profit Organizations, Educational Institutions, County, City and Town Government,and Business and Industry.
2. Best Management Practices - "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." This old adage summarizes the spirit behind Best Management Practices (BMPs) in the New River watershed. BMPs are techniques that protect water quality by limiting the amount of pollutants entering the water in the first place. Three major categories of BMPs being used in the New River Watershed include Agricultural BMPs, Forestry BMPs, and Urban BMPs.
3. Current Water Quality of the New River Watershed - In order to maintain, improve and protect the water quality of the New River watershed, it is necessary to know the current water quality conditions. Although most large scale studies rate the New River as a relatively clean river system, there are several "hot spots" of great concern. In addition, continued growth and development in the New River watershed may have increasingly

Appendix 3: Model Website's Opening Page for Steering Committee

Browse our website...

The New River Watershed Roundtable Steering Committee

The Steering Committee of the New River Watershed Roundtable was elected in February 2002 to guide the development of the watershed's Strategic Plan. In addition, the Steering Committee will organize the Roundtable to function as a valuable tool for creating effective partnerships, dialogue and information exchange throughout the waterhed. Once the Strategic Plan is completed an elected Executive Committee will replace the Steering Committee. The current Steering Committee membership represents a broad range of experience and expertise in maintaining, improving and protecting the water quality of the New River and its tributaries. All members of the Steering Committee are volunteers.

The New River Watershed Roundtable Steering Committee

Gary Boring - New River-Highlands Resources Conservation and Development
Charlotte Burnett - Virginia Dept. of Conservation and Recreation, New River District
Patrick Burton - (Vice-Chair) - New River Valley Planning District Commission
John Copeland - Virginia Dept. of Game and Inland Fisheries
Cynthia Hancock - Skyline Soil and Water Conservation District
Rachel Havens - Big Walker Soil and Water Conservation District
Andy Kegley - Farmer
Karita Knisley - Citizen
Jerry Moles - New River Land Alliance
Ron Powers - (Chair) - Friends of Claytor Lake
Tom Smith - National Committee for the New River
Darla Tucker - Friends of Claytor Lake