

## **Short-term/Mid-term/Long-term Activities of VCWQ and VAWA**

- Share information on roundtables and citizen monitoring groups between the groups.
- York watershed- recruit new monitors
- Educate local officials about roundtables and VCWQ
- Cross-education opportunities...for example, have a member of a monitoring group attend one or two meetings of the local roundtable and report back to the monitors, likewise with roundtable members.
- VCWQ should provide information to roundtables regarding which monitoring sites/parameters the state is seeking. Contact information for those state agencies is also needed.
- Education for the members of VCWQ and VAWA on what drives state policy on water quality. There is a disconnect between what is needed for trib. Strategys and DEQ sampling. On the ground monitoring needs to be matched to policy.
- Websites are needed!
- On the websites include interactive maps as tools for monitors. Include mash-ups of regions via yahoo maps.
- Community college connections need to be made (mentioned at least two times).
- Develop a list of appropriate uses for citizen data.
- Joint resolution between VCWQ and VAWA/ Declaration of Va. Waters
- Joint meeting of the VCWQ and VAWA to define joint issues
- Roundtables need to make a personal contact with each monitoring group in their area to keep the connection and provide updates.

### **Parking Lot Items (mentioned throughout)**

- Watershed signs need to be added/updated
- Landowners who own water frontage land need to be educated and marketed to

### **Why are Watershed Roundtables needed/important?**

- We are all sitting in the same bathtub
- Top-down connector
- Comprehensive strategy
- Roll out programs on a watershed basis
- Networking opportunity for local groups
- Focus on the headwaters...opportunity to be more holistic
- Non-point source education
- Bring together varied groups with different objectives for open discussions
- Create a safe place for people to meet
- Aggregate the voices of concern so that agencies can hear them

## **Why are Volunteer Monitors needed/important?**

- To expand monitoring coverage across the state
- Watershed literacy
- Provide local input, aide government with needed data
- Local ownership of streams- effective advocates, developing stewards
- Youth education, get them involved in monitoring early
- Defense against a nature deficit disorder
- Education (non-point source)...local face
- Headwaters monitoring (~ 80% of stream miles in Va. Are 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> order and DEQ can't get to many of them)
- Local indicators of stream health
- Force Multiplier ☺

## **Declaration for Virginia's Rivers, Lakes and Tidal Waters (changes/updates)**

### We are committed to:

- Bullet #1: the description of headwaters is either too broad (disconnected from the immediate Va. Watersheds) or not all inclusive (doesn't speak to Gulf of Mexico), maybe the specific descriptions don't need to be included?
- Bullet #1: combine it with the "we are committed" statement and make it the heading
- Bullet #2: replace "enduring" with "sustainability of"
- Bullet #4: discussion about the wording "speak out"; possibly add "and advocate" or change it to "raise awareness" or "protect and defend"
- Add the statement "promote/support high quality volunteer monitoring that generates data for use by the state; quality data and appropriate use of that data"

### We ask our leaders to commit to:

- Bullet #1: Add "work with citizen stewards" to the beginning of this bullet
- Bullet #4: Add the word "meaningful" to the statement, before the word opportunities
- Bullet #5: "Reestablish" should replace "support"
- Bullet #7: combine it with the "we ask our leaders to commit to" statement and make it the heading of that section.

### Entire document comments:

- Need to have the same descriptor throughout for water distinctions..."state waters" should be used throughout instead of using "rivers" in some sentences
- Too "wordy" overall?
- Add a bullet speaking to the VCWQ/VAWA connection?
- Mention the partnership agreement in this document and the resolution to link them together