

The Virginia Citizens for Water Quality 2006 Summit

On July 22, 2006, the Virginia Citizens for Water Quality (VCWQ) held its tenth annual summit in Charlottesville, Virginia. This year's summit was different, however, in that it marked the first year that VCWQ held its annual summit as a formal organization. Candler Communications was contracted by the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay and by Virginia Save Our Streams to facilitate/moderate a number of meetings leading to the formal organization of the VCWQ, including the 2006 summit.

In the morning session, the summit's attendees were asked to break out in to groups based on their watershed and, with the help of a previously appointed convener, accomplish the following:

- Introduce themselves to others in their watershed
- Vote yea or nay on the slate for the VCWQ's Board of Directors
- Discuss their needs as a watershed

The following is a listing of those needs as presented to the group at large by the individual watersheds:

Watershed:	Blackwater/Chowan/York/Dismal Swamp/Eastern Shore/Rappahannock/Lower James/Big Sandy
Convener:	Stacey Brown
Needs:	Feedback/communication to monitors and community @ large/those that live in the watershed Regularly-scheduled meetings and training opportunities Funding for equipment, training and volunteer organization
Suggestions:	Watershed-specific annual report for distribution to interested members of the community and those who have influence over how the watershed is managed (e.g., local government, etc.)

Watershed: **New and Upper Tennessee**

Convener: Llyn Sharp and Martha Chapman

Needs: More Save Our Streams training

More monitors

Better/more geographic disbursement of volunteer monitors – cover those waterways that are currently uncovered

Diverse bug I.D. kit

Watershed: **Roanoke**

Convener: Sharon Stinnette

Needs: A Watershed Coordinator

- *Paid position*
- *Responsible for training, education, administrative tasks, etc.*

Outreach and education across entire watershed, not just in a few, specific areas

Better communication within watershed (i.e., getting together as a group more often – a “micro” version of our CWQ gatherings)

Watershed: **Upper James**

Convener: Jay Gilliam

Needs: More monitors/more participation from community

Funding for more training and more equipment

Mechanisms to excite and motivate current monitors

Suggestions: Do a better job of developing partnerships with local colleges and universities; use Ferrum as a model

Watershed: **Piedmont James**

Convener: Jen Sidleck

Needs: Steady source of funding

More monitors; more strategic distribution of monitors

Suggestions: Better education and outreach to the homeowner

A "one-stop-shopping" source for data

Standardization of data collected

Combine current testing methods and explore additional testing methods

Source for finding out what different tests cost and what they measure

Watershed: **Shenandoah**

Convener: Bruce Lundeen

Needs: Funding for lab at Shenandoah College

Better coordination of monitoring efforts

Better dissemination of information to community (education and outreach)

Watershed: **Potomac**

Convener: Joanna Cornell

Needs/
Suggestions: A clear and complete listing of financial/funding
resources in one place

A master calendar/schedule of events by watershed
(what, when, where, etc.)

State-level support for volunteer monitors

Method comparison at the state level