

## Lonnie Wood

**From:** Jennifer Whitaker [jwhitaker@rivanna.org]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 17, 2003 12:55 PM  
**To:** 'Anne Bedarf'; 'Bob Wichser'; 'Dave Golladay'; 'Lonnie Wood'; 'Richard Defibaugh'  
**Subject:** FW: RWSA - Spynymussel and Future Agency Meeting(s)  
**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Red

Jennifer and I attended a meeting at the Ivy Creek Natural Area to discuss the restoration and preservation of the Spynymussel.

The session was moderated by Ridge Schuyler with The Nature Conservancy (TNC). It was an extremely well attended meeting by both agencies and private/public interest groups, including Stephen Bowler with Albemarle County, City of Charlottesville, Jim Brogdon with ACOE, DEQ, DGIF, F&W, and VDOT to name a few. Dr. Neves with VA-Tech was also significantly involved in the meeting, providing an overview and a presentation on the Spynymussel.

Following this meeting, I believe there are several important items requiring immediate action.

1. Jim Brogdon and others inquired about the status of the SFRR project (bladder and dredging). It seems quite important to schedule a meeting with the agencies as quickly as possible. **VHB, please advise of your efforts to make contact with the agencies ASAP to schedule a pre-pre-application meeting.** I told Jim and others, we were planning for sometime in January.
2. I spoke with Dr. Neves and informed him GF would be sending him a contract. It will generally be as scoped in our prime contract with an option to modify or cancel. However, following this meeting, it is evident that DGIF (Brian Watson mentioned a 1998-2001 survey and a related Rivanna host fish study) and F&W (Willard Smith mentioned qualitative surveys have been performed), as well as Dr. Neves (who also seems to have access to numerous prior studies), have performed many studies in the upper James/Rivanna river basin. **VHB, please confirm with the agencies the extent of mussel surveys performed to determine if there is any overlap with our project and compile any existing studies or data.** Ideally, the survey has already been performed sufficiently in this area, or DGIF/F&W could perform the survey at reduced (or no) cost. *I recall Nancy Barker mentioning that previous work had been conducted by DGIF associated with the SFRR water supply project. Although recent correspondence may suggest otherwise.* DGIF mentioned they have received a LIP grant for restoration of the Spynymussel, including Albemarle County. F&W has established a Spynymussel Species Recovery Team (all five members were present at the meeting).
3. Ridge Schuyler noted that the TNC has extensive data on potential wetlands restoration sites. **VHB, please follow up on this lead as appropriate.**

### Other interesting notes:

- Willard Smith with F&W mentioned the Mechums Pump Station and indicated they were not notified of the project, perhaps because it was a Nationwide Permit. He seemed to wonder whether or not it was completed.
- **There was a discussion concerning the sedimentation of SFRR and the importance of possibly performing further studies, as it is detrimental to the Spynymussel, as well as the water supply. This is of great concern to all parties and may suggest that we continue to monitor this situation with the potential for joint funding to address the overall sedimentation problem. GF will forward the dredging "white paper" to VHB for review and further discussion.**

Jennifer also said a few eloquent words about moving forward with the Community Water Supply Capital Program by applying good science and acting in the most environmentally sensitive way possible.

There are plans for future Spynymussel meetings to develop a process for continued coordination of related work to protect the Spynymussel.

**Please provide an update of work activities related to the above by the end of the week.**