



RIVANNA RIVER STEWARD REPORT

River Stewards: Justin Altice

Date: 6/5/18

Starting Location and Time: Advanced Mills Bridge (4 PM) NF Rivanna

Ending Location and Time: 29 N Bridge (5:30 PM) NF Rivanna

Weather: Overcast **Recent Precipitation:** Lots of rainfall in the proceeding weeks that caused flooding

USGS Gauges: Earlysville 4 ft (400 ft² / sec), Palmyra 6.5 ft (3000 ft² / sec)

Water Color: Murky from recent heavy rains but clearing a bit

Water Odor: Some overall earthy/sediment smells due to murkiness of water

Air Temp: 82° F **Water Sample for E-Coli:** 120.1 MPN

DO: 6 ppm **PH:** 7 **Turbidity:** 60 JTU **Water Temp:** 64° F

Water Testing Location: Just below RWSA Water Treatment Plant small dam

Land Use:

The starting location was off Frays Mill Road adjacent to Advance Mills Bridge over dam located there. The beginning of the paddle includes lots of big wooded farms and open space properties on both sides of the River and turns more residential toward the conclusion of the paddle at the 29 N bridge.

Wildlife Sightings and Plant Life:

Ducks, Red Tail Hawk, Deer, and Osprey.

People Interactions:

Did not encounter anyone else on the paddle. Took a member of the community with me who likes to paddle the Rivanna but had never been on the North Fork.

Litter and Pollution:

Removed a half of bag of trash and a sports ball. Seemed that most litter, if any, had been washed down further due to recent high water.

Overall Summary:

Paddle was conducted on the North Fork Rivanna River which had water levels that were higher than normal due to the recent torrential rains that caused flooding issues in the area. This higher water made for a pleasant current that aided in the completion of the paddle.

The devastation of the recent flooding was ever present along the way. It could be viewed that the water reached over 20 feet high above the banks of the River. Many large trees had been uprooted and intertwined together along the banks. Much of the vegetation on many banks had been wiped out and will cause increased erosion during any future heavy rain events the rest of this summer until revegetation can occur. All of the feeder streams along the way were observed as being severely eroded leading into the North Fork Rivanna River.

It was expected that many trees could be fallen across the whole River blocking the way but it seemed that the force of the recent flood waters was so great that all the debris was pushed to the sides along the banks. Only one tree was observed as being across the River and it was smaller in diameter and mostly submerged so it could easily be passed over.

The area where the RWSA water treatment facility is located contains a small dam that requires portage out of the River. This area was eroded to the point that accessing the other side of the River after the dam was difficult.

Actions Needed – level of priority (1 highest/5 lowest):

3 – contact RWSA to inquire about any site work they plan to undertake adjacent to the River to remediate flood damage areas



Figure 1: Looking towards Advanced Mills bridge.



Figure 2: Eroded feeder stream, Marsh Run.



Figure 3: Entangled tree roots along bank.



Figure 4: A canoe that got washed away & wrapped around a tree during flooding.



Figure 5: Flood damaged River banks.



Figure 6: Trees damaged in flood.



Figure 7: Natural rock Formation.

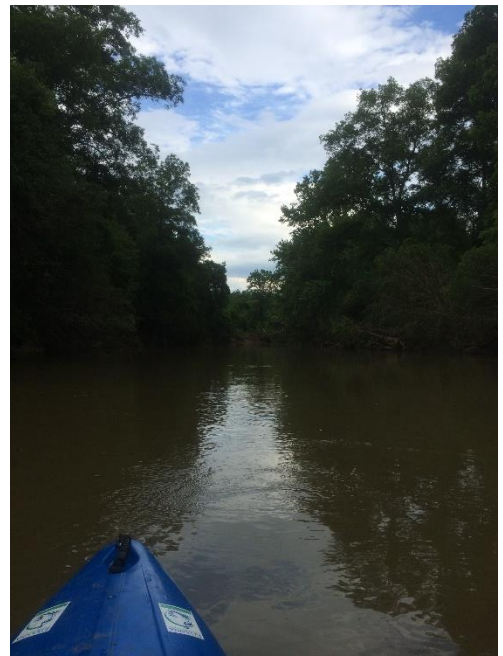


Figure 8: View of North Fork Rivanna River.



Figure 9: Dickerson Road recently replaced bridge.



Figure 10: Dam requiring portage at RWSA facility.



Figure 11: Flooding damage at RWSA facility.



Figure 12: Severely eroded banks to navigate after porting around RWSA dam.

