

Currents & Eddies

January 25, 2018

Pigg River Dam Removal: The dam is out! The river runs free.

Four FFV members did a first run of the restored river to see how floatable it might be. It is not! We spent 5 hours cutting a path through strainers with chainsaw and clippers. What a mess! So it will take more chainsaw trips to actually make the river runnable. For now, do not attempt to float it! If you would like to volunteer to cut out trees, let me know.

We are monitoring the results of the dam removal for the next 5 years. --- Bill

James River – Balcony Falls Take-out: FORVA continues work to develop access to the James River below Balcony Falls.

Dominion is re-doing the MOA that requires approval from DCR to allow Dominion to disperse funds directly to FORVA before funds can be spent. This would be a huge step forward.

--- Bill Tanger, Tom Miller & Howard Kirkland

Roanoke River - Rutrough Point Erosion: Preparing to start work on 200 feet more of rock wall to reduce the erosion and sedimentation problem. The first phase is working well! --- Bill

New River - Price Park: The FORVA 50 acre park along Stroubles Creek in Montgomery County is being developed. A new footbridge across Walls Branch was recently completed by the Va Tech Cadets. More improvements to take place with the Cadets volunteer labor on April 7, in case you want to join us.

--- Randi Lemmon, Rick Roth and Bill Tanger

Roanoke River - Blueway: FORVA is co-chair of the Roanoke River Blueway Committee, now with an interactive website. Our first brochure should be done by March 1. It is really looking good. Roanoke will be one of the few cities to have both a greenway and a blueway. Much of the greenway runs along the blueway!

--- Bill

Big Otter River: We are looking at a possible new access on the Big Otter. The owner has not paid taxes on the property since 2014, so the county just turned the file over to a collection agency, which is phase 2 of the process of selling the property. The collection agency now has until January 1, 2020, to collect. If taxes cannot be collected, the property is turned back over to Bedford County to be auctioned off.

The assessed value of the property is \$15,000. I think it could be purchased for somewhat less, but boaters should think about purchasing this key access property.

--- Bill Tanger