

Current News

July 1, 2016

James River – Balcony Falls Take-out: FORVA met with DCR, DRPT, DGIF, USFS and Dominion at the Lock 14 site on June 28 to consider two site plans drawn up by Hill Studio as a possible new takeout. Note that we are now calling the project the Balcony Falls Takeout Project. This name seems to have more pizzazz and glamour than “the Cushaw Project”.

This meeting resulted in a plan for another meeting with the USFS engineer in Roanoke to evaluate the site plans against the USFS road regulations. We plan to have one or two of our own engineers in the meeting. --- Bill Tanger, Tom Miller & Howard Kirkland

Roanoke River Gorge Put-in: We have completed improvements to the put-in just below Niagara Dam. We have put in 206 steps and a new culvert and waterfall. The park service held a ribbon cutting in February as part of its centennial celebration. --- Bill

Pigg River Dam Removal: Work on the dam removal project proceeds with the USFWS, Franklin County and the town of Rocky Mount. We should have the DEQ permit by the first of August. We had a six month running battle with DEQ over theoretical wetlands that we finally won. That’s a whole other story.

Once we get the permit we hope to get a \$1.2 million grant from Duke remediation funds to start work. That work could start as early as August 15. --- Bill

Roanoke River - Rutrough Point Erosion: A \$10,000 erosion control project is still awaiting an AEP permit. FERC has approved the permit but AEP is still dragging their feet over paperwork. This project could start construction on August 15 also. --- Bill

New River - Price Park: A 50 acre park along Stroubles Creek in Montgomery County is being created by FORVA. We are working on a new footbridge across Walls Branch to be completed by the Va Tech Cadets.

We are also planning a fundraiser at the Blacksburg IMAX for a showing of the 45 minute film “River at Risk” about the Colorado in the Grand Canyon. The event should be on Saturday, October 22 at 10am if all goes well. --- Randi Lemmon and Bill Tanger

Roanoke River - Blueway: FORVA has been instrumental in creating the Roanoke River Blueway, now with an interactive website. Working on a new logo, guidebook, mapbook and signs. --- Bill Tanger <http://www.roanokeriverblueway.org/blueway-maps/>



Bill Tanger, Chair, FORVA