

YOU'RE INVITED



to a meeting hosted by
Bill Lane
National Park Service
Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance Program

to kickoff the establishment of a friends group for the 60 miles of Lynches Scenic River included in the National Recreation Trail, SC Revolutionary Rivers®, from Lynches River County Park to the Great Pee Dee River.

Saturday, March 25, 2017

10 a.m. meeting

followed by cookout and paddling trip

River Rat's Kayak and Canoe Rentals

2740 Indigo Landing Road

Scranton, SC 29591

Space is limited.

Please RSVP to holly.beaumier@visitflo.com, 843-664-0330.

Kayak rental is available with minimum \$10 donation to Friends of SC Revolutionary Rivers.



South Carolina's
REVOLUTIONARY RIVERS



SC Revolutionary Rivers Trail – Friends Group Planning Session

(Florence, SC – River Rat's Kayak & Canoe Rental)

March 25, 2017 - 10:00am

AGENDA

- I. Welcome and Introductions - *Holly Beaumier, Florence County Chamber of Commerce
Barry Frick, River Rat's Kayak & Canoe Rentals*
- II. National Park Service; River, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program – *Bill Lane; NPS*
- III. Overview/History of Lynches River; SC Scenic Rivers;
- *Mary Crockett; Congaree Land Trust*
- IV. Why Develop a Friends Group; Lessons Learned (FRED – Edisto River)
- *Bill Marshall; SC Dept. of Natural Resources*
- V. Steps for Creating a Friends Group – *Mary Crockett, Bill Marshall*
- VI. Where do we go from here/ Next steps – *Holly Beaumier, Bill Lane*
- VII. Q/A
- VIII. Lunch/Paddle Trip Logistics - *Barry Frick; River Rat's*
- VIII Lunch

Notes from Friends Meeting
March 25, 2017
River Rat's Canoe and Kayak Rental

Attending:

Bill Lane, Mary Crocker, Bill Marshall, Holly Beaumier, Barry Frick

Jim Beaumier, Patricia Burkett, Terry Cook, Louis Drucker, Alice Freeman, Jaime Gile, Betsy Hannan, Regina Huff, JoAnn Johnson, Jeff Marlowe, Helen McFadden, Chip Munn, Heather Page, Hughes Page, Joe Ross, Austin Stone, Jennifer Sullivan, Justin Timmons, Morgan Welch

Holly and Barry welcomed everyone.

Bill Lane spoke about the National Park System and how the River, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program will benefit the SC Revolutionary Rivers Trail.

Mary Crocker spoke about the history of Lynches River and her part in the SC Scenic Rivers program. She also provided Lynches Scenic River Water Trail Guides for attendees.

Bill Marshall spoke about the Friends of the Edisto River group.

Bill Marshall and Mary Crocker noted the initial steps in forming a friends group:

- identifying leadership
- organizing as a non-profit if the group is planning to accept donations or apply for grants
- setting of goals and objectives
- developing a plan of action

Holly mentioned that the group is currently set up to receive donations through the Eastern Carolina Community Foundation. Checks may be made payable to ECCF/SC Revolutionary Rivers.

The following needs were mentioned:

- maintenance of system / volunteers to assist in clearing the waterway
- security of landings by DNR, Forestry Commission, and Sheriff's Department
- waiver of liability for private landing owners
- repair of Snow Lake Landing
- partnership between friends groups (Bill Marshall will help to set up network)
- partnership with Go Paddle SC
- using River Network as resource
- checking on whether Hurricane Matthew declaration covers any of the clearing needs
- clearing of log jam past Persimmon Landing
- study of habitat (no more redfin, increase in fresh water shrimp) resulting from the log jam

The following next steps were proposed:

- legal status (can wait a year while the group is under ECCF)
- leadership – need for attorney, events planner, accountant, corporation representatives
- longevity / succession
- mission
- events to build awareness
- become a local voice for resources

Additional steps:

- educate farmers on what can be on the river (output, etc)
- educate public, factories, and economic development before the river becomes polluted
- invite executives of new companies to get out on the river – to build connection and stewardship
- connect with younger generation through social media
- testing through Clemson's Adopt-a-Stream program

Invite to future meetings:

- SC Waterfowl Association
- Wildlife Action
- Naturally Outdoors
- Palmetto Paddlers
- Catawba Cruisers
- Hartsville Swift Boats
- Bass / trout / anglers groups
- Ducks Unlimited
- Water Alliance / River Keepers
- Pee Dee Land Trust
- Florence Historical Society

Notes from FOREVR Core Group Meeting
April 27, 2017
Lynches River County Park

Attending: Barry Frick, Helen McFadden, Hughes Page, Joe Ross, Holly Beaumier, Kimberly Brauss, David Mace

The group selected Barry Frick as chair, Terry Cook as vice-chair, and Kimberly Brauss as secretary.

Progress update:

- Sonoco has agreed to keep log jam cleared with the help of their hunt club.
- Paddle Nation grant application has been submitted with \$2000 request for adaptive equipment for handicapped paddlers.
- Florence Rotary Grant request will be sent this week. Average grant amount is \$12-1500.
- BOGS grant for \$5,000, focused on getting underprivileged youth in the outdoors, will be sent by mid-May.
- Barry is planning to schedule a time in late-May for Team Rubicon to help with clearing of the river starting at Lynches River County Park. Helen offered to make lunch for the group if she is in town.

The May 11th meeting will be moved to 6:00. Core group meetings will be planned for every 4-6 weeks, and public meetings will be planned for every two months. The next core group meeting will be held on June 1st at 2:00 at Lynches River County Park.

There was discussion regarding the poor condition of Snow's Lake Landing in Williamsburg County. If DNR funds are available, the request would need to come through the Williamsburg County legislative delegation. Holly will gather info as to the amount of funds available and provide all necessary info to Helen to forward to Senator Sabb.

First priority short-term goal: clear Lynches River starting from the park to 378, and clear Venter's to Snow's Lake. Possible long-term goals: campgrounds every 15 miles, open Lee Landing again, walking trails with potable water ever 5 miles.

There is a ridge on the north side of the river that may be suitable for a walking trail. Holly will try to locate property owners on the County GIS.

Helen noted that public money can't be used to enhance private property, but a landowner can give an easement to an organization which would then take up the liability. An easement for a hiking trail would enhance tax deductions.

The Johnsonville Heritage Festival will be held May 19-20. That Saturday there is also a tour of Snow's Island by Sonoco for the British Car Club of Charleston.

Other areas along the river that have historical significance include the Baptism pools (Sheminally).

Responsibilities for Inviting to May 11th meeting:

- SC Waterfowl Association
- Wildlife Action – Holly will contact Dennis Wade
- Naturally Outdoors – Hughes will contact Scott
- Palmetto Paddlers - Helen
- Catawba Cruisers
- Hartsville Swift Boats meet-up group
- Bass / trout / anglers groups – Joe will contact Todd Stewart
- Ducks Unlimited - David
- Water Alliance / River Keepers - Holly
- Pee Dee Land Trust – Holly and Hughes
- Low Country Paddlers
- Nature Adventures in Charleston - Barry
- Florence Historical Society
- Hunts clubs – Holly will contact Sonoco
- Henry Johnson, landowner – Barry
- McCall Farms – Holly to contact Annie, Barry to contact Zach
- Wellman – David
- SCPIA (Ralph / Ken) – Barry
- Three Rivers Historical Society – Helen

Other info:

Barry and Terry are both certified for adaptive paddling by the American Canoe Association.

Holly is ordering additional NRT signs for Lynches River County Park.

The group will look at the mission statements of other organizations to draft one for FOREVR.

Notes from FOREVR Meeting
May 11, 2017, 6 p.m.
Lynches River County Park

Attending: Bill Lane, Al Shermo, Barry Frick, Dennis Wade, Mayor Steve Dukes, Brenda Harrison, Annie Ham, Jennifer Majors, Joe Ross, Evan Cooke, Randy Langston, Robert Singletary, Terry Cook, Joey Cook, Helen McFadden, Austin Stone, Kelly Stone, Kim Brauss, Betsy Hannan, Holly Beaumier, David Mace, Randy Langston

Barry Frick welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Lynches River Park for hosting. Joe Ross announced that he will soon be leaving the park to take a position in Clover, and Jennifer Majors is the interim park contact. Barry turned the meeting over to Bill Lane.

Bill explained the project and asked each attendee to introduce themselves.

Holly Beaumier and Barry provided brief updates:

- Paddle Nation grant was requested - \$2000 for adaptive equipment
- Florence Rotary grant application was approved for \$1500 for adaptive equipment
- Bogs shoes grant for \$5000 – application is in progress
- The next cleanup date is set for May 27th, and Team Rubicon will be involved. Team Rubicon is a group of 450 members in SC that are first responders in disasters, bridging the gap.

Bill led the group in developing a mission statement. Key points were:

- Encourage outdoor lifestyle
- Preserve and protect river
- Protect historic resources
- Promote and restore for public use and enjoyment

Draft of mission statement: The mission of the Friends of Revolutionary Rivers is to protect and promote the natural, historical, and recreational resources of Revolutionary Rivers basins in the Pee Dee region.
[need to wordsmith]

Short- and long-term goals were brainstormed:

- Need for legislation regarding tree cutting near banks / promote buffers on river
- Clear log jams
- Partnership with law enforcement for landowners and landings (DNR, forestry, sheriff's dept., etc.)
- Education of landowners
- More property from private ownership transferred to government, land trust, or FOREVR ownership (laws protect landowners that allow public access)
- Marketing / promotion for tourism
- Develop ways the trail can promote economic development
- Work with corporations, partner with corporations and other non-profits
- Promote overnight camping facilities
- More litter cleanups – promote and educate

- Promote interaction with landowners
- Promote historical significance
- Landing repair
- Walking / biking trails
- Land holding? Easements allowing FOREVR access
- Beaver control
- Events

The next meeting will be held in about a month. Attendees were encouraged to invite others to become involved and to think about how they can best serve on a committee.