

Currents & Eddies

January 7, 2017

Pigg River Dam Removal: The dam is out! The river runs free. Now the movement of sediment and woody debris is happening, like plate tectonics on steroids. Huge 80 foot trees have fallen into the river. Banks 25 feet high have collapsed and the sediment is running downstream. The riverbanks look like an earthquake hit and aftershocks continue.

Over 100 years of sediment and woody debris are being returned to the river in a rush. I encourage you to come visit the site!

Next we will be working on development of a historic resources site plan for the old power dam and environs. In addition, we have started monitoring the results of the dam removal, which will continue for the next 5 years. --- Bill

James River – Balcony Falls Take-out: FORVA continues to work with DCR and others to develop options for access to the James River below Balcony Falls.

At this point we are considering going to Dominion to see if we can handle the project without DCR involvement. Having DCR act as a middleman has not been very productive, although we are making slow progress. To use an engineering firm, for example, we have to use one of the DCR pre-approved firms instead of being able to reach out to others more suitable. --- Bill Tanger, Tom Miller & Howard Kirkland

Roanoke River - Rutrough Point Erosion: The stone wall is in! This project put in 80 feet of rock wall to reduce the erosion and sedimentation problem. It's working!

Now we are already looking at Phase II, with the support of Roanoke County for some funding. Phase II plans call for another 200 feet of wall to reduce erosion. --- 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.

Our fundraiser at the Blacksburg IMAX was a success! 80 people attended our showing of the 45 minute film "River at Risk" about the Colorado in the Grand Canyon. We cleared \$400. --- Rick Roth, Randi Lemmon and Bill Tanger

Roanoke River - Blueway: FORVA is co-chair of the Roanoke River Blueway Committee, now with an interactive website. Working on a new guidebook and mapbook. We have already done our logo and signs. --- Bill Tanger

Big Otter River: We are looking at a possible new access on the Big Otter. If the owner will sell, we will need to raise about \$15,000. --- Bill Tanger



Bill Tanger, Chair, FORVA

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