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*Agenda*

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Roanoke River Blueway Advisory Committee  
April 2, 2024, 3 pm

Meetings of the RBAC are held at the Roanoke Valley – Alleghany Regional Commission Top Floor Conference Room unless otherwise noted. (313 Luck Avenue SW, Roanoke, VA)

***Please Note: RVARC's elevator is under maintenance and currently not in operation. Please contact Bryan Hill, RVARC's ADA Coordinator, at [bhill@rvarc.org](mailto:bhill@rvarc.org), if you need ADA accommodations. We apologize for the inconvenience!***

1. Call to Order, Roll Call, Introductions
2. Consent Agenda
  - a. Approval of Agenda
  - b. Approval of Minutes: February 7, 2024
3. Chair's Remarks
4. FY24-FY25 Budget Review
5. Blueway Committee Goals and RVARC Work Program
6. Update on the Blueway Website
7. Other Business
  - a. Upcoming Events
  - b. Locality Updates
  - c. Citizen Comments
8. Adjourn





## MINUTES

The February meeting of the Roanoke River Blueway Advisory Committee, a subcommittee of the Roanoke Valley – Alleghany Regional Commission, was held on February 7, 2024, at 11:00 AM at the Roanoke Valley – Alleghany Regional Commission office, 313 Luck Ave, SW, Roanoke, VA.

### 1. Introductions

Chair Maguire called the meeting to order.

#### Voting members attending:

Mckenzie Brocker, City of Roanoke  
Katie Slusher, City of Roanoke  
Jeff Caesar, City of Salem  
Nathan McClung, Town of Vinton  
Brian Epperly, Roanoke County  
Lindsay Webb, Roanoke County  
Frank Maguire, Greenway Commission, CHAIR  
Cheryl Morales, Visit Virginia's Blue Ridge  
Bill Tanger, Friends of the Rivers of Virginia  
Mary Lou Legg, Pathfinders for Greenways

#### Voting members absent:

Fayula Gordon, Town of Vinton  
Courtney Plaster, Clean Valley Council

#### Others present:

Renee Powers, City of Roanoke

#### Staff:

Gabriel Irigaray

### 2. Approval of Agenda

MOTION: Lindsay Webb motioned for approval of the agenda. Katie Slusher seconded.

ACTION: The motion carried unanimously.

### 3. Approval of Minutes: November 2, 2023

MOTION: Nathan McClung motioned for the approval of the minutes from the November 2, 2023 meeting. Jeff Caesar seconded.

ACTION: The motion carried unanimously.

#### **4. Update on the Niagara Dam relicensing process.**

A discussion was had surrounding the Niagara Dam relicensing process and its impact on the portage surrounding the dam. Chair Maguire provided an overview about the status of the relicensing process and portage access, including conversations had with the National Parks Service. The portage will remain open until the new license has been issued, though American Electric Power Company (AEP) has only provided verbal commitment and has not provided a formal resolve for the portage issue. Once the new license has been issued, there will be a 60-day public comment period. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) will be responsible for determining if portage access will be included in the relicensing. Bill Tanger suggested the committee write a letter to support use of the portage at the dam, when appropriate.

#### **5. Review of Current Access Inventory**

The spreadsheet housing all the access points associated with the Roanoke River Blueway was presented to committee members. A few changes were made to the spreadsheet as the group worked down the list. Locality contacts spoke to each access point within their jurisdiction and how it might have changed since 2019 or is expected to change in the future. Committee members agreed that the spreadsheet should be sent out to the mailing list so members can review the spreadsheet individually and make changes as necessary.

#### **6. Blueway Activities and Goal Setting Exercise**

Chair Maguire shared a presentation associated with this agenda item. The presentation featured future projects and goals that were previously identified in 2018. These five goals were revisited individually to determine if these are goals the committee would still like to work towards, or if these items should be updated. Committee members shared opinions about the need to update the Blueway brochure to reflect access point changes and provide more relevant language. A question surrounding the committee's ability to provide wayfinding signage prompted Chair Maguire to ask if the Blueway budget could be sent to committee members for review. A review of the budget will help determine funds available to support the need to provide wayfinding signage. Bill Tanger informed committee members that a section of the Roanoke River within the blueway is eligible to be designated as a Scenic River of Virginia. Bill suggested the committee evaluate how it can support this designation and include it as a goal.

#### **7. Other Business**

Bill Tanger brought up a piece of legislation that is currently moving through the General Assembly that he worked to develop. VA SB414 would establish the tire stewardship program.



The bill was passed by indefinitely in Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources on February 6. Bill will continue to work with state legislators to refine the bill and requested that the committee support any future efforts surrounding legislation that will address tire pollution.

Bill Tanger mentioned that a trial for the right of way case on Craigs Creek will be on Monday, February 12. Bill will keep committee members up to date about the case.

a. Upcoming Events

City of Roanoke staff shared that a section of blueway, starting at Vic Thomas Park and ending at Smith Park, will be closed while work is completed on the Wasena bridge. City of Roanoke staff will begin to post signage about the closure on April 1.

b. Citizen Comments

No citizens were present to provide comments.

Gabriel Irigaray took a moment to share the beta version of the new Roanoke River Blueway website. Committee members were informed the site will go live by the end of February. Committee members requested the site launch be delayed to allow for review of the site's contents and provide feedback.

MOTION: Lindsay Webb motioned to request that the new Roanoke River Blueway website be held from going live to allow for committee members to review the beta version of the website. Mary Lou Legg seconded.

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

8. Adjourn

With no other business, the committee adjourned at approximately 12:11 PM.



**STAFF REPORT**  
**Roanoke River Blueway Advisory Committee, April 2, 2024**  
**SUBJ: FY24-FY25 Budget Review**

Annually, the Roanoke River Blueway Advisory Committee receives contributions from the four member localities of the City of Roanoke, Roanoke County, City of Salem and Town of Vinton. These allocations are used to staff the Blueway Advisory Committee and to pursue projects of the Committee. No changes to these allocations are expected for FY25. FY25 will be the last year of the 5-year allocation approved by local governments in FY20.

<b>Locality</b>	<b>Dollar Amount</b>
City of Roanoke	\$5,200
Roanoke County	\$4,525
City of Salem	\$1,333
Town of Vinton	\$433

Currently, the Blueway Committee has an expected end-of-year balance of \$24,366. Actual numbers will be reflected at the end of FY24. The adopted budget for FY24 is enclosed, along with information about spending since the start of the year.

**No action is required for this report.**

**FY24 Budget Approved September 8, 2023.**

**Actuals Updated March 22, 2024.\***

	Estimated	Actual
<b>Carryover from FY23 (estimated)*</b>	<b>\$ 35,248.59</b>	\$ 35,249.00
<b>New Dues FY24 (expected)</b>	<b>\$ 11,491.00</b>	\$ 11,491.00
<i>Roanoke City</i>	\$ 5,200.00	
<i>Roanoke County</i>	\$ 4,525.00	
<i>Salem</i>	\$ 1,333.00	
<i>Vinton</i>	\$ 433.00	
<b>Total Revenues FY24</b>	<b>\$ 46,739.59</b>	<b>\$ 46,740.00</b>
<b>Personnel (120 Hours)</b>	<b>\$ (7,322.00)</b>	\$ (4,361.17)
<i>Salary</i>	\$ (4,283.00)	
<i>Fringe</i>	\$ (1,305.00)	
<i>Indirect</i>	\$ (1,734.00)	
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	<b>\$ (180.00)</b>	\$ (145.34)
<i>Computer Services</i>	\$ (130.00)	
<i>Travel</i>	\$ (50.00)	
<b>Kiosk Improvements</b>	<b>\$ (10,000.00)</b>	
<i>Panel Printing</i>	\$ (5,000.00)	
<i>Kiosk Materials</i>	\$ (5,000.00)	
<b>Access Improvements</b>	<b>\$ (10,000.00)</b>	\$ (10,000.00)
<i>13th Street Access Grant Match</i>	\$ (10,000.00)	
<b>Marketing Materials</b>	<b>\$ (3,500.00)</b>	
<i>Brochure Design</i>	\$ (1,000.00)	
<i>Brochure Printing</i>	\$ (2,500.00)	
<b>Remainder</b>	<b>\$ 15,737.59</b>	<b>\$ 32,233.49</b>

*\*Based off of financial report provided by Director of Finance*



## STAFF REPORT

### Roanoke River Blueway Advisory Committee, April 2, 2024

#### SUBJ: Blueway Committee Goals and RVARC Work Program

The FY25 Work Program of the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission, which dictates the activities of Regional Commission staff during the fiscal year, is currently under development and will be presented to the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission Board in April of 2024. Currently there is one item in the workprogram which refers specifically to the Roanoke River Blueway Advisory Committee. This item reads as follows:

#### *Roanoke River Blueway Advisory Committee Coordination*

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Staff will continue the development and promotion of the Roanoke River Blueway through the Roanoke River Blueway Advisory Committee. Other priorities may be identified throughout the year by the committee.

*Strategic Priorities* III.A, IV.A, VI.A

*Deliverables* Marketing, grant writing, and mapping

*Localities Served* Cities of Roanoke and Salem, Counties of Franklin and Roanoke, and the Town of Vinton

*Project Leader* Amanda McGee

*Funding and Hours* Local - 120 hours., EDA – 100 hours.

The local hours associated with this item are funded through the annual allocation of funds from the four member governments of Roanoke County, the Cities of Roanoke and Salem, and the Town of Vinton. These hours are generally used for meeting coordination and basic activities to support the committee. EDA hours are funded through a federal grant and must be spent on items marketing and other items that improve the economy of the region. The value of 120 hours in FY24 was \$7,322. Unallocated funds in the FY24 budget were over \$15,000.

At the Blueway Committee meeting held in February of 2024, the committee detailed the following projects:

- Updating the Blueway brochure;
- Continuing to improve kiosk signage and other wayfinding signage as appropriate; and
- Completion of a gap analysis and a priority list for new or improved access points.

**Action Required: Recommendation to approve work program language.**