River Stewards: Dan Triman  Date: 09-12-18
Starting Location and Time: Crofton (2:15 PM)
Ending Location and Time: Palmyra (4:45 PM)
Weather: Cloudy w/ light rain  Recent Precipitation: Rainy past few days
USGS Gauges: Earlysville 2.35 ft (180 cfs), Palmyra 4.10 ft (1100 cfs)
Water Color: Orange Brown  Water Odor: None  Air Temp: 77° F
DO: 7 ppm  PH: 8  Turbidity: 60 JTU  Water Temp: 26° C
Water Testing Location: Crofton Boat Ramp River Left (37°55.1’N 78°17.9’W)

Land Use:
Mostly open space and wooded areas, with some farms and residential.

Wildlife Sightings and Plant Life:
Turtles, Small Birds, Butterflies, Dragonflies, Fish, Crow, Deer, Blue Heron, Green Heron, Groundhog, and Squirrels. Several downed trees along the banks, but none blocking the river.

People Interactions:
I was joined on the paddle by Len Toledo, who was volunteering today for RCA. Two people were sitting on the dock at Palmyra when we finished the paddle, but we didn’t see anyone else on the River today.

Litter and Pollution:
Some smaller trash such as bottles and cans removed from the river today (mostly found in debris piles where trees were down in the river), but the majority of trash was larger objects. These included lawn furniture such as chairs, several tires, several lids, a milk crate, a bucket, several pieces of plastic debris, and a large pipe just downstream of the Crofton Bridge.

Overall Summary:
This was the first time we were able to paddle this stretch of the Rivanna River in several months, since the Crofton boat ramp and parking area had been closed due to the debris that had built up in the Rivanna River at the Crofton bridge. For the past several weeks, VDOT and their hired Contractor worked to remove this debris from the Rivanna River and the Crofton boat ramp and parking area. As of early this week, the project was complete, and the Crofton boat ramp and parking area were re-opened to the public. So we took the opportunity to go see how this stretch of the
Rivanna River looked now that the project was complete. It was noted that the VDOT electronic traffic sign board is still in place at Crofton and still says that the Crofton Boat Ramp is closed until further notice (see photo below). There was some repair work done on the concrete boat ramp as well as part of the project. The Crofton parking area surface is a little rough at the moment from all the work completed there and heavy vehicles used, as well as recent rains. So there is some loose gravel and some spots where tires on smaller vehicles could get stuck. There were also a couple of sandbags sitting in the parking lot area at Crofton.

Water was an orange brown color with lots of sediment everywhere today due to recent rain we have gotten. There were several locations we noticed severely eroded banks with exposed soil and not much vegetation remaining to hold back the soil from further erosion. The RCA kiosks at both Crofton and Palmyra were both in pretty good shape. Palmyra boat ramp has a lot of sediment built up on it as well.

**Actions Needed – level of priority (1 highest/5 lowest):**

3 – remove VDOT electronic sign board (or turn off message) so people know that the boat ramp and parking area are officially open now; 3 – smooth out the rough spots of the Crofton parking area surface so it is easier for vehicles to drive through there without getting stuck; 3 – remove giant pipe just below Crofton bridge; 4 – remove remaining tires and large trash objects; 4 – clean off Palmyra boat ramp of sediment;
Figure 1: View of Crofton boat ramp and bridge

Figure 2: Debris pile under bridge has been removed

Figure 3: Bank along boat ramp that is now exposed soil

Figure 4: Sandbags in the Crofton parking area

Figure 5: VDOT electronic sign board saying Crofton is closed

Figure 6: Butterfly at Crofton boat ramp
Figure 7: RCA Kiosk at Crofton in good shape

Figure 8: View of the river and bridge from edge of the water

Figure 9: Concrete boat ramp at Crofton

Figure 10: View looking back upstream at Crofton Bridge

Figure 11: Outfall pipe flowing fast below Crofton Bridge

Figure 12: Giant pipe laying on side of the water at River Right just below the Crofton Bridge
Figure 13: Another view of the giant pipe near Crofton

Figure 14: Example of severely eroded bank near Crofton

Figure 15: Two of the tires seen today

Figure 16: Some of the many turtles spotted today

Figure 17: Deer leaping up on the bank

Figure 18: View of the Rivanna looking downstream
Figure 19: Groundhog sitting in a tree

Figure 20: View of Palmyra bridge

Figure 21: Palmyra Boat Ramp

Figure 22: Sediment build up on Palmyra Boat Ramp

Figure 23: RCA Kiosk at Palmyra in good shape

Figure 24: Trash removed from the River today