Upper Roanoke River Roundtable

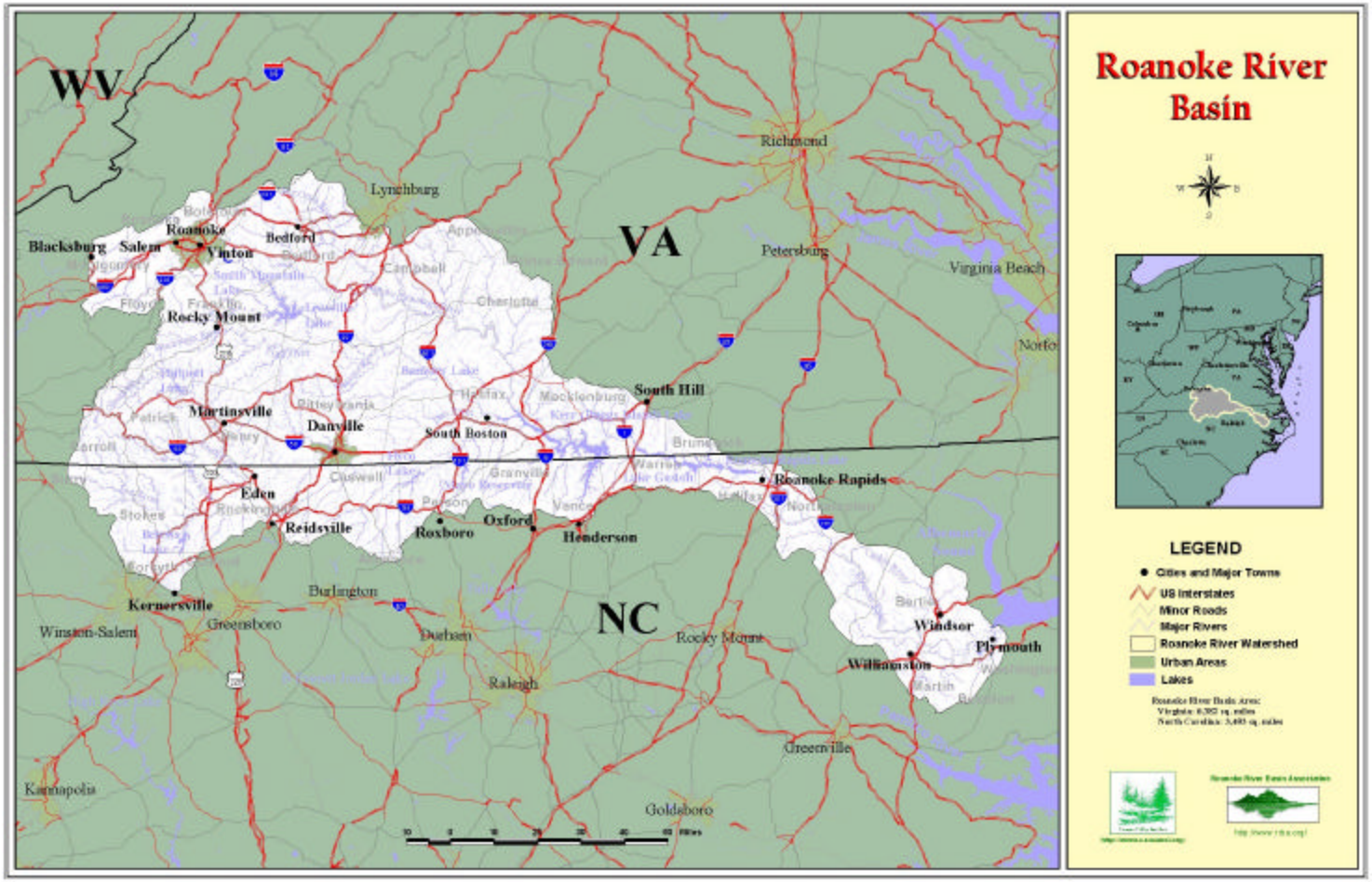
Presentation to the Virginia Roanoke River Basin Commission

April 23, 2003

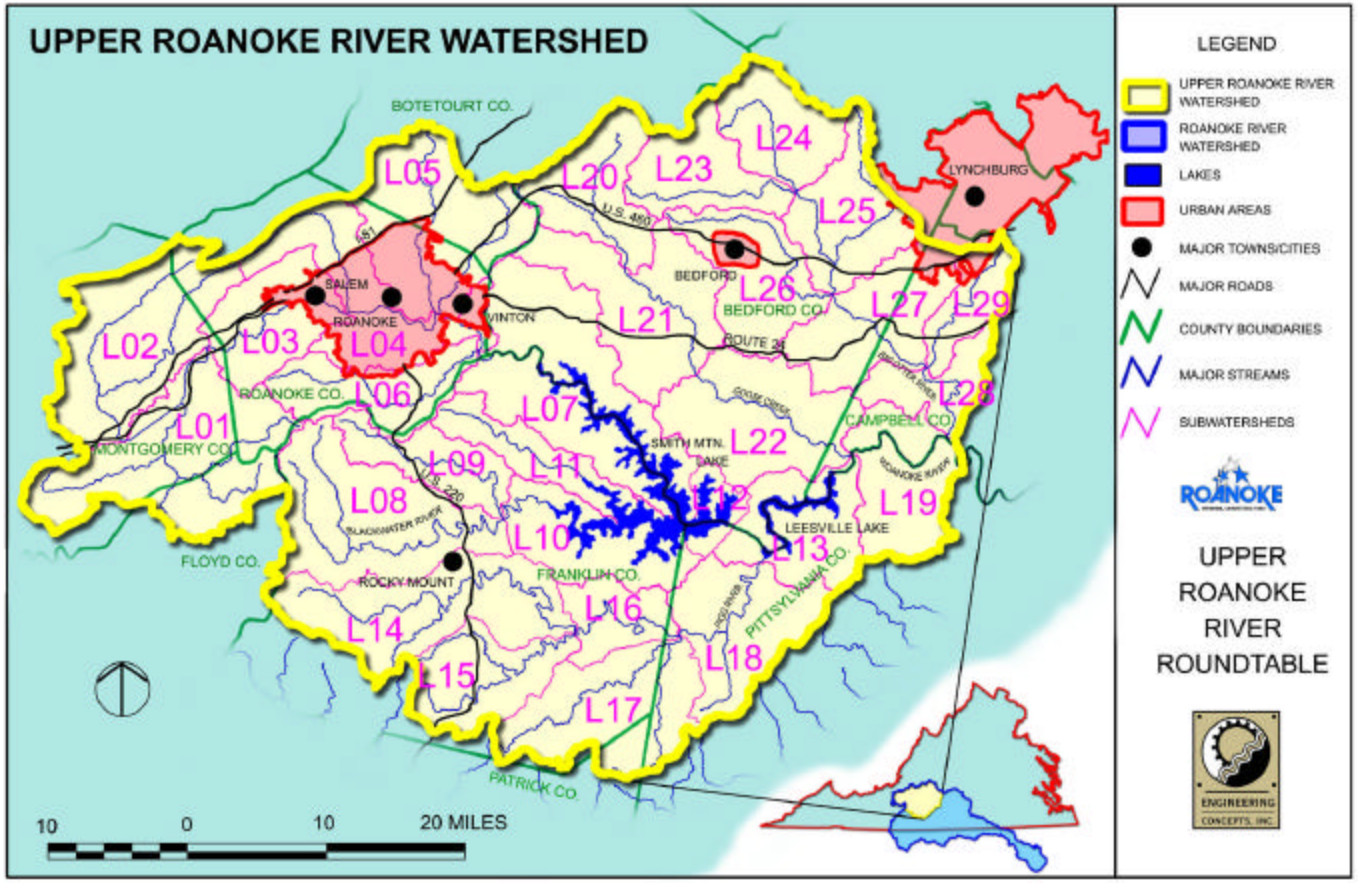
Where Is the Upper Roanoke River?

UPPER ROANOKE RIVER ROUNDTABLE

Roanoke River Watershed



Upper Roanoke River Watershed



South Fork of the Roanoke River near Bent Mountain

North Fork of the Roanoke River in Catawba Valley

Smith Mountain Lake

The Roanoke River near Salem

The Roanoke River in Salem

The Roanoke River in Roanoke City

The Roanoke River in Roanoke City

Upper Roanoke River Roundtable

How we began:

- Roanoke River Watershed Conferences:
  - Explore Park
  - 1999 and 2000: recruited volunteers
- Steering Committee formation:

  Winter 2001
- First membership meeting June 2001

Mission Statement

To serve as an advisory group in the upper basin that will identify and address issues of water quality and quantity and will make recommendations about appropriate management solutions to those whose decisions impact the upper basin of the Roanoke River.

UPPER ROANOKE RIVER ROUNDTABLE

Goals

- Identify local, regional and basin-wide concerns and problems;
- Seek the responsible use, orderly economic development and conservation of our land and water resources;
- Develop management solutions.

UPPER ROANOKE RIVER ROUNDTABLE

How We are Organized:

- Board of Directors: We have a good cross-section of stakeholders. For example:
  - City and County of Roanoke
  - Western VA Land Trust
  - Consulting Engineering firms
  - Environmentalists
  - Developer from Smith Mountain Lake

Membership Requirements

- No dues required;
- No qualifications required;
- Vote at the second meeting attended.
- Result: very inclusive! No restrictions.

How We are Organized:

- Bylaws;
- Fiscal Agent: Roanoke River Basin Association;
- Committees develop specific actions;
- Advisory Committee for funding and partnerships (based on UTRR).

Where we are now:

- Organizational structure in place;
- Nearly 100 members;
- First meeting of Advisory Committee will be May 7, 2003 at VWCC;
- First grant received from Canaan Valley Institute;
- Hired Community Watershed Organizer.

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Where we are now:

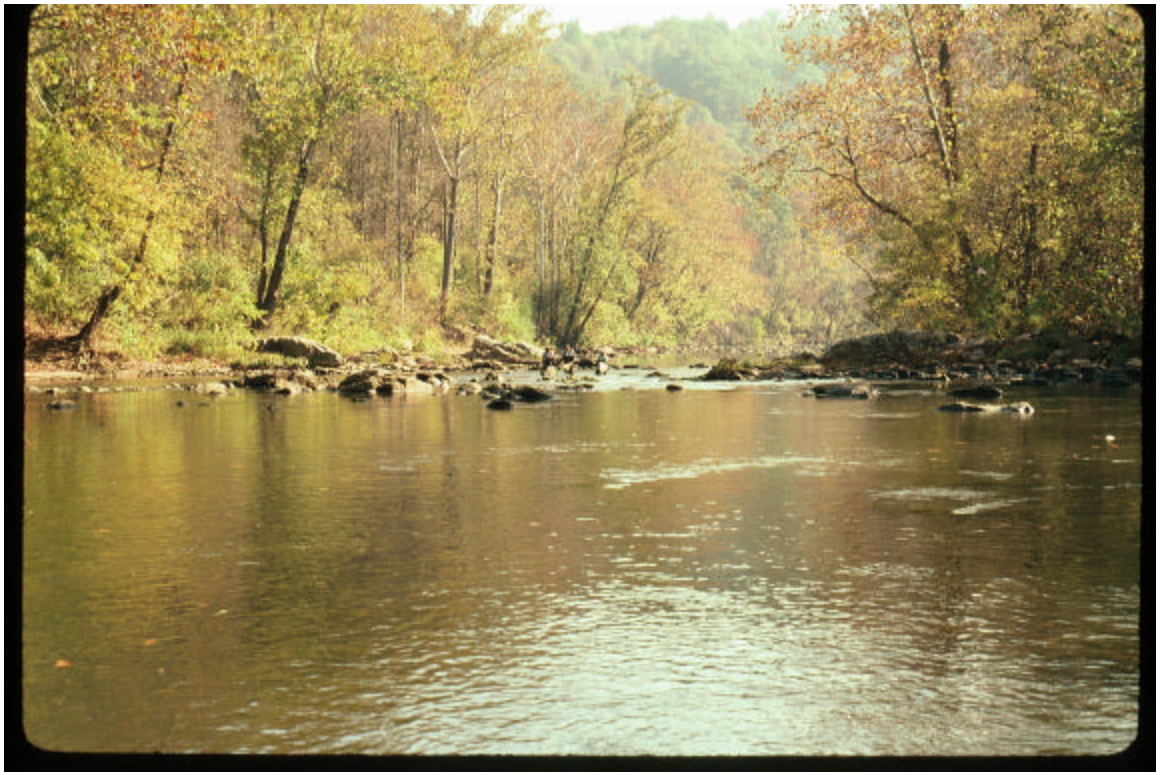
- Committees in place:
  - Agriculture/Forestry
  - Community Engagement
  - Financial
  - River and Lake Management
  - Strategic Planning
  - Water Quality

Where we will go next:

- Develop the Strategic Plan;
- Increase membership throughout area;
- Considering funding a RiverKeeper;
- Begin work programs through our committees.

UPPER ROANOKE RIVER ROUNDTABLE

Improve the Roanoke River and the Quality of Life for Our Membership



UPPER
ROANOKE RIVER
ROUNDTABLE