



Highlanders for Responsible Development
P.O. Box 685 Monterey, VA 24465 www.protecthighland.org

Newsletter

September 2014, No. 6

Science Songs Rock Concert on September 16, 2 pm

Science Songs Rock, a workshop program that incorporates science and music, will be conducted for 4th and 5th graders at the Highland Elementary School on Monday, September 15 and Tuesday, September 16. The songs written by the students in the workshop will be showcased at a concert in the school at 2 pm on the 16th. It is free and open to the public.

The Hungry Monks, a South Carolina based music-education group, will conduct the workshop and perform at the concert. The workshop and concert are sponsored by the Highland County Arts Council and Highlanders for Responsible Development.

Website Redesigned, Expanded

The website for HRD has been revamped and expanded in its coverage. It will provide easier access for users and offer considerably more information about our activities and the issues on which we are working. The address is still www.protecthighland.org.

Annual Meeting Scheduled for Sunday, September 28

The Annual Public Meeting of Highlanders for Responsible Development will take place on Sunday, September 28, 2 pm at the Pavilion of The Highland Center in Monterey. As in past years, the meeting will feature presentations on issues and activities engaged in by HRD currently and in the future. Among the topics that will be covered will be the proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline of Dominion Resources. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions and offer their own views on any issue or activity. A dessert reception will follow the meeting.

Any interested person is welcome to attend. To help assure that there are enough post-meeting goodies for all, please RSVP to hrd@protecthighland.org.

Leadership Roles Assumed by HRD in Two New Coalitions

Two new multi-state coalitions that are focused upon concerns about the proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline are being led by members of the HRD Board.

The Allegheny-Blue Ridge Alliance (ABRA), a group of organizations concerned about the natural gas pipeline that Dominion Resources and its partner companies have proposed to build through portions of West Virginia and Virginia, was formally launched September 8. It has 22 founding members, including HRD, the Valley Conservation Council, Southern Environmental Law Center, Shenandoah Valley Network, West Virginia Highlands Conservancy and Cowpasture River Preservation Association. ABRA is chaired by Lew Freeman, President of HRD. The Alliance website is www.abralliance.org.

The Dominion Pipeline Monitoring Coalition (DPMC) is a group of citizens, conservation groups and scientists established in response to the proposed Dominion shale-gas pipeline through the George Washington and Monongahela National Forests and the adjacent mountains and valleys. It will address concerns about potential water resource degradation associated with the proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline project. Rick Webb, Chair of HRD's Water Resources Committee, is convening the DPMC. A website for the organization will be created soon.

Dominion ‘Open House’ Scheduled for Tuesday, September 16

Representatives of Dominion Resources will be on hand at The Highland Center Tuesday, September 16, to answer questions about the proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline project in one-on-one sessions. Table-top presentations on the project will be featured. Highland County and Town of Monterey officials will have a session from 4 to 5 pm, followed by landowners between 5 and 6:30 pm, and then the general public from 6:30 to 8 pm. HRD will have several Board members and others participating.

HRD Endorses Proposed National Scenic Area

Highlanders for Responsible Development has joined a long list of regional organizations and businesses in endorsing the proposed Shenandoah Mountain National Scenic Area, an approximately 90,000-acre section of national forest between US 250 AND US 33, including areas of Highland, Augusta, and Rockingham Counties. HRD adopted at its most recent Board meeting the following statement:

Tourists and vacationers contribute greatly to our local economy. The creation of the Shenandoah Mountain National Scenic Area will raise awareness of this area and attract people who appreciate our unspoiled natural beauty. Highlanders for Responsible Development supports development that contributes to both economic growth and protection of our natural resources, and we endorse creation of the proposed National Scenic Area.

The campaign for the National Scenic Area has been led by [Friends of Shenandoah Mountain](#). An important aspect of the campaign has been collaboration among George Washington National Forest stakeholders to develop a set of broadly supported recommendations for the proposal. The stakeholders group includes representatives from timber, game management, wildlife conservation, mountain biking, wilderness, off road vehicle clubs, and environmental groups.

Highlanders for Responsible Development is a citizens group that promotes stewardship of Highland County, Virginia’s unspoiled landscape, natural resources and exceptional quality of life. We support policies and activities that are based upon informed community discourse, democratic decision making, prudent land use and sustainable economic development. The newsletter provides information on issues and activities of HRD that are relevant to the citizens of Highland County. Our website – www.protecthighland.org – archives past newsletter issues and referenced documents. For questions or to make comments, write HRD@protecthighland.org.