



**Friends of Accotink Creek / Friends of Lake Accotink Park Joint Meeting  
July 17, 2014 – Braddock Hall**



**Present:**

Tony Vellucci  
Julie Tahan  
Philip Latasa  
Kris Unger  
Meghan Walker  
Flint Webb  
Elaine Sevy  
Liz Kirchner

**Topics Discussed:**

FACC Organizational Structure (FACC)

Kris explained FACC has an uncomplicated structure, with five elected members, Primary Conservator, Secondary Conservator, Purser, Chronicler, and At-large member. 501c3 status is pending. FACC is taking small steps to build partnerships.

FLAP Organizational Structure (FLAP)

Tony laid out the FLAP structure of President, Vice-president, Treasurer, Secretary, and At-large member, with committees for Fundraising, Membership, Stewardship, Outreach, Recreation, and Special Projects. Tony expressed hope to have an At-large member from each of the three neighboring districts.

FACC Clean Ups (FACC)

Philip described FACC's twelve sites adopted for cleanups through the Virginia Adopt-a-Stream program, from Chain Bridge Road in Fairfax City to Telegraph Road in Lorton. FACC does cleanups twice yearly, in spring through the Potomac Watershed Cleanup of the Alice Ferguson Foundation, and in fall through the International Coastal Cleanup of the Ocean Conservancy. Philip explained last fall 193 volunteers removed 215 bags of trash and last spring 458 volunteers removed 351 bags. FACC lists cleanup volunteer opportunities on its own website and with other organizations, such as volunteer Fairfax. FACC cleanups are intended as an educational and motivational tool, and suggestions are always welcome on how to enhance that function.

Kris mentioned FACC seeks groups willing to take over cleanup sites and has recently discussed outreach efforts with Clean Virginia Waterways. There was discussion of the quantity of volunteers versus quality in terms of continuing commitment.

Kris suggested a celebratory end-of-cleanups gathering on or after Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>, perhaps at Lake Accotink Park. Tony suggested asking attendees for a \$2 contribution. There was discussion of how such an event might be organized. Tony suggested inviting all the participants in a projected Braddock-wide cleanup on Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>.

There was discussion of the Long Branch Stream Valley in relation to cleanups.

#### FLAP Clean Ups (FLAP)

Tony noted that FLAP has been piggybacking on Lake Accotink Park cleanups, but last weekend the Accotink Raiders made their first canoe cleanup, and hope to repeat quarterly.

#### FACC Environmental Stewardship (FACC)

Liz discussed FACC film festival participation and receipt of the Cooperator of the Year Award in connection with the Wakefield Run stream restoration project. FACC does stream monitoring at King Arthur Road and Wakefield Run (and Lake Accotink Park) and volunteers are welcome to join the fun.

Kris mentioned FACC's plant rescue along Wakefield Run and cooperation with Lands and Waters on school projects at Daniels Run Elementary and Luther Jackson Middle Schools.

Philip described the plight of freshwater mussels in Accotink Creek, once common, but now found only in limited numbers and only in the area just downstream from the dam. Mussels are adversely affected by sedimentation and also by being washed out of the streambed during heavy runoff events.

Philip explained the Park Authority's Invasive Management Area program is just a tiny effort to keep a few small sites free of the invasive alien plants that dominate so many areas. FACC has two IMA sites, one at Lake Accotink Park, and one at Americana Park.

Philip noted the FY 2015 budget for the IMA program was cut and letters to the Board of Supervisors would help with restoration, for which there is a form on the FACC website. Tony expressed confidence the Board of Supervisors would restore the funding.

#### FACC Presentation to Civic / Community / Homeowner Associations - (FACC)

Kris commented that FACC has a grant for outreach and has community presentations available on several stewardship topics. Flint remarked that FACC will give a talk at the Sept. Federation of Citizens Association meeting along with Danielle Wynne of Public Works & Environmental Services, on watershed issues.

Tony mentioned that FLAP has not done much as far as meeting with civic associations, but will support FACC in the vicinity of Lake Accotink Park. Liz commented that Camelot meetings are well-attended due to interesting attractions and she is working FACC into the schedule. Elaine expressed her hope Cardinal Square can do more to protect the creek. Tony mentioned he will be reaching out to churches for cleanups. Elaine responded by mentioning the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia is having a [Stewardship of Creation conference](#) Sept. 20, focusing on climate change and water quality.

Tony described the planned Aug. 30th Long Branch Stream Valley walks that FACC will conduct as an outreach project and noted they would be advertised directly to civic associations and by the Braddock Beacon. He also noted that while FLAP has a stewardship role, it also has a recreation role which FACC does not, and he hopes that FLAP will be used by people as a vehicle for compromise balancing both the stewardship and recreational needs of the park.

#### Lake Accotink Park Master Plan (FLAP)

Tony described how Lake Accotink is rapidly filling with sediment after being dredged only five years ago at a cost of \$10 million. However, he has assurances from the supervisors that the lake will be maintained. Tony observed the 2016 parks bond referendum will be for about \$75 million, of which he hopes \$4 to \$6 million will be applied to Lake Accotink Park. Liz mentioned permeable paving as a possible park project.

Flint related the lake's issues to the Lake Barcroft Watershed Improvement District and wondered if something similar could be done for Lake Accotink. Discussion of the idea focused on the obstacles to creating a tax district. Philip suggested that proposing a tax district would be a way to boost attendance at meetings, where attention could be drawn to more voluntary watershed stewardship measures. Liz noted such small steps do add up.

Tony discussed the stream restoration projects proposed around the county, funded by the dedication of 2¼ cents of each property tax dollar to stormwater maintenance.

FCPA Lake Accotink Park Supervisor Support / Perspectives -

Park Supervisor Julie Tahan presented a list (reproduced below) of special projects that volunteers might address in Lake Accotink Park. Julie mentioned the admirable volunteer-maintained gardens at tonight's meeting place, Kings Park Library, as an example while discussing what volunteers might do at Lake Accotink Park for garden management, playground maintenance, boat cleaning, and visitor outreach. She also asked if FLAP & FACC would like to have an information table at the Aug. 26 Springfield Bridge Walk.

Tony mentioned FLAP is building a list of projects to be addressed as volunteers become available.

Braddock Nights Summer Concert Series (Both)

Tony described how the Braddock Nights are an outreach opportunity.

Joint Fund-raising / Expenditure of Funds (Both)-

Tony opened discussion with his proposal for recycling bins at the marina, both for environmental value and as a source of petty cash from sale of the aluminum cans at 40 cents per pound, with 64 cans equaling one pound. Julie noted the Park Authority has avoided recycling due to the difficulty of separating trash carelessly put into the wrong bins. Philip mentioned recycling containers at Wakefield Park, apparently installed by the Little League.

Kris had other possible uses of funds, including a professional mussel survey and chemical water monitoring gear. Kris noted that within six months Whole Foods will want a report on use of the \$3500 raised during the FACC/FLAP 5% Day.

Julie's suggestions were for "scholarships" for campfire nights and sponsoring field trips for school watershed experiences. Discussion touched on sponsoring campfire nights for civic associations, RecPac scholarships, and school Envirothon participation.

There was discussion of which uses might be most appropriate, given the one-time nature of the Whole Foods funds and the ineligibility of intangible projects for matching [Mastenbrook Grants](#).

Tony offered to check on how Hidden Pond Nature Center had used their 5% Day proceeds.

*Philip Latasa*

**Friends of Accotink Creek**

**Friends of Lake Accotink Park**

.....

**SPECIAL PROJECTS FOR VOLUNTEER GROUPS AT LAKE ACCOTINK PARK**

**DRAFT FOR DISCUSSION AT JOINT FLAP/FACC MEETING, July 17, 2014**

**Trash control**

- coordinate with Julie Tahan/Jamie Fish/LAP

Lake Accotink Park hosts two major clean-up days each year for volunteers from throughout the community. Next clean-up: Saturday, Oct. 18, 2014 (Fall Watershed Clean-up Day).

In addition, smaller clean-up projects headed up by volunteer groups take place throughout the year. (Example: Lee High School Key Club - date TBD)  
Student community service hours contribute hundreds of additional hours to combat trash year-round.

### **Trail safety/maintenance**

- coordinate with Ed Richardson/Area 4

Example:

Culverts, ditches - remove debris build-up to address chronic problem of standing water on trail

Location most needed: Main trail comprised of former railroad bed

Considerations: artifacts, limit disturbance

Materials/supplies: Rakes, shovels, mattocks

### **Planting beds beautification**

- coordinate with Ed/Area 4

Weeding, mulching shrub and flower beds; adopt a spot

Location most needed: Butterfly garden at marina, garden near small shelter, islands in parking lots

Materials/tools: Mulch (supplied by park); gloves, gardening tools

### **Invasive Plant Management**

- coordinate with FCPA Resource Management Volunteer Coordinator, 703-324-8750

### **Education/Outreach - coordinate with Julie/LAP**

Outreach teams at Lake Accotink Park, other parks, community events, etc.

Examples:

Braddock Night concerts - Friday evenings

Lake Accotink Park marina - set up on patio on weekends (busiest days)

*Springfield Bridge Walk* - Tuesday, August 26, 7 pm