



Friends of Accotink Creek Leadership Town Meeting

December 17, 2012

Next Meeting: DATE REVISED - **January 22, 2012** Audrey Moore Rec Center, Senior Center Lobby

(Third Monday of each month – except this time)

Present:

Philip Latasa

Bill Nell

Suzy Foster

Flint Webb

Ted Welch

Ashiq Yusuf

Sandy Collins

Heather Breiner

Liz Kirchner

Brian Parr

Janet Goodwin – Welcome Janet!

Guests:

Camila Simmons

Daniel Simmons

Guest Speaker –

· Danielle Wynne, Stormwater Planning Division, Dept of Public Works and Environmental Services

Stormwater Planning Division completed three projects on the Accotink Creek Watershed Plan. With Fairfax County now designating two cents of every \$100 of assessed property value, the rate of project completion is accelerating and Stormwater is hiring people to catch up. For FY-13, 75 projects will be started, eleven of them in the Accotink Creek watershed, including the Nottoway Park projects discussed at our November meeting.

Stormwater will be putting information online about ongoing and completed projects soon, and eventually, upcoming projects. Some, like [Turkey Run](#) in the Truro neighborhood, will have their own webpage.

The Turkey Run project attracted much public interest, with attendance of 70 – 80 persons at public meetings. The Truro civic association created a “Stream Team” to engage community support, including going door-to-door.

Surprisingly, Stormwater is not directly involved in the Wakefield Run restoration (AC9233). Rather it is being funded by grants secured by the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District.

Challenges the county faces in stormwater management include:

Managing a growing inventory of 1500 miles of pipe and 5000 ponds,

The 50 – 70 year lifespan of concrete,

The evolution of the science,

New MS-4 and TMDL requirements,

Economic constraints – (Given the \$800 million required for all projects in all watershed plans, completion will take 100 years at current rates.)

Lands rights – (Both floodplain and storm drainage easements are required for any work on private property.)

We can help as champions, easing fears, avoiding “gifting” issues for planting projects on private property.

Long Branch north is one project where we may be able to play a facilitating role as champions of stream restoration, working with homeowners who are loath to deal with the county. Property owners include a swim club, a business park, and numerous homeowners. Flint offered to play a role in this project and possibly also make a presentation at the Providence District Council.

Subjects Discussed –

Follow up on Action Items from previous meetings:

· Wakefield Run/Americana CCT Paving

Philip reported that on Dec. 14th, representatives from a number of organizations met to review several stream restoration projects in Wakefield Park (in addition to Wakefield Run) that are in the Accotink Creek Watershed Plan. The group walked the project sites, discussing options. Charles Smith of the Park Authority acted as guide and generated a number of ideas that were well-received. There is much flexibility in the projects and some may be altered or canceled in favor of diverting resources to where greater benefit will be achieved. Sandy Collins volunteered to represent FACC at the planning meetings which will follow.

Those present included:

FACC – Sandy Collins, Liz Kirchner, Flint Webb, Philip Latasa

WSSI – Wetland Studies and Solutions (engineering contractor) – Mike Marsala, Project Manager

DPWES – Department of Public Works and Environmental Services – Dave Anglin, Project Manager

FAPA – Fairfax County Park Authority - Charles Smith, Naturalist

VDGIF – Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries – John Odenkirk, Fisheries Biologist

MORE – Mid-Atlantic Off-Road Enthusiasts (mountain bike group) - Frank Raiti, VA Advocacy Director,

NVATU – Northern Virginia Trout Unlimited – Roger Brown

Urban Forestry – Hugh Whitehead

Suzy requests that DPWES develop an overall plan similar to that presented by Danielle for Stratton Woods, for the entire area of the park between Rt. 236 and Braddock Road to give an over view of the management areas within this expansive area.

· Federation of CA's endorsement of MVCCA litter resolution

Flint reported that Federation of Civic Associations will consider the resolution in January.

· BMP Monitoring:

Walgreens, MetroWest,

Future Walk/workshop

The Chesapeake Bay Journal has asked FACC to join an organized effort to monitor erosion and sediment control BMP's (Best Management Practices) such as stormwater ponds and construction site silt fences. There was some discussion of the difficulty of accessing private construction sites. Bill mentioned that

sites over one acre must have a formal erosion control plan and inspection schedule, which is kept onsite and accessible to the public, at least upon request.

· Camelot Rain Garden project

Liz mentioned that the recent median strip replanting with natives in the Camelot community was funded by a grant from NEPP (Neighborhood Enhancement Partnership Program), which was matched by the community.

Reports on current projects:

· Scout Projects

Camila Simmons participated in Katie Keating's Girl Scout Gold project of repairs to the Woodlark Road information kiosk Nov. 24th. She is planning her own project, probably the construction of a chimney swift tower. Audrey Moore Rec center was suggested a possible high-visibility location. Bill Nell and Ted Welch will be Camila's contacts. Ted mentioned Cindy Sbrocco as the contact at the rec center. Also it was suggested that the tower could function as a beacon or art work and that some graphic presentation should be incorporated for education.

New Discussion:

· Grant Proposal/501c Status

Suzy discussed the recent grant from an anonymous donor (FACC's first) to fund:

- A series of presentations to civic associations,
- Acquisition of 501c status, and
- A community engagement project together with Lands and Waters

Suzy suggested the presentations would include subjects such as stormwater issues and native/edible gardening, and also mentioned the grant would be worked on by a breakout subcommittee. Suzy will send out an email for further input and comment on topics, speakers and format.

Flint, Roger and Andres have agreed to work together on the 501c application process. Lands and Waters has agreed to assist FACC.

· Ashiq's Sediment Gauge

Ashiq demonstrated two siphon samplers he constructed for measuring stream sediment loads. One, based on a USGS plan, houses the 1000 ml collection bottle inside a pipe and costs about \$40. The other, Ashiq's design, attached the bottle to a stake and costs \$5. The collected sediment is then measured in a device called the Imhoff cone (\$35 & up) to derive standardized measurements. Ashiq described how the sampler relates to his thesis topic of motivation of community participation in volunteer environmental action.

Ashiq was asked to consider writing up a proposal for how this could be applied to a tributary in the Accotink as a way of demonstrating to residents the erosion issues on their stream, possibly the Long Branch north project (per Danielle above) which will be very challenging because it requires acquiring property easements from 32 separate property owners.

Flint pointed out the Clean Water Act allows citizens to report violations to local authorities and to then sue if corrective action is not taken.

Ashiq mentioned that, nationwide, about 30% of erosion is natural, and the remaining 70% is human-related.

January Meeting Date

Owing to multiple conflicts due to the holiday, Lobby day in Richmond, and inauguration day, the group decided to move the January meeting to the 28th.

Upcoming events:

- EQAC Annual Public Hearing, January 7th, 2013
- FACC Stream Monitoring, March 9th, 2013

The Core group:

Kris Unger - krisunger@gmail.com;
Suzy Foster; greenbergfoster@verizon.net
Robert Greenberg; greenbergfoster@verizon.net
Philip Latasa; prl@mail.org
Roger Diedrich rdiedrich@cox.net;
Flint Webb fhwebb@aol.com;
Amy Gould - amy.gould@cox.net;
Liz Kirchner ekirchner@aibs.org;
Brian Parr BrianParr2009@yahoo.com
Olivier Giron oliviertgiron@gmail.com;
Karen Bushaw-Newton kbushaw@nvcc.edu
Cindy Smith; csmith@mowcow.com
Jill Caporale; jcaporale@nvcc.edu
Sam Chavez-Rosalez; scrosalez@nvcc.edu
Duane Murphy duane.murphy@cox.net
Ted Welsh twbeaver1@gmail.com
Gregg Evans evans_gregory@ne.bah.com
Dirck Harris Dirck_H55@verizon.net
Danielle.Wynne@fairfaxcounty.gov
Daniel.Schwartz@fairfaxcounty.gov
Dan Altman usaidSac@gmail.com
Bryan Campbell campbelp@hotmail.com
Bill Nell bnell@rpacservices.com
Judy Fraser jrobbfraser@gmail.com
Heather Breiner orangejos@gmail.com
Ravi George rjgeorge55@gmail.com
Sue Shuman shumansk@cox.net
Catherine Haight Catherine.Haight@tma.osd.mil
Bill Haight billh3rd@aol.com
Andres Ploompuu aploompuu30@comcast.net
Ashiq Yusuf ashiq.yusuf@mwa.com
Sandy Collins dgclsc@gmail.com
Janet Goodwin janetkaygoodwin@gmail.com

Philip Latasa

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