



## Bulletin of the Proceedings of the Friends of Accotink Creek

Our meeting notes serve as bulletins of our activities, interests, and discussions, supplemented by your submissions.

### Friends of Accotink Creek Town Meeting – October 18, 2016

Next Meeting: November 15, 2016 (Third Tuesday of each month)  
Audrey Moore Rec Center, Senior Center Lobby

**SUPPORT/DONATE**  
*It's easy & free!*

#### **Present:**

Dave Lincoln  
Kris Unger  
Flint Webb  
Beverley Rivera  
Philip Latasa  
Julie Chang – Welcome Julie!

#### **Upcoming events**

- International Coastal Cleanup, September & October, 2016
- Friends of Friends Meeting, October 29, 2016
- Lake Accotink Park Master Plan Amenities workshop, October 27, 2016
- NVCC Environmental Film Festival October 31, 2016
- Accotink History Presentation, November 14, 2016
- Clean Fairfax's Clean Streams Initiative, November 15, 2016
- Accotink Gorge Biotrek, November TBD, 2016
- Lake Accotink Park Master Plan Trails workshop, December 5 (tentative), 2016
- Lake Accotink Park Stream Monitoring, December 10, 2016
- Lake Accotink Park Master Plan Natural Resources workshop, January TBD, 2017

#### **Action Items:**

- *Everyone – Brainstorm grant application ideas*
- *Ted - Contact Scout Store*
- *Dave, Kris, Philip – Plan November Accotink Gorge Workday*
- *Kris & Beverley – Complete community grant report*
- *Dave & Philip – Set up Day of Action meeting*
- *Kris, Dave, & Philip – Work on Friends agreement*
- *Kris – Request M.O.M.S. donation day.*

#### **FACC Subjects Discussed –**

- *Chesapeake Watershed Forum:*

Julie represented FACC at the forum, held in West Virginia, with fees and lodging paid courtesy of the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay. Julie summarized her experience:

- Three Steps of Volunteer Engagement
  - 1) Change self
  - 2) Volunteering
  - 3) Leadership and mobilizing others

- Stormwater Control Approaches  
Using graphs and checklists to simplify controls for homeowners
- Project Management  
Project management consists of handling scope, schedule, & costs, not doing the work oneself. Identifying constraints early is key.
- Invasives  
Participants toured the Forest Service training center campus, reviewing problems and methods. The [Mid Atlantic Early Detection Network](#) (MAEDN) provides a useful online/mobile tool to identify and report invasives.
- Other
  - ✓ EPA can't solve all issues, but can bring others together.
  - ✓ The forum had a mostly Maryland focus.
  - ✓ Diversity issues require consideration of diverging views and expectations.

In discussion, it turned out that Julie had visited the Accotink Gorge with the staff of Green Springs Garden Park, where she is employed. Julie will share the reports with us and discuss cooperation with the Green Springs staff.



Julie confers with fellow attendees at Chesapeake Watershed Forum

• Represent FACC:

- *Daniels Run Exploration 10/7*  
Kris described a low teacher turnout, but about 60 students, for this environmental education session, employing a scavenger hunt format.
- *Friends of Friends Meeting 10/29*  
Flint, Dave, and Julie plan to attend this gathering of park groups, 9-12 at Green Springs Garden.
- *NVCC Environmental Film Festival 10/31*  
Philip advised he had reserved a table. Others are welcome. Setup is at noon. Breakdown 3:30 - 4:30
- *Accotink History Presentation 11/14*  
Philip passed along this not directly related, but interesting, presentation on recent FLAP research into the history of Lake Accotink and vicinity. 7:30 pm, at Kings Park Library
- *Clean Fairfax's Clean Streams Initiative 11/15*  
Philip explained it is not entirely clear what is the plan, but FACC should be there, and it may offer an opportunity to network regarding our planned Day of Action. Kris said he had heard the emphasis would be on floatables. Flint noted there is conflict with the FACC meeting that day. 5:30 - 7 pm, Government Center

• Federation Legislative Priorities:

Flint reviewed the Fairfax Federation of Civic Associations survey, which showed greatest interest in renewable energy and stormwater control. After review, the Federation will reduce its priorities to ten, which Flint was confident would include these two. Dave suggested the stormwater wording include encouraging retrofits via tax incentives, etc. Without objection, the group supported both priorities and Kris emailed the Federation on the spot. Flint expressed appreciation for any future help individuals could provide in tracking and promoting relevant legislation.

• Grant at Little Run Elementary:

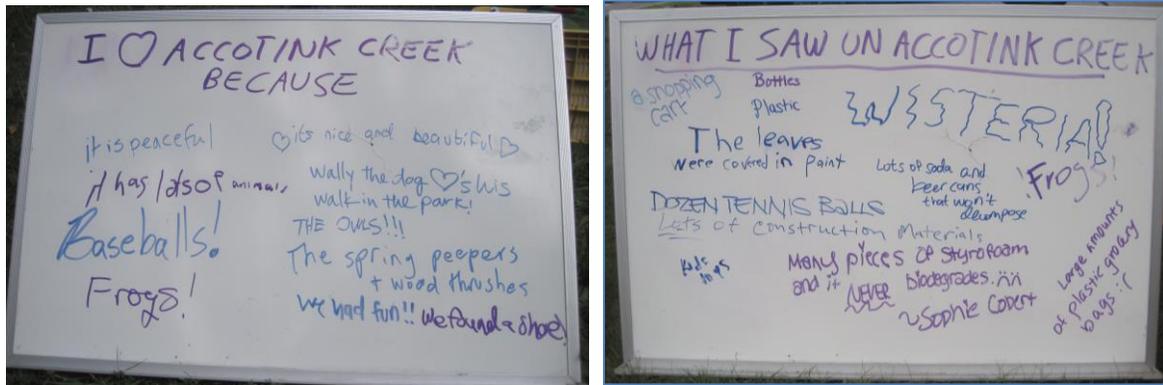
Kris commented on progress so far. Classroom topic introduction and initial biological monitoring are complete. Few macroinvertebrates were detected, possibly due to flooding a few days prior. Chemical testing is next week and Friends of Long Branch Stream Valley is cooperating. Discussion provoked joking about the confusion over the three Accotink tributaries named Long Branch.

• Community Grant:

Kris remarked that we still need to complete a financial report before applying for a new grant. Kris and Beverley will work on the report.

- International Coastal Cleanup:

Philip observed one Saturday is left. We may break the 200 volunteer mark, something we have not reached in the fall before, but it may be close. Our largest number of volunteers was at Pickett Road with 74 volunteers. Two drizzly-to-rainy days may have dampened turnout. The whiteboard innovation is getting good comments, and the photos are online. Last Saturday, Kris represented us at the Friends of Long Branch Stream Valley cleanup, and he observed there was rather a shortage of trash.



- Litter Initiatives:

- *Day of Action*

Philip inquired who wishes to attend the December 3 Virginia Conservation Network Legislative Preview Day in Richmond. He, Dave, and Julie plan to go. Flint mentioned Monica Billger of Audubon is likely to go.

Philip posed the question of to whom shall we reach out - Locally - Virginia - Metro area? Flint suggested the Sierra Club. Dave suggested Friends of the Occoquan. Beverley suggested bringing it up at the Friends of Friends meeting. There was discussion of setting a date in another meeting with Friends of Little Hunting Creek – Dave & Philip will follow up.

- TMDL:

Kris noted he and Philip had attended the Technical Advisory Committee meeting today. DEQ seems to be refining the numbers for controlling sediment and road salt.

Kris mentioned stakeholders seemed most concerned about compliance with chloride controls and that DPWES is considering bringing those stakeholders together to discuss implementation. Flint questioned DEQ not leading the discussion. Kris indicated he had approached Fairfax County Restoration Project about taking on a coordinating role.

Philip remarked that, among the technical jargon and confusing numbers at the meeting, an interesting item was retention of sediment by the lake, with estimates of 54% capture. When Kris related that the Park Authority representative at the meeting pointed out there might not be a lake in the future, Flint questioned the loss of the lake's sediment capture role. Philip explained that TMDL sediment reduction goals for lower Accotink are adjusted to account for the lake's contribution.

- Accotink Gorge:

Dave remarked on the October 15 workday, and the appalling network of vines that blankets the ground. Kris opined that the four volunteers had managed to cut a big area. Julie worried that a hole cut into a large infestation might regrow quickly.

Philip's thought of an indoors winter workday to plan and seek funding, perhaps with food & beverage, was received positively.

Philip mentioned he had run into Rod Simmons, biologist with the City of Alexandria, knowledgeable and interested in the gorge, and that Rod had suggested a November visit. Flint suggested publicizing the gorge event with an announcement and flyers at the next Green Breakfast, November 12<sup>th</sup>. Philip will follow up with Rod.

There was animated discussion of the Friends of Park agreement just received back from the Park Authority, with considerable skepticism about several changes from an earlier draft. Kris, Dave & Philip will follow up with our own proposed changes.

- Lake Accotink Master Plan:

Philip advised there are Master Plan workshops October 27<sup>th</sup> on Amenities & tentatively December 5<sup>th</sup> on Trails. There was consensus to maintain our previously expressed written opinions on park amenities, urging watershed-friendly approaches and preservation of habitat, including specific mention of use of pervious surfaces.

Kris let us know the Master Plan coordinator had responded to our request and was planning a Natural Resources workshop, likely in January.

- M.O.M.S.:

Flint described the M.O.M.S. Merrifield store management as excited about participating in a cleanup and posting information in their store – we should keep them in mind for spring. Donation days are organized at the national level. Kris will complete the required form online and may arrange a meeting with the Merrifield store management.

- Stormwater Planning Code Specialist Presentation:

Philip conveyed Suzy's offer to have Cathy Roth, Code Specialist in Stormwater Planning, speak at our November meeting. Since Cathy makes regular trips to the Fullerton Road Industrial Park, this may be a chance to discuss possible gorge intersection of interests.

- Volunteer Fairfax Renewal:

Philip presented a receipt for renewal of our Volunteer Fairfax membership for \$75. Reimbursement was approved without objection and Beverley issued a check.

- FACC Elections

Philip reminded us FACC elections for Primary & Secondary Conservator and Chronicler are coming up in December.