



Friends of Accotink Creek Leadership Town Meeting

January 22, 2013

Next Meeting: February 18, 2013 Audrey Moore Rec Center, Senior Center Lobby
(Third Monday of each month)

Scheduled Guest: Abby Sternberg, Media Masters, on FACC video projects

Present:

Kris Unger
Roger Diedrich
Philip Latasa
Bill Nell
Suzy Foster
Flint Webb
Sandy Collins
Liz Kirchner

Subjects Discussed –

• Grant Proposal – *break out groups:*

1. 501c3 application and Bylaws: Roger

There was discussion of the merits of 501c3 vs. 501c4 status. Roger explained that 501c4 groups can use funds for political purposes, but do not offer a tax deduction to donors. 501c3 groups can use up to 20% of their resources on advocacy, but may not endorse candidates. Also, many grants are available only to 501c3 groups. The consensus favored 501c3.

There was discussion of being a membership vs. non-membership group. Roger was concerned having formal members would require that those members be rounded up to vote for officers. Flint suggested that members could be defined as those persons who attend the annual meeting and was concerned that without membership, a group could experience stagnation and continuity of leadership issues. The consensus favored membership.

Philip mentioned the lack of candidates at the recent FLAP officers' election and Flint pointed out other groups avoid this by having the board and officers pre-recruit candidates, rather than just asking for volunteers at the annual meeting.

Flint mentioned that Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws are typically broadly-worded, relatively inflexible, and require changes to be registered with the state, whereas an optional more specific set of Policies and Procedures can be changed by the board.

The 501c3 filing fee is about \$400 and is covered in the grant. Flint pointed out that officer expenses to attend 501c3 functions are tax deductible.

Philip suggested this more formal form of organization be enlivened by using creative titles for officers, such as "Coordinator" and "Steward" which FACC has long used informally, or others, such as "Creek Keeper", "Guardian", "Monitor", "Protector" "Conservator", "Warden", or more creative, such as "Kingfisher". Flint mentioned that the Washington area Gamers Association has creative titles.

Kris, Roger, and others interested will follow up on 501c3 status by email.

2. Lecture series:

Suzy is pulling together “tidbits” for the series of presentations to civic associations. The Braddock District Council meeting was attended by members of the Providence, Lee, Mason, and Springfield district councils, all of whom expressed interest in ready-to-go presentations, mentioning topics like beautification, litter, and the Accotink watershed. Suzy mentioned some of the grant money could be used for raffles or stipends for presenters. Suzy suggested Bill as a presenter and he was amenable.

Flint pointed out civic associations need to cover many topics during a year, so may have limited time for our presentations. Kris suggested the presentations could be made to other groups or even to the public.

Roger suggested that the assistance of a professional consultant for the presentations of most interest could be worthwhile, although possibly requiring additional grants for funding.

Suzy is in touch with Bill Barfield of the Braddock District Council for advice/participation. She is also looking for volunteers for the break out group she is organizing to distill the suggested topics down to six or eight and pull the presentations together.

3. Community engagement:

Cooperating with DPWES on the Long Branch north restoration project remains the most likely candidate for the community engagement portion of the grant.

• BMP Monitoring:

Walgreens, MetroWest, Walk Results

Kris reported a positive experience during the Jan 13th inspection of the Metrowest construction site, and that the site is basically stable. Kris’s thought is that individuals could inspect sites on their own, but coordinate efforts with a break out group. Liz pointed out that the [Chesapeake Stormwater Network](#) has many training videos on their site on the topic of erosion control.

Future Workshop:

Kris and Bill will lead this initiative and follow up with CEDS. The workshop could be one for the public or an FACC core strategy session.

• Planning for spring stream cleanup:

Schedule

Philip presented the proposed schedule and no changes were suggested. (see below*)

Team

Suzy mentioned we need sufficient lead time to work with Heather to contact businesses and organizations that might participate. Heather is putting together a list of contacts which may be stored on Google documents, or on the FACC website if we can figure out how to do that. Sandy will work at spreading the word in Lee District.

Liz will register FACC with Volunteer Fairfax and Bill will arrange reimbursement of the \$50 fee from our funds held by Trout Unlimited. Roger got an IRS EIN number in connection with the 501c3 preparations and shared with Liz for the registration.

Philip lamented that FACC has still not managed to turn the cleanups into effective education and recruitment tools. Ashley Stanton of Northern Virginia Conservation Trust proposed collaboration on the issue after last cleanup, but Philip still needs to follow up.

- Suzy mentioned Bill's trash artwork is a good tool for communicating with volunteers.
- Flint suggested an FACC leader member could be positioned at key points during cleanups to inform volunteers of watershed issues.
- Suzy suggesting leading small groups of volunteers for education while cleaning.
- Kris suggested designating one leader per site to engage volunteers in education and that these leaders could be trained during pre-cleanup watershed walks. Flint thought there was opportunity for joint Sierra Club/FACC walks.
- Suzy suggested providing volunteers with maps of problems at each cleanup site, but Philip felt creation of the maps would be challenging.

Bill nominated as an education leader Dave, the gentleman who resides under the Fullerton Road bridge and who has participated in several past cleanups. Asking Dave to provide his unique front door perspective on the creek was generally regarded as inspired and that some small financial reward would be appropriate. Bill will follow up.

There was discussion and general approval of the idea of displaying a donation bucket at the cleanups.

There was discussion of the idea of obtaining about a dozen safety vests with an FACC logo for higher visibility of leaders at events. Philip has looked into this before and found prices of \$10 - \$15, plus a logo printing setup fee. There was consensus this would be a useful expense. Philip will obtain specific information.

• FACC Contacts to DPWES:

Long Branch north advocacy:

Cooperating with DPWES on the Long Branch north restoration project remains the most likely candidate for the community engagement portion of the grant, as mentioned above. Flint has had some initial discussion with Danielle Wynne.

Bill suggested soliciting county grant funding for presentations, since Stormwater Planning Division is looking for community outreach. Roger and Flint were of the opinion that what Danielle Wynne had intended to communicate at our last meeting was that FACC should find audiences for presentations by the county.

Bill also suggested the grants offered by the 495 Express Lanes contractor Transurban might be applicable.

Americana Park:

Suzy observed the catalyst role FACC played in Americana Park, bringing together the Park Authority, Stormwater Planning, and the Braddock supervisor's office for enhanced stormwater controls, and offered it as an example of a role we might play elsewhere.

Reports:

- Fairfax County and VDOT lawsuit against EPA Accotink Creek TMDL

The TMDL lawsuit letter approved in earlier meetings had been slightly reworded after the verdict was issued. Suzy collected signatures of all present to be scanned into the text that Kris will send out.

- Twitter:

Liz has set up a Twitter page for FACC and an icon near the top of our website links to it. Liz asks all to “follow” and solicits any suggestions on how to make best use of this resource.

- Lobby Day/Plastic Bag Bills:

The three plastic bag bills introduced in the current Virginia Assembly session were all strangled in the cradle. Philip noted it is still worthwhile for each of us to request our legislators to support future bills.

- Braddock District Council

The Braddock District Council meeting was discussed above.

- Stormwater Ordinance meetings:

The final stakeholders meeting on the new county Stormwater Ordinance is Jan 28th. Bill and Flint have attended earlier meetings, representing our interests, although not officially representing FACC. Flint explained that the process is required by revision of Virginia stormwater regulations, and the basic question for the county is to adopt the state guidelines or higher requirements. Once the proposed ordinance is final, Flit suggested FACC might want to develop talking points as it passes on to the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors.

Upcoming events:

- Stormwater Ordinance Final Stakeholders Meeting, January 28th
- FACC Stream Monitoring, March 9th, 2013
- Potomac Watershed Cleanup, Saturdays, April 6th – May 4th

*Philip Latasa***Friends of Accotink Creek***Proposed schedule for 2013 Potomac Watershed Cleanup

April 6 (official Potomac Watershed Cleanup)

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Join Lake Accotink Park's spring watershed cleanup day

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April 13

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Accotink Creek at Fullerton Road bridge

12:00 PM - 2:00 PM Accotink Creek at Franconia-Springfield Parkway bridge

(Including cleanup of Hooes Road dumpsite)

3:00 PM - 5:00 PM Accotink Creek at Telegraph Road bridge

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April 20

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Accotink Creek at Fairfax Blvd bridge

12:00 PM - 2:00 PM Accotink Creek at Chain Bridge Road
3:00 PM - 5:00 PM Accotink Creek at Old Lee Hwy bridge

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April 27 (Fairfax County Springfest/Earth Day/Arbor Day)

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Accotink Creek at Pickett Road bridge

12:00 PM - 2:00 PM Accotink Creek at Barkley Dr bridge

3:00 PM - 5:00 PM Accotink Creek at Woodburn Road bridge

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May 4

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Accotink Creek at King Arthur Road bridge

12:00 PM - 2:00 PM Accotink Creek at Little River Tpk bridge

3:00 PM - 5:00 PM Accotink Creek at Braddock Road bridge