



Friends of Accotink Creek Leadership Town Meeting

April 20, 2012

Next Meeting: Sept. 17, 2012 Audrey Moore Rec Center, Senior Center Lobby
(Third Monday of each month)

Present:

Kris Unger
Philip Latasa
Bill Nell
Suzy Foster
Robert Greenberg
Ravi George
Flint Webb
Roger Diedrich
Olivier Giron
Sue Shueman
Matt Bell – Virginia Conservation Network

Subjects Discussed –

Follow up on Action Items from previous meeting 16 July 2012:

· International Coastal Cleanup

Flint is preparing an announcement for the Federation of Civic Associations newsletter, but needs more information on other groups doing cleanups. Philip will provide.

Bill will send an email announcement to the members of the Engineers and Surveyors Institute.

To promote the goal of education during cleanups, Philip has prepared an information sheet that can be laminated and provided to volunteers during the cleanup summarizing watershed issues and solutions.

There was discussion of listing cleanup events with Volunteer Fairfax. Philip has already been in touch with them and, confusingly, one staff member will be listing our Sept. 23 & 29 dates as part of “Volunteers for Change”, while another staff member suggested we should pay a \$100 registration to list our dates.

There was extended discussion of sponsorship for cleanups, what form it might take, and what entities might be interested. Sponsors might provide volunteers, funds, coupons, or in-kind services. Suzy will approach Staples about donating printing services. Roger will approach Hudson Trail Outfitters and other businesses in the Fairfax Circle area.

Bill suggested school fundraisers, in lieu of carwashes which may contaminate streams, could seek sponsorship for participating in cleanups.

Bill suggested some form of “official” recognition for sponsors might be an incentive to participate. Discussion including recognition on our website, possibly in the form of a map showing sites and sponsors, or sponsors could be invited to bring their own sign to cleanups.

Olivier will contact a group of art students creating statues from plastic bottles about displaying works at cleanup sites.

· Fairfax County and VDOT lawsuit against EPA Accotink Creel TMDL

The discussion of this topic at the recent Fairfax County Restoration Project meeting was briefly rehashed by Kris and Philip:

By filing the lawsuit, the county can avoid having the TMDL become part of its MS-4 stormwater discharge permit renewal, thus avoiding any credible threat of penalties. The county laments that it can only act on the small part of the watershed that it owns and frets that compliance with the TMDL would require wholesale destruction of wooded areas. Does this mean, in other words, that the county would mow down its forests before it would engage in innovative outreach to involve citizens in the solution? Kris pointed out to the county officials present that FACC is willing to aid in outreach.

Flint noted the Comprehensive Plan could be a vehicle for encouraging pervious paving.

Bill noted there is a difference between a requirement to reduce overall runoff volume and the actual TMDL requirement to reduce the 1-year, 24-hour peak storm discharge.

Our proposed TMDL lawsuit response letter was read aloud, discussed and edited. Philip will circulate the amended version for further comment. Possible recipients of the letter are Board of Supervisors, Virginia legislators, FLAP, Park Authority.

Reports on current projects:

· County Stormwater Management Ordinance

We have no FACC positions on this, but Ravi will prepare some points. Ravi will attend for the Braddock Land Use Committee; Flint will attend for the Federation of Civic Associations, and Bill will attend on his own. Philip or Liz will attend for FACC.

· Meeting Location

Olivier reported that the rec center assistant manager, Chris Goldbecker, had OK'ed use of the Senior Center Lobby gratis on a continuing basis. We do have to confirm monthly.

New Discussion:

· Choose Clean Water Coalition

Matt Bell joined us to discuss his work as a Virginia Conservation Network staff member, coordinating with the Choose Clean Water Coalition. A VCN conference call last week dealt with the TMDL lawsuit, but reached no conclusions. CCWC is reaching out to other conservation groups on threats to the Clean Water Act. VCN requires dues of its member organizations, while CCWC is free. Given that the price was right and it would place FACC under no obligations, there was consensus to join CCWC. Philip and Matt will follow up.

· Annandale Gateway

The Fairfax County Restoration Project and county staff are developing plans for a "green street" project of visual and environmental enhancements along Little River Turnpike from I-495 to Hummer Road. It was noted that few businesses would be directly engaged in that particular short stretch. There was

discussion of the desirability of extending the project to include Americana Park. There was consensus FACC should be supportive.

Upcoming events:

- County Stormwater Management Ordinance September 24, October, 17 – Bill, Flint, and Ravi will attend in separate capacities. Philip or Liz will attend for FACC.
- FLAP meeting on Thursday, August 23rd - Philip will attend
- Stream Monitoring, September 8th – All are welcome.

Philip Latasa

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