Fairfax Watershed Network
many watersheds one shared vision

Fairfax Watershed Network Meeting Notes – December 12, 2005

The Fairfax Watershed Network is a dedicated group of organizations, agencies and individuals that support and promote the improvement and protection of Fairfax County's streams and watersheds through outreach and education efforts.

Attendees

- Sue Beffel and Ted Moline, Reston Environmental Committee
- Joe Chudzik, Mason Neck Citizens Association
- Joanna Cornell, Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District
- Harry Glasgow, Friends of Huntley Meadows Park
- Laura Grape, Fairfax County DPWES – Stormwater Planning Division - *scribe*
- Diana Handy, Volunteer Stream Monitor
- Diane Hoffman, Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District
- Krystal Kearns, Fairfax County DPWES – Stormwater Planning Division
- Stella Koch, Audubon Naturalist Society
- Duane Murphy, Friends of Accotink Creek
- Gayle Pugh, Friend of Turkeycock Run
- Cathy Saunders, Friends of Burkes Spring Branch

Agenda

1. Potomac Watershed Cleanup Preparation
2. FWN Party
3. Web sites
4. Announcements

Discussion

Potomac River Watershed Cleanup Preparation

Cleanup Date

The 2006 Potomac River Watershed Cleanup, sponsored by the Alice Ferguson Foundation, is scheduled to take place on April 8, 2006 from 9 a.m. – noon.

Network members discussed the possibility of making the date flexible and encouraging site leaders to perform their cleanup on April 1st, using the 8th as a rain date. This will ensure that the trash data collected in Fairfax County could still be included as part of the foundation's press coverage.

2006 Goal

The goal for 2006 is to establish 100 cleanup sites in Fairfax County. Last year there were 86 established sites, with 77 reporting results.

Outreach

Several ideas for getting the word out about the cleanup were discussed, including:

- *News release* – Krystal Kearns will write a news release which will be disseminated through the county's media list. It will be made available to the Network members to modify to highlight their events and distribute to local papers.
- *Schools* – Joanna will contact the Fairfax County Middle School Science Specialist to encourage 7th and 8th grade teachers to get involved. Students will be encouraged to take advantage of this event in order to complete their community service hours. Krystal and Laura will work with the resources available through the county's recycling program to distribute information to other grade levels.
- *Proclamation* – Stella will begin drafting a proclamation for the Board of Supervisors, declaring April 8th as Fairfax Clean Streams Day.
- *Letter* – Stella will revise the letter which was distributed via email to the various Friends of and other volunteer organizations. Possible groups to distribute to were discussed and include:

Master Watershed Stewards	Churches & Religious Institutions
District Councils	Homeowners Associations
County's News to Use	Internal County Newsletter
Schools	Watershed Planning Advisory Groups
NVSWCD's Conservation Currents	Joanna's List Serve
Earth Sangha	Scout Troops
F.C. Park Authority	NoVA Regional Park Authority

- *Web site* – Laura will get the cleanup page back up on the county's Web site, asap. The link will be: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/watersheds/springcleanup.htm

FWN Party
A party will be planned in late April to celebrate another fantastic Potomac Watershed cleanup. The party planning committee includes:

- Harry Glasgow
- Laura Grape
- Diana Handy

Web sites
This summer, Krystal Kearns sent out an email concerning the *fairfaxwatersheds.org* Web site that was originally maintained by the Potomac River Greenways Coalition as part of the Master Watershed Stewards Program. This site has remained dormant for the past two years and there was a discussion about whether to renew the URL at $240 per year.

The decision was to not renew the URL since most of the information is already available through existing Web sites. Laura will develop a page on the county's server specifically for the Fairfax Watershed Network, which links to other informational pages. Any alerts can not be posted to this Web page, because it will be maintained by the county, but may be sent via email to the list serve.

Announcements
Friends of Accotink Creek
A new "friends of" group is forming in the Accotink Creek watershed. They will hold their first meeting on Thursday, December 15, 2005 from 4 to 5 p.m. at Lake Accotink Park, in Springfield.

Annual Stream Water Quality Report

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The county has just released its newest report on the conditions of Fairfax County's streams. It is available online, by visiting: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/stormwater/streams/assessment.htm

Regional Radio Campaign
In partnership with the Northern Virginia Regional Commission, Arlington County, and other neighboring jurisdictions, Fairfax County is participating in a regional radio campaign to increase awareness of nonpoint source pollution around the home. "The Call" will be aired on various radio stations throughout July 2006. Keep an ear out for it this summer!

Fort Belvoir Contact
Joe Chudzik is looking for a reliable contact from Fort Belvoir to partner with in order to remove large piles of trash from their side of Pohick Creek. If anyone has suggestions, pass them a long to Joe at forservice@verizon.net

Lobbying Day in Richmond
January 16, 2005 is Lobbying Day in Richmond. This is an opportunity to learn more about the bills and major legislation that affect the environment which will be discussed at the State level this year. This is an opportunity to network and rub elbows with your various legislators.

For more information, visit: www.viginiaconservationnetwork.org

If you are interested in attending, please contact Joanna Cornell – jcornell@gmu.edu. The Chesapeake Bay Foundation will provide free transportation for groups of 30 or more.

Next Meeting Schedule

- Monday February 6th at 7 p.m.
  and
- Monday March 6th at 7 p.m.

SPREAD THE WORD!
April 1st or 8th – Potomac River Watershed Cleanup!
Register *your* site today at www.potomaccleanup.org

Our vision is of an informed community engaged in efforts to improve and protect Fairfax County's streams and watersheds.