



## 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 May 18, 2015

Next Meeting: June 15, 2015 (Third Monday of each month)

Audrey Moore Rec Center, Clubroom 3

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#### **Present:**

Kris Unger  
Philip Latasa  
Flint Webb  
Sandy Collins

#### **Upcoming events:**

- Potomac Watershed Cleanup, March 28 – May 2, 2015
- Stream Monitoring Eakin Park, May 23, 2015
- I-66 Environmental hearing, May 27 & 28, 2015
- Watershed Workshop, May 28, 2015
- Stream Monitoring Rutherford Park, May 30, 2015
- Lake Accotink Park Stream Monitoring/Creek Blitz, June 13, 2015
- Professional freshwater mussel survey, Summer, 2015
- Next FLAP meeting, July 16, 2015

#### **Action Items:**

- *Kris, Philip, & Suzy – Work on Merrifield historic marker*
- *Kris – Develop Lanier bioretention plan*
- *Kris – Schedule social gathering*
- *Kris – Coordinate with CCW on TMDL*
- *Kris – Prepare I-66 environmental letter*
- *Flint – gather information on candidate questionnaire*
- *Sandy & Philip – Develop mussel survey plan*

#### **FACC Subjects Discussed –**

##### • Potomac Watershed Cleanup:

Philip reported we had a total of 371 volunteers, down from last spring's 458 volunteers. They collected 386 bags of trash. He lamented that there was little conversion of one-time volunteers to long-term commitment.

##### • Whole Foods Funds/Mastenbrook Grant:

###### *Mussel survey*

Sandy has not heard from Daguna for a while. She will get back in touch to get them to sign the park permit request. Philip suggested paying the \$25 fee in kind, at the rate of 50 cents per bag of trash.

• Represent FACC:

- *Earth Day event Apr. 22*

Kris noted the event had gone well, crediting Sue's attention to detail.

- *Walnut Hill Farm*

Kris advised activities at the farm are suspended for the time being.

- *Metro Connection May 15*

All present expressed favorable impressions of the [recent WAMU story](#) featuring Kris, Ted and FACC.

- *NVSWCD Monitoring May 23 & 30*

Philip suggested someone may want to represent FACC at these two stream monitoring sessions in our watershed.

- *Lake Accotink Park Trail Paving May 25*

Philip noted Cross County Trail paving in Lake Accotink Park will begin May 25<sup>th</sup>, and it would be good if someone can monitor the construction for negative effects. Flint mentioned ongoing installation of underground cable in Vienna that may have erosion and sediment issues.

- *Watershed Workshop May 28*

Kris described progress as proceeding well toward the Audubon Naturalist society workshop. Flint mentioned Monica Billger of ANS, who is the organizer, is also now Federation of Civic Associations Environmental co-Chairperson. There was discussion of a Watershed Stewards Academy as a development from the workshop.

- *Creek Critters Jun. 13*

Philip remarked on the planned demonstration of the Audubon Naturalist Society's "Creek Critters" smartphone app alongside our regular stream monitoring at Lake Accotink Park June 13<sup>th</sup>. Members are welcome to attend to observe or as volunteer wranglers.

Kris mentioned he will be guiding a group of Inner City Outing kids at the Lake Accotink Park marina until 4 pm the same day and everyone is invited to stop by.

• I-66 Project:

Flint explained that the recently announced reduction in planned home takings is the result of downgrading planned stormwater detention from compliance with Fairfax County standards to meeting only Virginia legal minimums. This would mean treatment for only new pavement, not existing paved areas. Kris offered a vision of accomplishing full stormwater treatment by reaching beyond the right-of-way to incorporate adjacent paved areas, such as parking lots.

Flint remarked that additional lanes will not accomplish the congestion reduction that would be achieved by transit, either Metro, light rail or bus rapid transit. Kris pointed out the I-66 Corridor Coalition had expressed this in letters to the Virginia Secretary of Transportation.

Philip observed the contemplated widening of Braddock Road will have effects much like those I-66 widening and that the two projects are not isolated in terms of transportation issues, since they run parallel.

*Del. Bulova May 20*

Kris will be meeting with Del. Bulova to discuss I-66.

*Meeting May 28*

Philip urged members to attend and speak at the I-66 environmental study meetings. Kris described discussions with Ron Tuttle, who had offered a number of specific suggestions, including improved outfall/plunge pool designs. Kris will work on a letter from FACC on I-66 environmental issues.

• Americana Park Meadow:

Kris spoke about the productive planting days April 17 & 18, each with about 40 volunteers. The meadow is looking good and the tillage radishes planted to improve soil drainage have sprouted well.

• Elections:

Philip observed this year there are elections for Virginia Senate and House of Delegates seats and all offices in Fairfax County (Board of Supervisors, Sheriff, School Board, Commonwealth's Attorney, Clerk of the Court, and Soil & Water Commission). He noted the Democratic primary June 9<sup>th</sup> for the open seat for Mt. Vernon supervisor may be of particular importance to Accotink Creek. There was discussion of a possible candidates' environmental forum or questionnaire to candidates. Flint will gather information on the environmental questionnaire done by the Virginia Conservation Network.

• Grant Proposal – Fairfax Water:

Kris has submitted a grant to Fairfax Water for funding for Lands and Waters to support stream monitoring and community outreach in connection with the imminent stream restoration project on Daniels Run.

• Wakefield Park Stream Restorations:

Philip mentioned some stream restoration projects progressing in our watershed:

*Davertry*

Should get underway soon, given some urgency by the threat to a sewer line. Dave rescued a number of native plants which were taken by a member of Virginia Native Plant Society.

*Nottoway Park*

Planning is in progress. Friends of Nottoway funds intended for supplemental restoration now need another outlet.

*Flag Run*

Survey parties have been spotted and it is on the schedule for FY 2017.

• Reimbursements:

Philip presented a request for reimbursement from Sue for refreshments for the Snakehead Forum in February. There was discussion of how small reimbursements should be handled and it was the consensus that we should continue the practice of authorizations at meetings or by email among the board members. Kris will consolidate Sue's request with another he is preparing for Sue's work on the Earth Day event.

The discussion touched on the point that only Kris and Philip have signature authorization for the FACC bank account. Flint assured us this is an appropriate number.

• Clean VA Waterways:

There was general discussion of our new relationship with Choose Clean Water and the number of policy letters and conference calls involved. Philip noted that one monthly Virginia call is on TMDL's and the Accotink Creek TMDL should be active soon. Kris will check with CCW on this.

• River Hugger:

Kris relayed Steve's request to designate FACC as a beneficiary of profits from sales of [River Hugger](#) soap. Sandy will check if there are any possible issues. There was discussion of special labeling for Friends of Accotink.

• PayPal Online Donation:

Philip announced supporters are now able to make donations online through PayPal as well as giving cost-free support through Goodsearch and Goodshop, which give a small amount to FACC for each usage. Our homepage now has a big yellow button for support:



- Accotink Gorge:

Philip recounted his chance meeting with Fritz Flohr Reynolds, excellent amateur botanist, whom some of us were in contact with at the time of the Wakefield Run restoration. She has found a number of uncommon plant species in the scenic Accotink Gorge, just downstream from Fullerton Road that are worthy of protection from the spreading masses of Chinese wisteria. Fritz will prepare a report of her findings which we can discuss with the Park Authority. Kris suggested we could seek a grant for invasives control in this location.

- Accounting:

There was discussion of the lack of any bookkeeping guidance, which is needed now that we have bank accounts. Kris suggested we bring this up with other groups at the May 28 Watershed Workshop. Sandy will provide a link to possible free online guidance.

- IRS Form 990:

Philip reported he had filed IRS form 990 online, which states only that annual income was below \$50,000.

- Change Meeting Night:

Philip asked if we should consider an alternate meeting night, since some interested members have difficulty with Mondays. After discussion, Kris offered to arrange a social night to further consider options.

- Accotink.org Email Addresses:

Philip brought up the availability of accotink.org email addresses for whatever purpose we might need.

- Lanier Bioretention:

Kris addressed the need for maintenance on the Lanier Middle School bioretention facility, a Lands and Waters project supported by FACC. He suggested a workday, possibly supported by a grant. Kris will work on details.

- Eakin Pond:

Philip related a message left on our Facebook page expressing concern that a small pond in Eakin Park was being filled in. [NOTE: We have since learned from the Park Authority this is only a trail repair in progress.]

- Forests Love the Sea:

Philip brought for show-and-tell a book purchased from [Mori-Umi](#), a Japanese group promoting healthy oyster farming by upland reforestation, with inspiring parallels to our own mission.

*Philip Latasa*

**Friends of Accotink Creek**

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