



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 June 15, 2015

Next Meeting: July 21, 2015 (Third Tuesday of each month)

Audrey Moore Rec Center, Clubroom 3

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Present:

Kris Unger
Philip Latasa
Flint Webb
Suzy Foster
Ted Welch
Heather Breiner
Sue Schuman
Beverley Rivera – Welcome Beverley!

Upcoming events:

- TMDL meeting, June 24, 2015
- Next FLAP meeting, July 16, 2015
- Professional freshwater mussel survey, Summer, 2015
- Lake Accotink Park Stream Monitoring, September 12, 2015

Action Items:

- *Kris – Develop Lanier bioretention plan*
- *Kris – Coordinate with CCW on TMDL*
- *Flint – gather information on candidate questionnaire*
- *Sandy & Philip – Develop mussel survey plan*
- *Philip - Prepare Braddock Road comments*
- *Philip – Prepare Old Lee Hwy comments*

FACC Subjects Discussed –

- Whole Foods Funds/Mastenbrook Grant:

There was discussion of the status of the mussel survey, which should be completed during the warm months. We do not seem to have heard from Daguna for some weeks. Kris will follow up with Sandy.

- Represent FACC:

- *Northern Virginia Magazine*

Kris described his interview with [Northern Virginia Magazine](#), after their reporter heard him interviewed on WAMU. *The story has not yet been published.*

- *Watershed Workshop May 28*

Kris described the Watershed Workshop organized by Monica Billinger of Audubon Naturalist Society as a success, with about 25 persons in attendance. There was discussion among those who had attended of the format and advance preparation. Ted will confer with Monica on suggestions. Kris noted two more sessions are planned and he will be nudging them toward the goal of a watershed coalition.

○ *Creek Critters Jun. 13*

Ted shared the experience of our collaboration with Audubon Naturalist Society to demonstrate their new Creek Critters app alongside our regular stream monitoring session at Lake Accotink Park. Although we had only a handful of volunteers, one mother-daughter team was especially enthusiastic and they are likely returnees. Ted will report results to Audubon.

○ *TMDL Jun. 24*

Philip informed that the long-delayed Accotink Creek TMDL process is resuming with a public meeting of all stakeholders June 24th. At the meeting study results should be presented and some movement toward a plan should take place. All are welcome.

• *I-66 Project:*

Flint recounted his attendance at the Dunn Loring letter-writing gathering June 13th, where he spoke to Supervisor Bulova. Supervisor Bulova indicated the grandfathering of stormwater requirements was not a county idea. Flint pointed out to Supervisor Bulova the impaired nature of the streams impacted and the Accotink Creek TMDL in progress. Flint also conveyed the FACC idea of off-site stormwater controls, which was received with interest. Flint indicated Supervisor Smyth and Delegate Keam, also in attendance, were pleased by the savings of homes due to the relaxation of stormwater standards.

Flint also discussed the inadequacy of emissions assumptions being used by VDOT.

FACC comments letter

Philip presented a draft of FACC comments on the I-66 environmental study, based on the suggested wording of the I-66 Corridor Coalition, which was discussed and approved with additional changes. Kris will send.

• *Stream Restorations:*

Wakefield Park Plant Rescue

Philip reported FACC had undertaken plant rescues ahead of the stream restoration planned near the Wakefield Park entrance road. Rescues are scheduled each Thursday, 11 – 1 pm, until construction begins sometime in August. Other dates may be scheduled if leaders come forth. For now, no replanting in Fairfax County parks is permitted.

Daventry

Suzy reported the Daventry stream restoration is underway and there had been a plant rescue there.

Mantua Elementary School Bioretention

Suzy mentioned plans for a bioretention facility at Mantua Elementary School. The PTA is involved and there may be a role for FACC.

• *Reimbursements:*

There was a general discussion of pending reimbursements, including from the Earth Day event. Kris noted we need to finish using our community outreach grant soon. Kris will prepare statements.

• *Clean VA Waterways/Choose Clean Water:*

Alexandria stormwater

Kris spoke about the combined outfall issue in Alexandria, where FACC is supporting the Potomac Riverkeeper initiative to organize groups to push for improvements. On this subject, Choose Clean Water contacted Kris about providing grant funds to FACC to use to bring groups together. He is waiting to hear more specifics. Philip noted this issue does not affect our watershed and FACC's interest is mainly to support the formation of a coalition of local watershed groups.

Kris also mentioned he had participated in a meeting with Congressman Don Beyer on this topic and was pleasantly surprised at his level of environmental interest.

- Braddock Road:

Philip provided a summary of the June 9th Braddock Road widening meeting. The basic idea is adding lanes from Guinea Road to 495, part of the distance possibly HOV/HOT lanes, and a transit center, possibly at Kings Park shopping center or perhaps at Audrey Moore RecCenter or elsewhere. A Task Force of civic association representatives has been meeting with the study contractors. Further public meetings are expected in late 2015 and early 2016. Construction would be in 2023. Speakers at the meeting focused largely on questioning the location of the transit center. No presenter or speaker addressed any environmental issues. Philip will prepare written comments to send in.

- Old Lee Hwy Great Streets:

Philip observed Fairfax City is taking a different approach to street projects with its [Great Streets](#) proposal on Old Lee Hwy, incorporating bicycle/pedestrian access and enhanced stormwater controls as fundamental features. He pondered how we might make these ideas part of projects in other jurisdictions. Philip will prepare comments.

- River Hugger:

The discussion of FACC as a beneficiary of profits from sales of [River Hugger](#) soap continued. As we spoke, Kris put Sandy and Steve in touch by email to work out questions.

- Merrifield Park Historic Marker:

Kris reported he has unexpectedly found himself on the board of the Fairfax County African American Historical Society. FCAAHS has funding for the planned marker at Pine Ridge Park and will proceed the other two proposed markers when they have organized as a non-profit.

- Paul VI High School:

Philip passed on the news that Paul VI High School will be leaving its 18 acre campus in Fairfax City for Loudon County in about five years and suggested FACC monitor proposed future uses of the site.

- Insurance:

There was discussion of the value of obtaining liability insurance vs. our current practice of relying on liability waivers and Park Authority coverage. The talk led into questions of instituting membership dues or other fundraising to pay for insurance, but without any resolution. Philip reminded all that they may painlessly fundraise for FACC by using [Goodsearch and Goodshop](#).

- Change Meeting Night:

Discussion of the convenience of another meeting night for some members led to a consensus for third Tuesdays, later confirmed with some absent core members. So, Tuesday will be the FACC meeting night henceforth.

- Huntley Meadows Visit:

Philip passed along a suggestion from Donald Pless, defender of Flag Run, that we visit Huntley Meadows visitor center on Fridays, when Norma Hoffman, the founder of Friends of Huntley Meadows, now over 90, is present and may share her wisdom and insights.

- Accounting:

Philip has contacted the pro bono program of the Virginia Society of CPA's to see what help they may offer to get us set up for proper bookkeeping.

Philip informed the group he had requested the FACC funds held by Northern Virginia Trout Unlimited and had received a check. However, there is a disputed item of over \$500. Kris will follow up with NVATU.

Philip Latasa

Friends of Accotink Creek