

Friends of Accotink Creek Leadership Town Meeting - Jan. 16, 2012 - Minutes

Next Meeting: Feb 20, 2012 location to be announced.

Present:*

Kris Unger: Transitional President. Lands and Waters.

Su Jewell, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service: Invasive flora/fauna removal. Volunteers with FLAP.

Roger Diedrich (Mantua): Outreach. Bylaws. Parks and Environment Chair, MCA. Environmental Committee Co-Chair, Federation of Citizen's Associations. Sierra Club.

Dirck Harris, FMN: Get FMN involved in FACC activities/events.

Liz Kirchner (Camelot): Focus on pervious surfaces, outreach, and being a voice for the watershed. Background in agriculture/agronomy.

Philip Latasa: FACC Guru!

Suzy Foster (Mantua): Build awareness/ stewardship of FACC. Landscape designer/practitioner.

Robert Greenberg (Mantua): Bylaws, cleanups. Architect, trail user, volunteer.

Flint Webb: Bylaws. Environmental Committee Co-Chair, Federation of Citizen's Associations

Greg Evans: [Chesapeake Bay Local Assistance Board](#), FMN, Northern Va. Conservation Trust.

Olivier Giron, GMU: Illegal dumping issue. [Let's Do It!](#) Landscape architecture background.

Ted Welsh (Mantua): Invasive, stream health, cleanups, outreach. Ran beach cleanups in Chicago.

Paul Hughes (Mantua): RE-Build Warehouse. Reduce impervious surfaces.

*We hope no one attempted to attend the meeting and was foiled by the locked main door of the building.

Subjects Discussed:

Immediate Action:

FLAP partnership. FACC will write a letter supporting the installation of a pervious parking lot, and a minimal impact trail (Danbury Forest Ln) at Lake Accotink Park (Ted, Su, Suzy, Flint, Greg, Roger, Liz). Liz will be the point person. Greg can only advise, due to his capacity as a member of the Chesapeake Bay Local Assistance Board .

Bylaws: Continue Flint's work on them, have a good basic structure. Roger, Robert, Flint.

- Roles: Kris will serve as Transitional President,
- Liz as Outreach Chair.
- Meetings are to be the third Monday of each month – Next Meeting: February 20, 2012

Spring Cleanup: Olivier, Ted to take the lead for organizing. Olivier has offered to be the liaison for the Spring Cleanup: Contact person/coordinator for groups considering hosting a cleanup site.

- What do we need to do?
- Goal of 2 FACC people per event, 1 to focus on logistics, and 1 to focus on outreach, volunteer engagement.
- How can we get more people involved?
 - Kris: Ashley Stanton of Northern Virginia Conservation Trust may host one of our cleanup sites.
 - Woodson HS Service Learning Fair, Feb 23: FACC will host a table to recruit cleanup volunteers (Olivier, Liz, Ted)
 - Liz: Announce to FMN, Annandale Blog, Annandale Patch.
 - Flint: A volunteer from our 2011 fall cleanup at the 7900 site was willing to host a site.
 - Liz: will see to informing the Winterset and Camelot communities
 - Liz: will contact Dan Schwartz of NVSWCD for information on stream monitors who may be interested in hosting sites.
 - Dirck: Master Naturalists should be kept in the cleanup loop.
 - Liz: More neighborhood signs would help to alert persons interested in volunteering.
- We will target at least one of the illegal dumping sites (Olivier, Ted, Philip)

- Ted: An approach to attacking litter used by a high school group in Illinois had been placing posts which dispensed bags for recreational users to pick up trash.
- Olivier will check on County auto parts disposal policy. Pamela Gratton, Recycling Coordinator, may be a point of contact.
- Suzy: A tree service located in the watershed might assist with equipment for removal of large dumped items.
- Ted: The 20-people-and-a-chain method of handling large dumped objects works, but what about liability issues. Greg noted that Mater naturalist activities are covered by state insurance. Philip confirmed the same is true for all FACC cleanup, through Adopt-a-Stream.
- Consider other themes for different cleanup sites, to add educational value to the events: invasive plants, illegal dumping, stormwater issues, home owner practices like rain barrels. Maybe also some fun ones like stream monitoring, wildflower walk?
- See Philips Clean up Notes below for other organizational needs.

Watershed Forum/Summit/Event: Kris - Karen (NVCC) decided not to pursue the EPA grant (with a Jan deadline), but is continuing to work on plans for an event that would target watershed groups in the area. In the meantime, FACC is considering putting together a smaller-scale event, partnering with FCRP, FMN and others, with a focus on citizen engagement in local watershed issues.

- Suzy will maintain liaison with Karen.
- Greg will reach out to the Potomac Watershed Roundtable (<http://www.potomacroundtable.org/>) to see if they're planning anything.

Outreach: Liz accepted the role of Outreach Chair.

- NVCT newsletter. Liz will work with the team to put something together.
- Roger/Suzy: Mantua CA presentation ~~Feb. 15~~ Feb 27th at Mantua ES: Danielle Wynne, DPWES will discuss stormwater/watershed health issues and how the community can help.
- Suzy/Liz: Karen Moran, a Winterset resident (Camelot), is interested in attending Feb 15th.
- Suzy: possibility of hosting a rain barrel workshop for watershed. Maybe at Mantua ES.
- What are our current outreach tools (FACC website, mailing list...), and what do we want to improve? Kris, Liz, Philip and Suzy will discuss outreach and follow up with group.
- Work on developing on "Outreach package" - info on how to get involved...
- Ted: Viva Vienna is a potential location for a FACC booth.
- Olivier offered to staff booths at GMU and NVCC.

Committees:

- Kris: Possible committees: Natural Resources, Stormwater, Invasives, Youth Outreach, Faith Group Outreach, Stream Cleanup
- Philip: A joint natural resources committee with FLAP could increase the impact of our efforts and perhaps guide FLAP in desirable directions.

Other discussion:

- Flint: Master Naturalists might become involved in monitoring.
- Liz & Suzy: We need to organize our email alias lists.
- Greg: Draw connections to the Community Wildlife Habitat program, the Master Naturalists and the coming enhanced SOL science standards, which teachers will welcome help with. Further, that Master Naturalists could serve as a cadre of trained personnel.
- Flint: Fairfax ReLeaf (<http://fairfaxreleaf.org>) open house is on Feb 16th and the [NVSWCD seedling sale](#) is ongoing.
- Suzy & Flint: Backup support desirable for the current FACC stream monitoring done by Duane.
- Roger: provided a Sierra Club handout on upcoming Assembly bills. He will be in Richmond this week.

Additional:

- Check out the website for maps of the watershed. www.accotink.org
- Anyone have access to better maps?
- Upcoming screening of GreenFire (Aldo Leopold) by NVCT's on 3/15. See www.nvct.org

Cleanup notes: Philip - Official Potomac Watershed Cleanup is April 14th 2012. Lake Accotink Park does that morning, we do Wakefield Park that afternoon, for three hours.

Our remaining sites cover four Saturdays (probably Mar. 31, & Apr 7, 21, & 28[Earth Day]), three sites per day, two hours per site. This could vary if others materialize to handle some of sites.

Hosting a cleanup site:

- contact person for pre-event questions.
- Signs directing to worksite
- bags, gloves, water, cups, hand sanitizer(optional: shelter tent for rain days)
- sign-in forms
- brief volunteers on scope, safety, collection points, times, targeted items, etc.
- brief volunteers on sources of trash, other watershed issues, solutions
- community service forms
- hand out FACC brochures, collect emails for FACC follow-up
- data collection during event
- rewards (optional)
- post-event reporting
- improved signage?