



## Friends of Accotink Creek Leadership Town Meeting

June 17, 2013

Next Meeting: July 15, 2013 Audrey Moore Rec Center, Clubroom 3  
(Third Monday of each month)

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### **Present:**

Kris Unger  
Philip Latasa  
Flint Webb  
Bill Nell  
Ted Welch  
Abby Sternberg  
Suzy Foster  
Heather Breiner  
Kent Richardson - guest

### **Subjects Discussed –**

#### **Reports:**

##### • Kent Richardson Eagle Project:

Kent Richardson provided a presentation on his completed Eagle Scout project to install two boot brush stations in Lake Accotink Park which visitors may use to clean their feet to avoid spreading seeds of invasive species. His volunteers also cleared Oriental bittersweet vines from a native tree planting area at the Heming Ave. parking area. Kent's 37 volunteers put in 147 man-hours of work. Kent did note the building plans provided by the Park Authority were rather too vague. Ted suggested a plaque on the completed boot brush stations would encourage other volunteers to undertake similar projects. Flint noted the Boy Scouts plan to announce a new Sustainability Merit Badge at their Jamboree in July.

##### • Scout Projects:

Ted noted Eagle Scout projects in progress:

- ✓ Eric Weiler – Will reroute the downhill trail behind the Lake Accotink Park office to reduce erosion potential and eliminate the hazardous slippery steps.
- ✓ William Cormack – Still pondering project options.
- ✓ Michael Torruella – Inspired by Olivier's photos, Michael is tackling the tire dumps at Elklick Reserve. Homeowner issues at the access point have been straightened out, but disposal is a challenge. Flint noted the use of chipped tires as industrial boiler fuel.

Ted will be away much of the summer, but Flint and Bill will cover as scout coordinators.

##### • Grant Proposal –

501c3: Kris has confirmed the IRS received both our check and application. Now we can only wait, and wait.

Lecture series: Suzy noted it has been slow going, but the pace should quicken. Target audiences are civic associations and district councils. Ted is prepared to do a composting presentation. Flint noted the presentation he is making Aug. 20 to the Providence District Council on the Stormwater Ordinance

would be suitable to include. Connections between the lecture series and the Oct. 5 NVCC Watershed Workshop are likely. Abby offered the possibility of doing videos of the presentations. Suzy will request presentation proposals from possible presenters.

Community Initiative: Kris will set up a small group meeting to discuss. Philip noted Liz has video of Wakefield Run that might be useful.

- Wakefield Run Restoration

Golden Shovel: Philip noted Laura Grape of NVSWCD mentioned an imminent announcement of the ceremonial start of construction on July 24<sup>th</sup>, but there has been no announcement yet.

Plant/Fish Rescue: Philip is proceeding with rescues Wednesdays in June & July. Weekend dates may be added if a leader comes forward. Permanent homes for some of the plants are available at Nottoway Park and Wolftrap Park. Wolftrap is also sending summer interns to help with rescue. Suzy will check for interest at her church.

Monitoring Project: Liz is carrying on with before and after restoration biological monitoring and NVSWCD will also supply chemical kits. Ted mentioned the possibility of sediment monitoring, but the depth is insufficient for Secchi disks and probably for Ashiq's device also.

- BMP Monitoring:

No action.

- Citizen Action Plan/Plastic Bag Bills

Philip & Liz met today with Betsy Martin of Friends of Little Hunting Creek and Amy Gould of Fairfax County Restoration Project. Amy is pursuing a line of short humorous anti-litter videos to be widely shared. Betsy proposes a legislative initiative to support plastic bag or other legislation. Betsy is contacting legislators for counsel on effective approaches.

Flint noted that he had heard Delegate Dave Bulova offer the opinion that a bill to adjust the retailers' litter tax upwards for inflation would be more likely to pass, and could be fairly described as a "user fee" instead of the dreaded word "tax".

- Stormwater Ordinance Meetings:

The long-postponed stakeholders' meeting is July 24<sup>th</sup>. Flint noted the update is required by the state, but the county may do a more stringent version.

- Nottoway Park Moose Lodge Project:

Bill may be meeting with the contracting engineer and will share what he learns.

- Northern Virginia Community College Initiatives:

EPA grant to host a watershed workshop: The Watershed workshop will be October 5<sup>th</sup>. There will be six topics, including one reserved for FACC. Suzy is contemplating bringing in the innovative stormwater control designs. Ron Tuttle of DPWES and Jeanette Stewart of Lands & waters are other possibilities. Kris suggested a "Backyards to Watersheds" theme. Flint suggested showing the video of our stream cleanup.

The schedule includes a visit to campus rain gardens, but it's unclear if FACC is supposed to lead this. The large gully in the northeast corner of campus could be incorporated.

Community Engagement Fair Oct/Nov 2013: Karen is checking whether this is taking place this year.

- TMDL:

Virginia needs to start a new Accotink Creek TMDL to replace the one voided by the lawsuit, but we have no information on who may be doing what. Transfers of responsibility between DWQ and DCR add confusion. Philip will draft a letter to inquire about the status. Bill will inquire at the Stormwater Ordinance stakeholders meeting.

Bill noted that new standards for measuring effectiveness of stream restorations in removing contaminants increase the credits localities receive toward clean water goals by as much as 150 times and are an incentive to favor restorations over other remediation..

- I-66 Environmental Impact Statement:

No action

- Vests:

Ted reported excellent results attracting the interest of passersby while wearing his "official" FACC vest while out in the parks.`

- Stream Monitoring:

Ted noted the results of recent Accotink Creek biological monitoring are quite poor and will be discouraging to volunteers. Some other streams in the county do have much better results.

- Lee High School IB Environmental:

Philip mentioned an inquiry from Lee H.S. IB environmental science teacher Rachel Packer student about collaboration with FACC on projects. Philip made several suggestions and expects to hear back later in summer.

**Upcoming events:**

- Friends of Lake Accotink Park Meeting, June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013
- Wakefield Run Plant Rescues, June 19, June 26, July 3, & July 10
- Stormwater Ordinance stakeholders meeting, July 24th
- NVCC Watershed Workshop Oct 5<sup>th</sup>

*Philip Latasa*

**Friends of Accotink Creek**