



Friends of Accotink Creek Leadership Town Meeting

September 17, 2012

Next Meeting: Oct. 15, 2012 Audrey Moore Rec Center, Senior Center Lobby  
(Third Monday of each month)

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**Present:**

Kris Unger  
Philip Latasa  
Bill Nell  
Suzy Foster  
Flint Webb  
Olivier Giron  
Ted Welch  
Heather Breiner  
Steve Chasin

**Subjects Discussed –**

**Follow up on Action Items from previous meeting August 20, 2012:**

· Fairfax County and VDOT lawsuit against EPA Accotink Creel TMDL

Our proposed TMDL lawsuit response letter is ready. Kris will move on sending it out to appropriate recipients.

Flint said he had heard at a Zoning Commission meeting that the county MS-4 permit had either been renewed or extended. Renewal of the MS-4 permit without TMDL conditions is a presumed goal of the lawsuit.

· Wakefield Run

Philip questioned whether the project is going forward without us being kept informed. Suzy has been in touch with Diane Hoffman, but the NVSWCD plans are not clear. Suzy will follow up.

· Duane Murphy's Departure

There was discussion of the adjustments required by the departure from the area of Duane Murphy, long-time FACC leader:

- Stream Monitoring – Several persons have expressed interest in taking over stream monitoring. Philip and Ted are keeping up with the situation. Ted is in possession of all the monitoring equipment.
- Trout Unlimited Liaison – TU is holding funds on behalf of FACC and has paid our web hosting costs, so we should try to maintain good contact. Bill came forward to offer to fill this role. Philip will provide him contact information.
- Webmaster – Someone with good web skill should help share the duties with Clair Garman, the volunteer webmaster for FACC and numerous other groups. Suzy will approach Su Shuman.
- Coordinator@accotink.org – This email alias goes to Duane as contact point, listed on various FACC webpages and publications. There was consensus that Philip should be added to the alias.
- P.O. Box – Duane's personal P.O. box is listed as the FACC mailing address. There was consensus that we do not need a mailing address at this time.

·Promote Friends of Little Hunting Creek Citizen Action Plan

Discussion postponed.

·Watershed Plan

Discussion postponed.

·Lake Accotink Park Projects

Discussion postponed.

**Reports on current projects:**

· International Coastal Cleanup

Philip provided a brief summary of the September 15<sup>th</sup> cleanups. Attendance was not high, but we did have volunteers at each site. This was the initial test of education cards designed to inform volunteers of watershed issues and the first ceremonial "Burning of the Litterbug".

Heather suggested posting the education cards online and/or emailing to volunteers. Philip will follow up.

Olivier has contacted Clean Coastal Waters, a group of art students creating statues from trash and they may be able to bring a sculpture to an Oct 6<sup>th</sup> cleanup.

·Scout Projects

Philip reported that Josh Kirkham completed his Eagle Project, bringing 22 volunteers to Americana Park for invasive species removal.

Ted reported that preparations are going well for Katie Keating's Girl Scout Gold project of repairs to the Woodlark Road information kiosk. Ted also asked for information on any FACC projects that could use attention by scouts for maintenance. Ted will be meeting the outreach coordinator for all scout projects in the region.

Suzy suggested rehabilitation of neglected tree planting sites as scout projects.

· County Stormwater Management Ordinance

The next meeting is Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>. Flint will attend for the Federation of Civic Associations, and Bill will attend on his own.

**New Discussion:**

· Paul Hughes

Kris shared the sad news of the death of Paul Hughes, a core supporter of FACC and founder of the Rebuild Warehouse.

· Westchester Drive

The house construction beginning at 8321 Westchester Drive is in the headwaters of Accotink Creek. The building and driveway are almost entirely within an RPA, but are permitted because the lot was created before the RPA was defined. Bill reviewed the plans obtained by Steve and Flint and noted that they seem to be in accord with existing regulations.

Flint stated that the goal now can only be to improve this project if we can, see that the county process is correctly followed, and fix the procedure if it is flawed. Flint speculated it might be cost-effective for the county to just buy all remaining undeveloped lots in RPA's. Flint, Steve, and Bill will follow up.

There was discussion of the possibility of addressing this type of grandfathering in the revisions of the stormwater ordinance. This is just one house among many other infills in the watershed, including large developments in Merrifield and elsewhere.

#### ·Park Authority Budget Cuts and 2012 bond Issue

Philip mentioned that the county is asking all county agencies for proposals for 5% cutbacks in the next fiscal year and again in the following fiscal year. One proposal being talked about is destaffing the lakefront parks, including Lake Accotink.

#### ·Art of the Accotink

Suzy made the suggestion that we include an art section on the website. Olivier and Philip will follow up.

#### ·Trash Summit

Olivier mentioned that the Alice Ferguson Foundation will be having the Potomac Watershed Trash Summit November 7, looking for creative ways to deal with trash issues. Olivier will be speaking there, as well as at several GMU classes.

#### ·Volunteer Data Base

Ted suggested we should do more follow-up with volunteers and better keep track of them. There was discussion of some form of online spreadsheet all could access and update. Philip will inquire with our webmaster.

#### ·Newsletter

Philip raised the question of whether the monthly distribution of meeting notes could evolve into a newsletter, perhaps jointly with FLAP. There was consensus a newsletter was desirable, but no action was decided upon.

#### ·South County

Suzy and Flint observed our need for more connections with the South County/Mount Vernon communities of the Accotink watershed. Flint will follow up with the Mount Vernon District Council Environment Committee.

Suzy suggested FACC should be represented at the Mount Vernon District Land Use Committee meeting on the Route 1 widening and projects in Accotink village. No action was decided.

#### **Upcoming events:**

- County Stormwater Management Ordinance September 24, October, 17 – Bill, Flint, and Ravi will attend in separate capacities.
- Park Authority Listening Forum, Sept 20
- Stream Monitoring, December 8<sup>th</sup> – All are welcome.

*Philip Latasa*

**Friends of Accotink Creek**