Fairfax County Stormwater Planning Division

ACCOTINK CREEK WATERSHED ADVISORY GROUP MEETING
DECEMBER 3, 2008

Kings Park Library
9000 Burke Lake Road
Burke, VA 22015

I. Welcome and Introductions

[Please note that the presentation from the December 3, 2008 Accotink Creek WAG meeting will be available online at http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/watersheds/accotinkcreek.htm].

Fred Rose, the Chief of the Watershed Planning and Assessment Branch, Fairfax County opened the meeting, welcoming the Watershed Advisory Group (WAG) and members of the public in attendance.[1] Juliana Birkhoff, the facilitator, briefly reviewed the meeting objectives and the meeting agenda.[2] She noted that this was the first of a series of 4-6 meetings of the WAG. She briefly reviewed group expectations.

II. Fairfax County Watershed Planning Process: History, Purpose and Policy Recommendations

Mr. Rose gave the group a brief history of watershed planning in Fairfax County. He also reviewed basic watershed planning terms, such as Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), which is developed for water bodies considered "impaired." Almost the entire main branch of Accotink Creek is under a TMDL for benthics, bacteria, and PCBs. Mr. Rose recounted that the county had been developing watershed plans since the 1970s, when it had created Master Drainage Plans. However, these plans were only designed to be effective until the county was built out, which had been projected to be in 2000. Currently, the county is about 80 percent built out. Mr. Rose noted it was necessary to develop new plans for a variety of reasons, including to take into account the new development, current regulations, and changes in the understanding of watershed management. He reviewed events since the 1970s for watershed monitoring and planning. He explained that the Accotink Creek WMP is part of the second round of watershed plans. The first round of plans was started in 2003 and encompassed 50 percent of the county's land area. He explained that the Board of Supervisors had passed a one-penny real estate tax as evidence of the county's commitment towards watershed protection. This tax provides an average of $20 million a year for the past four years for stormwater programs.

Mr. Rose informed the group that during the first round of watershed plans, the County had collected approximately 300 policy recommendations, which it is working on characterizing. About a third of those deal with education and outreach. Policy recommendations will be dealt

[1] The list of meeting participants is attached to this meeting summary.
[2] The meeting agenda is attached to this meeting summary.

with through a concurrent, but separate, planning process then the second round of watershed plans.

Following the presentation, WAG members asked Mr. Rose and other Fairfax County staff questions. The following points were made:

- Currently, there are no official TMDL plans implementation plans for Accotink Creek. The County and the State had considered using the watershed plans being developed as surrogates but decided against it due to legal requirements for approval.
- There is an implementation plan underway for Four Mile Run to deal with bacteria. However, a study found that the majority of the bacterial problem was caused by geese and other wildlife, making it hard to control.
- There is a strong push from the County Board of Supervisors to get projects implemented. The watershed plan that the WAG will help develop will include projects that will be implemented
- In the last watershed planning round, there are many policy recommendations focused on outreach and education, which do not require as much funding but will lead to water quality improvements.

III. Overview of Watershed Planning Process: Timeline for Accotink Creek Plan

Danielle Wynne, Fairfax County, briefly reviewed the timeline for the watershed planning process for Accotink Creek. She said that after the Draft Accotink Creek Watershed Plan was developed and reviewed by the WAG, it would be presented at a second public forum. She encouraged members to attend the Forum and help reach out to members of the community. She noted that the plans have to be completed by December 2009 to meet the County's 2010 deadline under the Chesapeake Bay Agreement.

IV. Role of Watershed Advisory Group and Participation Guidelines

Dr. Birkhoff then briefly reviewed the Watershed Advisory Group Participation Guidelines that were included in the meeting handouts.[3] She asked WAG members to check in with their constituencies and other organizations outside of the meetings to identify other problem areas, issues, and values not represented on the WAG. She noted that because of the size of the Accotink Creek watershed, the planning process for this watershed might take all six possible meetings to complete. She informed the WAG that their role was advisory only. Because there are competing priorities between different watershed plans in the County, the final plan may not include every thing the WAG recommended.

In response to members' questions, Dr. Birkhoff added that the WAG meetings would be located around the watershed, and that the members will be provided clear guidelines for when meetings are cancelled due to inclement weather.

[3] For a copy of the Participation Guidelines, please contact Debbie Lee at dlee@resolv.org.

V. Review Current Information on Watershed Characteristics

Bill Frost, KCI, reviewed the characteristics of the Accotink Creek watershed, which were used to develop the Watershed Workbook.[4] He noted that Accotink Creek has the second largest watershed in Fairfax County. To study the watershed, it was divided up into Watershed Management Areas, and then further divided into subwatersheds.

He noted that because the County was almost completely built out most improvements would come from retrofitting. After reviewing each watershed characteristic, he also provided some conclusions and basic recommendations on how to deal with specific problems in the watershed, and with the watershed as a whole.

Mr. Frost noted the following problems identified during the Issues Forum:

- Overflowing sewers in the watershed, which are potentially a source of bacteria impairment;
- Construction of the Hot Lanes on the west side of the watershed, and issue that needs to be addressed as soon as possible because of construction impacts; and
- Roads flooding in heavy rain, an issue that will be addressed with hydraulic monitoring.

The WAG members asked questions. They discussed the following points:

- The ranking developed for different subwatersheds was land-based. Land use, water quality modeling results, and imperviousness were taken into account.
- Each individual subwatershed was treated individually. The modeling and ranking were concerned with what was occurring in that parcel of land, rather than how that parcel of land affected other areas.
- The County and Fort Belvoir are working closely together to ensure each knows about land use changes and developments.
- Flooding has not been incorporated into the model yet. Mr. Frost invited WAG members to provide specific information on flooding (e.g., date, storm, quantity) to help with the model.
- Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) systems should be taken into account in the models. Runoff calculations and measures of imperviousness were based on mapping of roads, buildings and parking lots. Water quality calculations incorporate land use and imperviousness.
- County by-right regulations could conflict or negate state stormwater regulations that require Conservation Design. Fairfax County was trying to address that by creating incentive programs for developers, but it will take awhile.
- Traffic engineers should be encouraged to build paths, roads, and parkways that minimize impervious surfaces.
- Silt from erosion upstream can cause buildup downstream. Silt has to be controlled through stormwater management or filters. Erosion can sometimes be dealt with by spot restoration. The goal is to try to balance flow and sediment in the stream to prevent erosion and silt buildup.

[4] The Watershed Workbook is available online at http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/watersheds/accotinkcreek.htm.

VI. Identify and Discuss Other Watershed Problems

Throughout the meeting, WAG members identified problems and issues in the Accotink Creek watershed. These include:

- Springfield Mall is planning to redevelop. As the Mall is hoping to get zoning permits by January or February, this is an issue that cannot wait for the Watershed Plan to be completed.
- Part of the bacterial problem in the watershed could be addressed by exposing (day lighting) parts of the stream currently in storm drains.
- There is a light industrial area on Port Royal Road that has auto repair operations that could affect the water quality. The Shenandoah Dairy located there has had spills, which go into the waterway.
- VDOT should participate in the watershed planning process. Several WAG members offered to provide names of possible VDOT contacts.
- Street trees have a role in slowing storm water.
- Replanting riparian buffers will not necessarily control stormwater because of the storm drain system.
- The new bridge on Old King Mill Road has sediment problems, even before construction began on the bridge.
- Any stormwater management should also include measures to address water temperature. Shading is one of the possible ways to cool off runoff. Green roofs may be another.
- There has to be means to connect to and engage the general public.

VII. Watershed Planning Next Steps

The next WAG meeting will probably be around February. The Public Involvement Team and the Fairfax County staff will contact members to schedule this meeting. In the meantime, Dr. Birkhoff requested that members continue to provide the Team with information on specific problems and issues in the watershed.

The Accotink Creek watershed is severely degraded, mostly due to urbanization. A planning process initiated by Fairfax County is underway to improve the quality of the waterways and their watersheds. The Watershed Advisory Group (WAG) provides input to Fairfax County. The WAG members serve as liaisons between their respective communities and the project team. KCI INC serves as the technical team lead, prepares watershed plan drafts and engineering studies, and facilitates WAG and public meetings for the county. For more information, please contact <Danielle.Wynne@fairfaxcounty.gov> or visit *http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/watersheds/*

"The opinions represented herein do not necessarily represent those of Fairfax County or its agents."

Healthy Watersheds, Healthier Communities

Fairfax County Stormwater Planning Division

Accotink Creek Watershed Plan
Watershed Advisory Group (WAG) Meeting #1
December 3, 2008
Kings Park Library
9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke, VA
http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/kp/

Agenda

Purpose: Set the stage and begin involving the WAG in the watershed planning process for Accotink Creek, including having the WAG:

- Become aware of the big picture of the watershed planning process;
- Understand their role in the process;
- Develop a common understanding of the current watershed characteristics;
- Identify and discuss problems in the Accotink Creek watershed.

6:30 pm	***Check-in and Light Refreshments***	
7:00-7:10	**Welcome and Introductions** Welcome from Fred Rose ▪ Participant and team introductions ▪ Review meeting purpose ▪ Review agenda ▪ Review group expectations and participation	*Fred Rose, Fairfax County* *Juliana Birkhoff, CBI*
7:10-7:20	**Fairfax County Watershed Planning Process: History, Purpose and Policy Recommendations** *Presentation*	*Fred Rose, Fairfax County*
7:20-7:30	**Overview of Watershed Planning Process: Timeline for Accotink Creek Plan** *Presentation*	*Danielle Wynne, Fairfax County*
7:30-7:45	**Role of Watershed Advisory Group and Participation Guidelines** *Presentation and Facilitated Discussion* ▪ Watershed Advisory Group List ▪ Watershed Advisory Group Participation Guidelines ▪ Timeline and potential topics for WAG meetings	*Juliana Birkhoff, CBI*
7:45-8:30	**Review Current Information on Watershed Characteristics** *Presentation and Facilitated Discussion* ▪ What do we know about Accotink Creek Watershed ▪ What problems have been identified (by prior studies, at forum) ▪ What are the different approaches to preserving and restoring watersheds?	*Bill Frost, KCI Technologies*
8:30-8:55	**Identify and Discuss Other Watershed Problems** *Facilitated Discussion*	*Bill Frost and Juliana Birkhoff* *Watershed Advisory Group*
8:55-9:00	**Watershed Planning Next Steps** ▪ KCI to complete review of any new issues raised at meeting ▪ Next meeting in February/March	*Juliana Birkhoff, CBI*
9:00	**Adjourn**	

http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/watersheds/accotinkcreek.htm

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ACCOTINK CREEK WATERSHED PLAN
WATERSHED ADVISORY GROUP MEETING
DECEMBER 3, 2008

Meeting Participants

Jim Dewing*
Patty Dietz*
Tom Foley
Johna Gagnon*
Susan Jewell*
Chris Landgraf*
Jim McGlone*
Julie Melear*
Peter Millard*
Paul Makowski*
Duane Murphy*
Don Waye*
Steven Woodbury, AICP

Fairfax County Government Staff:
Fred Rose
Russ Smith
Danielle Wynne

KCI Staff:
Bill Frost
Roger Windschitl

Public Involvement Team:
Juliana Birkhoff, Consensus Building Institute
Jennifer Hicks, Positive Force Consulting
Debbie Lee, RESOLVE

***WAG Member**