

Fairfax County Stormwater Planning Division
ACCOTINK CREEK WATERSHED ADVISORY GROUP MEETING
SEPTEMBER 13, 2010

Fairfax High School – Classroom J136
3501 Rebel Run | Fairfax, VA 22030

I. Welcome and Introductions

[The presentation from the September 13, 2010 Accotink Creek WAG meeting will be online at http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/watersheds/accotinkcreek_docs.htm].

Juliana Birkhoff, RESOLVE, opened the fifth meeting of the Accotink Creek Watershed Advisory Group (WAG). She welcomed WAG members and the members of the public and reviewed the meeting agenda and group expectations.¹

II. Watershed Planning Update

Fred Rose, the Chief of the Watershed Planning and Assessment Branch of the Fairfax County Government, thanked everyone for attending the meeting and helping the county develop the draft watershed management plan. He encouraged WAG members to stay involved as the County finishes the draft watershed management plan and begins to implement projects. Mr. Rose explained that the overall watershed planning process is almost finished. The county will send the final plan to the Board of Supervisors by the end of the year or early in 2011. Mr. Rose said the County would use a new tool to prioritize and select projects County-wide as they implement the 13 watershed plans. This tool will help the County to identify the most effective projects to use resources efficiently, meet budget needs, meet regulatory requirements, and achieve watershed objectives.

Mr. Rose emphasized that the County is adopting an adaptive management approach to track progress against TMDL regulatory requirements. Individual projects will contribute to meeting TMDL pollutant reduction targets for the Chesapeake Bay and other impaired waters.

III. Overview of the Draft Watershed Management Plan

Bill Frost, KCI Technologies, Inc. summarized the organizational structure and components of the draft watershed management plan.² He reviewed the following components of the draft plan:

i. Executive Summary

1. Introduction to the Watershed

The introduction includes background information for the Accotink Creek watershed and current plans for watershed management.

2. Watershed Planning Process

¹ Meeting participant list - attached to this meeting summary. A copy of the meeting agenda is available at http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/watersheds/accotinkcreek_docs.htm

² The complete draft watershed management plan and appendices are available on the County website. Information for submitting comments is also available at http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/watersheds/accotinkcreek_docs.htm

Mr. Frost informed WAG members that this section introduces watersheds and watershed planning. This section also includes County goals and objectives, along with the indicators used for scoring, the sub watershed ranking procedure, and the watershed modeling procedure. WAG members can also find information regarding the public involvement plan in this section.

3. Summary of Watershed Conditions

This section includes a summary of the watershed workbook, which provided an overall assessment of watershed characteristics. The workbook included analysis of land use, existing treatment, data from the County's physical stream assessment, upland reconnaissance of pollutant sources, and watershed modeling to identify and rank issues and problems throughout the watershed.

4. Summary of Watershed Restoration Strategies

This section summarizes watershed management strategies in relation to County goals and objectives. Mr. Frost informed WAG members that the descriptions of each project type (both structural and non-structural) are in this section. This section also includes a master list of proposed projects and the project selection and ranking process.

5. WMA Restoration Strategies

Mr. Frost informed WAG members that this section includes project lists by Watershed Management Area (WMA.) He informed WAG members that they could find individual project descriptions for structural and non-structural projects in both the 10-year and 11-25-year lists in this section. This section also includes a map of project locations by WMA. Project fact sheets for the 10-year projects are also available at the end of this section.

Mr. Frost reviewed a project fact sheet with WAG members. Each fact sheet includes the project's location, land owner(s), costs, control type, drainage area, and receiving waters. The fact sheets also include a description of the project, its benefits, design considerations, a detailed project area map, and an aerial photo of the project area. Project designs are limited to concept level considerations, and do not include specific design details.

6. Benefits of Plan Implementation

This section includes results of project modeling including existing conditions, future conditions without projects, and future conditions with projects by WMA and watershed. The section also describes the overall cost estimate for implementing the plan.

Appendices

Mr. Frost reviewed the appendices. The appendices include; A: *Watershed Workbook* with information and modeling results from the beginning of the planning process, B: *Technical Documents* describing sub watershed strategies, priorities for potential projects, and the model data collection, and C: *Public Involvement* records and summaries.

IV. Process Recap

Mr. Frost reviewed the project selection process. KCI started with over 500 potential project sites. Project staff conducted field reconnaissance to assess feasibility and constraints to select projects for the watershed management plan. KCI consolidated individual projects with a cost under \$80,000 into grouped projects. He reviewed the project evaluation process, which included WAG input on potential project sites. Mr. Frost also reviewed the project prioritization process. He indicated that the draft plan includes 120 projects for 10-year implementation, 97 projects for 11-25 year implementation, and 28 non-structural project opportunities.

V. General Discussion and Project Comments: Breakout Groups

General Discussion

WAG members asked questions and discussed general aspects of the draft watershed management plan. Staff participated in the discussion highlighting several key points:

- Project staff have not consulted private property owners at the concept level. KCI identified the best locations for projects regardless of property ownership. As the County selects and funds projects, staff will consult landowners as a customary part of the design process.
 - The County mailed over 9000 postcards to landowners of properties with proposed projects, and landowners of adjacent parcels, informing them of the potential projects near their properties and the opportunities for public comment on the draft plan.
- County staff exhibited interest in increasing inter-agency communication to help agencies identify and act on opportunities for projects during construction and development. For example, a VDOT representative expressed interest in identifying project opportunities during the funding phase of VDOT project planning. He indicated that once the funding phase has passed, it is difficult for VDOT to add in additional project aspects.
- The County's public comment system sends automated notifications when the website has received comments. County staff will contact members of the public for clarification if necessary.
- Although KCI identified specific locations for non-structural projects in the draft watershed management plan, going forward, the County will group non-structural projects into County-wide programs. Many WAG members exhibited interest in collaborating with the County on a demonstration project. County staff informed WAG members that these locations might be good for this purpose. The County is excited about opportunities for community participation during plan implementation. Please contact Danielle Wynne with suggested partnerships and project opportunities (Danielle.Wynne@fairfaxcounty.gov.)
- Several members of the public identified a sediment control problem at Lake Accotink. County staff agreed to pass on this concern to the appropriate project manager.
- The County will integrate project and watershed data with their enterprise GIS database. This database will assist other County departments such as Planning and Zoning in identifying project opportunities related to proposed developments under review.
- A WAG member commented on the potential for spreading invasive species during construction. As part of the design process, the County will consider native species and best practices to prevent invasive species spreading as they develop more detailed project plans.

Project Comments: Breakout Groups

The group divided into breakout groups to inspect maps of the watershed with potential projects.

Comments Included:

- AC9225 – This project has significant tree removal. One WAG member suggested limiting tree removal as much as possible during all project construction.
- WAG members liked maps that include road listings and buildings on the 10-year project fact sheets.
- County staff encouraged WAG members to submit corrections for any address errors found in the project fact sheets.

- Projects coded in red on the map are 10-year projects, and have project fact sheets. Projects coded in black are 11-25-year projects and do not have fact sheets at this time. Section 5 of the Draft Plan summarizes the 11-25-year projects.
- A VDOT representative pointed out a lack of culvert-retrofits in the lower portion of the watershed. He shared that culvert retrofits are easy partnership projects for VDOT.

VI. Next Steps and Draft Plan Forum

Danielle Wynne, Fairfax County, reviewed the next steps for finalizing and implementing the draft watershed management plan. The County will accept comments on the draft watershed management plan during a 30-day public comment period. The comment period will begin at the Public Forum on September 21, and last until October 21. WAG members should contact Juliana Birkhoff (jbirkhoff@resolv.org) if they would like any assistance in reaching out to their communities to attend the public forum. If WAG members have additional feedback they should note the project ID number (if applicable) and send comments to Jason Gershowitz (jgershowitz@resolv.org) or County staff (watersheds@fairfaxcounty.gov.)

KCI will review comments and feedback from an interagency review and revise the draft watershed management plan.

Public opportunities for submitting comments include:

- at the Public Forum on September 21 at Fairfax High School
- via the County's [Accotink Creek](#) website
- via mail to the Stormwater Planning Division at 12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 449 Fairfax VA 22035
- via email to watersheds@fairfaxcounty.gov
- Or by Fax 703-802-5955 or Phone 703-324-5500, TTY 711.

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>](mailto: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.”

Fairfax County Stormwater Planning Division

ACCOTINK CREEK WATERSHED ADVISORY GROUP MEETING

JULY 21, 2010

Meeting Participants+

Patty Dietz*
Robert Iosco*
Susan Jewell*
Chris Landgraf*
Philip Latasa*
Jonathon Saums
Michael Sollosi
Kris Unger

Fairfax County Staff

Fred Rose
Russ Smith
Danielle Wynne

Engineering Team

Bill Frost, KCI Technologies, Inc.
Greg Hoffman, Center for Watershed Protection

Public Involvement Team

Juliana Birkhoff, RESOLVE
Jason Gershowitz, RESOLVE

***WAG member**

+ If you attended the meeting and are not listed as attending, please inform Jason Gershowitz (jgershowitz@resolv.org) and he will add you to the list.