

## **Little Rocky Run – Johnny Moore Creek Presentation Summary Introductory and Issues Scoping Forum 10/1/08**

Participants were welcomed by Fairfax County Stormwater Planning Division Staff, Supervisor Michael Frey (Sully District) and Supervisor Pat Herrity (Springfield)

A watershed primer was presented that described the characteristics of a watershed and the watershed planning units in Fairfax County. The watershed planning units were defined:

- A Watershed Management Area or WMA is a portion of a watershed with similar land use and development characteristics for evaluation and management. For this study, they are generally 3-5 square miles in area.
- A subwatershed is an even smaller area used for more detailed evaluation in the planning process. They vary in size for this study between 100 and 300 acres in area.

The watershed planning process was also described:

- Evaluate data to determine the state of the watersheds
- Identify issues that the plan will address
- Establish a vision for the watershed goals that will improve, enhance and protect the watershed
- To achieve these goals, develop specific actions
- Create a framework and timeframe for implementation.

Over the past year, previous studies have been reviewed and known data about the watershed has been compiled. The watersheds have been characterized and the information presented in a draft Watershed Workbook. After this Introductory and Issues Scoping Forum, subwatershed strategies will be developed and a draft Watershed Plan prepared. This draft plan will be presented in another public form. After feedback from the community, the final plan will be prepared and presented to the Board of Supervisors for adoption.

The plan will recommend various methods to address common watershed issues. These recommendations may include:

- retrofitting existing stormwater management ponds
- creating new Best Management Practices (BMPs)
- implementing Low Impact Development (LID) techniques
- revegetate stream buffers
- stabilize and restore streams
- implementing changes to policies and regulations.

The benefits of creating watershed plans were presented:

- to help restore and preserve the vital natural resources which form the basis of people's lives
- watershed impact our drinking water, our health and the health of the environment
- the watershed plans will help the County and its residents make informed decisions to help ensure a better future in regards to our watersheds and quality of life

A summary of the Watershed Workbook was also presented.

Chapter 1 of the workbook provides a summary of previous studies related to the watersheds. Studies and reports are presented by topic: reports that provide data, reports that discuss policy changes and those that recommend proposed projects and improvements.

Chapter 2 of the workbook provides the subwatershed characterization. The chapter is organized by the three WMAs in the watersheds: Johnny Moore Creek, Little Rocky Run – Lower and Little Rocky Run – Upper.

Examples of the maps that are included in Chapter 2 were presented:

### **Existing and Future Conditions Land Use**

Highlighted the importance of the Resource Conservation (RC) District in these watersheds – this area was rezoned by the Board of Supervisors in 1982 to protect the Occoquan Reservoir. In this district, development is limited to one dwelling unit per 5 acres. All of Johnny Moore Creek and the southern portion of Little Rocky Run are located in this district.

### **Stormwater Infrastructure**

This map shows the location of stormwater management facilities, parcels that are controlled by some type of stormwater management, stormwater complaints and the storm sewer system.

### **Stream Condition**

This map is based on data from the County's Stream Physical Assessment performed in 2005. Impact areas such as obstructions, erosion, dumps, headcuts and crossings are shown on the map. The map also identifies stream reaches that are actively evolving and unstable based on the Channel Evolution Model (CEM). Habitat assessment scores are also reflected on the stream reaches to reflect if the habitat assessment was ranked as very poor, poor, fair, good or excellent.

### **Preliminary Modeling Results**

Maps reflecting the results from preliminary modeling of pollutant loads, stream discharges, and floodplains were presented.

Pictures of problem areas found during the field reconnaissance were presented.

A summary of the methodology used in the subwatershed ranking was presented based on the County's watershed planning goals and planning objectives (hydrology, habitat, stream water quality, drinking water quality and stewardship). Examples of objective ranking maps as well as source composite and overall composite ranking maps were presented.

The use of this data in the watershed planning process was discussed. The rankings and maps are one tool to be used in the planning process and will provide a framework for identification of problem areas and to evaluate the effectiveness of proposed projects and policy changes. The County will also be able to use the ranking County-wide in order to prioritize projects.

Methods for public participation were presented:

- attend the public forum
- email comments to [watersheds@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:watersheds@fairfaxcounty.gov)
- phone the County at 703-324-5500 TTY 711
- use the virtual forum on the web:  
[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/watersheds/johnnymoorecreek.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/watersheds/johnnymoorecreek.htm)

Following the workshop, a watershed advisory group (WAG) of 12 to 20 members will be formed. The WAG will include representative watershed interests, review plan ideas and projects and serve as a liaison to the community. If interested in serving on the WAG, contact [karenfirehock@virginia.edu](mailto:karenfirehock@virginia.edu).

An open house where the participants were asked to provide comments at three WMA stations was held.