

# Healthy Watersheds, Healthier Communities

Fairfax County Stormwater Planning Division

**Meeting Summary for Johnny Moore Creek and Little Rocky Run  
Watershed Advisory Group Meeting  
Little Rocky Run HOA Recreation Center #3,  
May 18, 2009**

**Purpose:**

The purpose of the meeting was to review the proposed project locations and restoration strategies for the two watersheds and to provide feedback to inform project prioritization. Watershed Advisory Group (WAG) members were asked to consider if the project location is appropriate, if there are alternate locations, whether or not there are any conflicts that would prohibit certain projects and whether any projects are missing that should be added.

**Project Schedule Overview:**

Karen Firehock provided an overview of the schedule. The next meeting (WAG #4) was proposed for June 15 to review prioritized and ranked projects. Three WAG members noted that they will be out of town, so this date may need to be moved. Following the fourth WAG meeting, projects will be incorporated into the watershed plan and reviewed by the WAG at their fifth meeting (proposed for August). Once the plan has been reviewed by the WAG, any required changes will be made and the plan will be presented to the public at a final draft plan workshop for fall (possibly in September). The public's comments will inform development of the final draft plan which will be presented to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) in winter 2009 for adoption. Following adoption by the BOS, implementation will begin.

**Process to develop the project list and strategies (presentation is on project website):**

Lynne Mowery provided an overview of how the projects were selected. She reminded the WAG that the projects are intended to meet the established goals for the watershed plan. She explained that the subwatershed rankings were used to determine candidate projects from the "project universe". She noted that a project could be ranked as a high priority because the stream is impaired, but an area that is in good condition may need projects to ensure that its relative high quality is maintained. Ms. Mowery provided examples of projects done for the other county watershed plans (also provided as a handout).

One participant asked what percentage of spillways tend to fail. They noted that their HOA had to spend money to reconstruct their spillway. Darold Burdick responded that the technologies have improved, so hopefully there will be less failure in the future. He also noted that all systems require repair and replacement at some point. Another participant asked about who maintains ponds. County staff explained that dry ponds are maintained by the county and wet ponds are maintained by the HOAs generally.

Another participant asked why ponds that are recently constructed to county standards, or are still covered by their performance bond, had been added to the list. The participant questioned why these relatively new ponds, built to modern standards, would now need to be retrofitted. The project engineers responded that they did not have information for their field work on the age and bonding status of the ponds they visited. The team was simply looking for opportunities where existing structures could be improved. It was explained that a pond could be built to standards for controlling stormwater volume and velocities, but that it could still be possible to add water quality improvements.



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Also, a pond may have been built to meet the runoff only for a particular development, but if there is a stormwater problem off site that could be met by expanding or altering an existing pond, then the engineering team would recommend the pond be modified. The team emphasized that existing structures or already disturbed areas are utilized whenever possible to maximize efficiencies, instead of constructing new best management practices. The engineers concluded that they still need to prioritize projects and that project types have not been finalized. This project list is a first pass and will be modified based on feedback received at this meeting.

Another question related to how Little Rocky Run – Johnny Moore Creek projects will be prioritized when they must compete for funds county-wide. Staff explained that all projects are ranked using the same objective system so a project with a high priority score for LRR or JMC would be ranked equally against a high scoring project in another watershed. Staff reminded everyone that projects will be implemented over a 25 year period based on their ranking and logical order for getting work done. Therefore, there is some flexibility in how and when projects are designed and implemented on the ground. It was noted also that projects would be completed both to protect existing good water quality as well as to restore impaired creeks. Fred Rose explained that the final countywide list of projects would not be a list of the worst water quality problems, but rather a mix of projects, so that good creeks do not decline while extreme problems are addressed. The ranking system will also factor in the expected benefits of a project such as, how much pollution can be removed or reduced and at what cost?

#### **Projects' Review:**

The group broke up to review the three watershed areas and the comments were noted on flip charts (listed below). Participants also were asked to email any other questions or feedback within a week so that the team could plan their field visits for the following week. At the fourth WAG meeting, project rankings will be provided and the final proposed refined list of project will be reviewed once more.

Project #s refer to project # on maps found on the watershed web site at:

[http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/watersheds/johnnymoorecreek\\_docs.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/watersheds/johnnymoorecreek_docs.htm)

#### **Notes from Flip Charts: LRR and JMC**

#21: Significant erosion issues are occurring along power line easement just north of this location. Considering the facility at proposed project #21 is known to have sedimentation issues (it has been dredged twice recently and was recently retrofitted), this area needs to be visited. The area mentioned is thought to drain directly into Little Rocky Run.

LR-LR-0010:

#25: The site limits options here and the community does not want a pond here. Note that the regional pond (R-5), currently inactive, was proposed at one time for this location. The site needs to be visited to determine whether or not a group of smaller, decentralized projects can attain the same or similar benefits as the proposed regional facility. It may also be determined that there is no longer a need for treatment at this location. The HOA representative expressed concern over the possibility of a new pond for a number of reasons and suggested that any future proposed pond was likely to be opposed by residents. Alternatives to the pond will be explored.

# 40: Look at runoff problems from land to the west caused by grading done by the landowner, that is now causing road flooding and ice conditions (ask the North Hart Run HOA for details on the location).



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LR-LR-0015:

Where applicable, Little Rocky Run HOA requested consideration of retrofitting the parking areas of some townhouses with porous paving/detention systems (similar to Providence Rain Garden system).

LR-LR-0004

#43 Downstream stream restoration is needed (Located on map just under #”4” in 43). There are concerns over what type of project was being contemplated. A relatively small number of parcels (~30) are draining into the main stem of the Little Rocky without being treated. The options to be explored include treating the runoff at the outfall in the back of the neighborhood, but there are access issues and other site limitations at this location. Another option is to incorporate small stormwater management facilities in the neighborhood - tree-box filters, raingardens, infiltration trenches etc. A site visit will need to occur before a final strategy is developed. There are several similar locations throughout Lower Little Rocky where groups of parcels are untreated and will be addressed in a similar manner.

LR-LR-008:

#s 47, 49 and 50. This is a nice wooded area and would benefit from stream habitat and other improvements.

In LR-LR 0011:

#s 51, 52, 53, 54, 58: All are on a degraded creek, so they will be a high priority.

# 55: Union Mill Elementary has educational opportunities, so this would be a priority.

#60: Townhouse area – porous pavers for area (see note for project #15)

Ques. Re # 67: Is that property publicly owned?

LR-LR-0016

#82, 83: Union Mills neighborhood, there are concrete channels and no water quality treatment so this is a high priority.

#83, 84: Union Mills HOA is supportive of retrofit opportunities. The facilities are older. Trickle ditches need to be removed. Mike has witnessed visible pollution (oil, cleaning agents, etc.) ponding occurs in the facilities and is washed right into the stream. Filtering needs to be improved.

#86: New bridge on Lee Highway - -keep watch on design process since environmental issues (e.g. VDOT has been apprised of the Swamp Mallows there).

#87: Trash problem here – Health Department required cleanup and the “Friends of LRR” have cleaned it again.

#93: Note the culvert was replaced here.

#102: Monitoring information is needed.

#111: It is difficult to provide a forested buffer here since houses are already too close to stream (within 20 feet, so little room for a project).



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#118: Site has old swimming pools filled with soil and buried. Should they be removed? Is this property abandoned?

LR-LR 0015:

Question regarding # 134: Are there habitat issues there that can be addressed by enlarging the pond? The pond is in good shape now, so just need to clarify what will be achieved if the pond is enlarged or improved.

**Non-numbered Comments:**

In LR-LR-0007. Green Trails Homeowner's association has potential project location to be evaluated. A multi-use court which is slated to be revamped may provide an opportunity to address watershed objectives and will be investigated. If that's the case, they are open to working with the County to find a layout that benefits the community as well as the watershed. HOA has a proposal for a green roof to be constructed on top of a pavilion to replace the tennis courts (see handout provided by Jay at the meeting). There are opportunities for more low impact development approaches around that site if needed.

Little Rocky Run HOA area: Positive feedback received for potential locations in Little Rocky Run HOA. The HOA is willing to work with the county for projects within the HOA, which is most of Lower Little Rocky Run.

Compton Heights HOA mentioned that there were some locations that were missed that had potential. Need more information from the HOA.

***There are no comments for Johnny Moore Creek since those representatives did not attend meeting.***

**Next Steps:**

- 1) Comments are requested from the committee by May 22 by email
- 2) The next meeting was proposed for June 15 to review a ranked list of projects, but this may need to be changed because three committee members were not able to make this date.

**The Little Rocky Run and Johnny Moore Creek Watersheds Management Plan:**

The Little Rocky Run and Johnny Moore Creek Watersheds have experienced environmental degradation, 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. AMEC Inc. serves as the technical team lead and prepares watershed plan drafts and engineering studies and facilitates WAG and public meetings for the county. For more information please contact <[Eric.Forbes@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Eric.Forbes@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.”



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**To Contact Staff:**

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Lynne Mowery, Project Manager, AMEC, [lynne.mowery@amec.com](mailto:lynne.mowery@amec.com), (703)488-3773

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**Fairfax County Watershed Website:** <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/watersheds/>  
 Use this site for meeting dates, workshops and to read meeting summaries and reports.

**Watershed Plans Comment Email Address:** [watersheds@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:watersheds@fairfaxcounty.gov)

Little Rocky Run and Johnny Moore Creek Watershed Advisory Committee					
May 18, 2009 Meeting					
LRR	JMC	Attended	Group	Name	Title
x		no	Westfields Golf Club	Tom Farris	Manager
x		yes	Friends of Little Rocky Run	Ned Foster	President
x	x	no	Occoquan Watershed Coalition	Jim Bonhivert	President
x	x	no	Springfield Supervisor Pat Herrity	Marlae Schnare	Staff
x		yes	Sully Supervisor Michael L. Frey	Meghan Kiefer	Staff
x	x	no	Clifton Horse Society	Jean Voss	President
x		yes	Little Rocky Run HOA	Jeff Hummel	President
x		no	Compton Village HOA	Joseph F. Cottone	President
x		yes	Green Trails HOA	Jay Hurst	President
x		yes	North Hart Run HOA	Sara Dyer	
	x	no	Cedar Knolls of Clifton HOA	Laurie Anderson	HOA rep
	x	alternate	Union Mills HOA	Gene Griffe	President
x		yes	Compton Heights HOA	William Ballou	Vice President

**Staff and Guests Attending**

Alternate  
 Alternate

Fairfax County Stormwater Management	Fred Rose	Engineer
Fairfax County Stormwater Management	Darold Burdick	Engineer
Fairfax County Stormwater Management	Eric Forbes	County Project Manager
AMEC Inc.	Lynne Mowery	Project Manager
AMEC Inc.	Hrushikesh Sandhe	Engineer
AMEC Inc.	Matt Breen	Engineer
AMEC Inc.	Karen Firehock	Public Involvement
Green Trails HOA	Kevin Morely	
Union Mills HOA	Mike Shipley	



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