Meeting Summary for Johnny Moore Creek and Little Rocky Run
Watershed Advisory Group Meeting #5
Little Rocky Run HOA Recreation Center #3,
June 29, 2010

Purpose:

The purpose of the meeting was to review the format of the draft watershed plan, to explain how the projects are proposed to be considered and possibly implemented and to thank the committee for their dedication over several years. Watershed Advisory Group (WAG) members were asked to review projects proposed for the watersheds and to provide any further comments by July 15, 2010 in order to include them in the version to be presented at the fall draft plan public forum.

Thanks for Service:

Karen Firehock opened the meeting by thanking the committee for the dedication, insights and ideas and for their patience in seeing the plan through to its completion. She then turned the meeting over to Fred Rose of Fairfax County's Stormwater Planning Division, who thanked the committee for their work and commitment. He reminded everyone that this is not the end but the beginning. After the board adopts the plan, the real work begins to implement the projects designed to improve the watershed's health and to prevent the surface waters from declining in the future. He congratulated the group for making it to the final phase and reminded everyone that this project is part of a larger effort to restore and better manage all of the county's watersheds to help contribute to a cleaner Chesapeake Bay.

Presentation of the Watershed Plan:*

Lynne Mowery presented the draft watershed plan's organizational structure and key components. She noted that while the plan is extensive, the WAG has already reviewed and commented on most of the chapters, which were shared in earlier meetings. Therefore, if WAG members are short on time they do not have to re-read the entire plan. She suggested that WAG members should focus their review on chapter five as it contains the project fact sheets. She explained that every project that was selected for early implementation (within the first 10 year time period) has a detailed fact sheet. Projects were first prioritized based on their benefits for water quality. A subset of those projects were chosen based on this analysis. This was followed by a cost benefit analysis, resulting in the list proposed in the draft watershed plan.

Next, Eric Forbes provided an overview of the process to date and a reminder of the major project milestones. He described the process for moving from assessment of the watersheds' conditions to development of projects and ranking of projects to ensure the most effective solutions were included in the final plan. He noted that 150 projects were originally proposed and these were pared down to a candidate list of the best potential projects. Field reconnaissance was conducted to evaluate the projects and this helped the team to pare down the larger list of projects. Additional field visits and further modeling were then conducted to arrive at the final list. The cost benefit analysis helped the team to determine which projects to propose for the first 10 year block of time. He explained that those projects not included in the first ten years were still part of the plan, but they could be changed as the county determines the effectiveness of the first half of the watershed plan's implementation, as

conditions change in the watershed, or as new technologies or ideas are proposed for addressing the watershed's issues. He also noted that regulations can and will change over time, and new regulations may require changes to how the plan is implemented.

Mr. Forbes described the process for moving the plan to adoption. In addition to review by the WAG, there is also a review by county agencies such as the Park Authority and the Department of Planning and Zoning to ensure that the projects are agreed upon and that there are no conflicts with other agency's plans. There also will be additional internal review and edits by the county that will be made prior to presenting the plan to the Board of Supervisors for review and adoption.

Ms. Firehock concluded the presentation by reviewing the options for commenting on the plan. She asked the committee to please provide their comments on the plan by July 15 so that there would be adequate time to incorporate any needed changes into the plan prior to the public forum. She noted that the committee also can comment during the public review process in the fall, but the team would like to ensure that the committee's concerns or corrections are included in the draft that is shared with the public. The public comment period will be open for 30 days.

Ms. Firehock noted that the public forum was rescheduled for September to avoid conflicts with vacation schedules and to increase the likelihood that the public could attend. However, the forum's date for September cannot yet be nailed down because both the high school and middle school are still revising their fall calendars so they are not yet able to confirm a date. It is hoped that they will be able to confirm the date within the next few weeks.

Ms. Firehock explained that every committee member will be asked to help recruit participation from their HOAs and other interested civic groups. Once the date is set, members will receive a flyer to distribute and to post at places where the community will see them, such as community centers, the library, grocery stores or other places visible to the public. Eric Forbes also noted that everyone whose property includes or adjoins a potential project will receive a post card inviting them to the draft plan forum. Ms. Firehock added that this mailing would not include everyone in the watershed, so it still is very important that the WAG promote the event to their constituents.

A committee member asked how the new emphasis on cleaning up the Chesapeake Bay though new mandatory regulations could affect the committee process. County staff responded that since the county has already begun improving their watershed analysis, management and restoration projects voluntarily, the county should be in a good position once new regulations are enacted. Staff noted that Fairfax County was setting an example for what should be done and that the county may become a model for other localities that need to improve watershed management. Regardless of what standards are set, the county has done a great deal of analysis through the watershed planning and implementation process so the county will be able to plug their watershed projects into a model and show how they are helping to meet Chesapeake Bay goals for nutrient reduction. County staff offered the caveat that no one knows for sure what the new regulations will require, or whether they will require more work by the county. County staff also noted that they have been very well aware that new regulations were likely and the current watershed plans have sought to anticipate these changes, so regardless of what happens within the new regulatory framework, the county will be in a good position to participate fully in the bay cleanup.

Participants then reviewed maps displayed and project fact sheets and asked questions of the team. Participants were again thanked for their service and rewarded with refreshments. Staff reminded them to send any additional comments by July 15 and thanked them again for their participation.

*A copy of the watershed plan presentation is appended to this meeting summary, so only a few discussion highlights were included herein.

Next Steps:

1) Comments on project fact sheets or the watershed plan requested from the committee by July 15, 2010.
2) AMEC will incorporate comments into the draft watershed plan.
3) Public forum scheduled for September and flyers mailed to WAG to help recruit participants.

Meeting Attachments:

- Watershed Management Plan Presentation
- Watershed Plan (posted to project website)

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> or visit *http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/watersheds/*

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

To Contact Staff:

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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*

Meeting attendees are listed on the following page.

Little Rocky Run and Johnny Moore Creek Committee Meeting 6/29/2010					
LRR	**JMC**	**Attended**	**Group**	**Name**	**Title**
x		yes	Friends of Little Rocky Run	Ned Foster	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	Beth Giorgiani	President
x		yes	Little Rocky Run HOA	Jeff Hummel	President
x		no	Compton Village HOA	Joseph F. Cottone	President
x		no	Green Trails HOA	Jay Hurst	HOA Representative
x		yes	North Hart Run HOA	Sara Dyer	HOA Representative
	x	yes	Cedar Knolls of Clifton HOA	Laurie Anderson	HOA Representative
	x	yes	Union Mills HOA	Mike Shipley	Representative
x		no	Compton Heights HOA	William Ballou	Vice President

Staff and Guests Attending

Fairfax County Stormwater Planning	Fred Rose	Engineer, Chief, Stormwater Planning
Fairfax County Stormwater Planning	Darold Burdick	Engineer
Fairfax County Stormwater Planning	Eric Forbes	Project Manager
Fairfax County Stormwater Planning	LeAnne Astin	Ecologist
Fairfax County Stormwater Planning	Heather Ambrose	Ecologist
Fairfax County Stormwater Planning	Fred Wilkins	Engineer
AMEC Inc.	Lynne Mowery	Project Manager
AMEC Inc.	Hrushikesh Sandhe	Engineer
AMEC Inc.	Thomas Williams	Engineer
AMEC Inc.	Karen Firehock	Public Involvement