

## ***Fairfax County Stormwater Planning Division***

### **NICHOL RUN / POND BRANCH WATERSHED ADVISORY GROUP MEETING**

**SEPTEMBER 9, 2010**

**Herndon High School – Lecture Hall**  
700 Bennett Street | Herndon, VA 20170

#### **I. Welcome and Introductions**

*[The presentation from the September 9, 2010 Nichol Run/Pond Branch WAG meeting will be online at [http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/watersheds/nicholrun\\_docs.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/watersheds/nicholrun_docs.htm)].*

Juliana Birkhoff, RESOLVE, opened the fifth meeting of the Nichol Run/Pond Branch Watershed Advisory Group (WAG). She welcomed WAG members and the members of the public and reviewed the meeting agenda and group expectations.<sup>1</sup>

#### **II. Watershed Planning Update**

Fred Rose, the Chief of the Watershed Planning and Assessment Branch of the Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services, thanked everyone for attending the meeting and participating in developing the draft watershed management plan.

Mr. Rose reviewed the overall watershed planning process. He thanked WAG members for their involvement throughout the process and encouraged WAG members to stay involved. The County will finish the draft watershed management plan considering comments from WAG members and the public. The county will send the final plan to the Board of Supervisors by the end of the year. Mr. Rose said the County would use a new tool to prioritize and select projects as they implement the 13 watershed plans. This tool helps the County use resources efficiently to meet budget needs, regulatory requirements, and watershed objectives.

Mr. Rose emphasized that the County's watershed management process is dynamic. Regulatory changes will drive County priorities. On-the-ground watershed conditions will change. The tools and technology used to analyze and manage watershed conditions will also change. The County is adopting an adaptive management approach to track progress and select projects for implementation.

#### **III. Overview of the Draft Watershed Management Plan**

Melissa Taibi, F.X. Browne, Inc. summarized the organizational structure and components of the draft watershed management plan.<sup>2</sup> She reviewed the following components of the draft watershed plan:

##### **i. Executive Summary**

The executive summary includes background information for the Nichol Run and Pond Branch watersheds and a summary of each of the draft watershed management plan sections. The executive summary includes non-structural, 10-year, and 25-year master project lists (by project number, type,

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<sup>1</sup> The list of meeting participants is attached to this meeting summary. A copy of the meeting agenda is available at [http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/watersheds/nicholrun\\_docs.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/watersheds/nicholrun_docs.htm).

<sup>2</sup> 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/nicholrun\\_docs.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/watersheds/nicholrun_docs.htm)

WMA, and location). Ms. Taibi emphasized that participants should use these lists to identify projects and find them on the map.

#### 1. Introduction

Ms. Taibi informed WAG members that this section introduces watersheds and watershed planning. This section also includes a map of the Fairfax County Watershed Planning Groups.

#### 2. Watershed Planning Process

This section includes the criteria and objectives for the watershed planning process. Ms. Taibi reviewed the indicators used to measure and compare existing and future conditions. She reviewed the composite scores and how FX Browne used the scoring system to rank high and low priority watershed management areas. The section also reviews stormwater modeling techniques and the County's Public Involvement Plan.

#### 3. Summary of Watershed Conditions

This section summarizes information on each WMA's size and sub watershed stressors. There are also maps for each sub watershed.

#### 4. Summary of Watershed Restoration Strategies

Ms. Taibi reviewed how FX Browne prioritized projects' sub watershed restoration strategies. Ms. Taibi informed WAG members that the descriptions of each project type (both structural and non-structural) are in this section with pictures and sample project plans.

#### 5. WMA Restoration Strategies

This section reviews WMAs and how proposed projects will help meet watershed restoration objectives. This section includes WMA maps and project fact sheets for the 10-year projects.

Ms. Taibi 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 include a description of the project, its benefits, design considerations, and an aerial map of the project area.

#### 6. Benefits of Plan Implementation

This section includes analysis from the watershed model for existing conditions, future conditions without projects, and future conditions with projects. The section also describes the costs and benefits of implementing the plan. She told WAG members that the final watershed management plan would include an analysis of the benefits to the watershed of implementing all the 25-year projects.

#### 7. Glossary and Acronyms

Ms. Taibi asked WAG members to let her know if she missed any abbreviations and acronyms.

#### 8/9. References / Appendices

Ms. Taibi 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, the model data collection, and C: *Public Involvement* records and summaries.

Following Ms. Taibi's presentation, the WAG members asked questions. During the discussion,

engineers and County staff shared information including:

- Not all projects will be implemented.
- The fact sheets include planning level considerations. Engineers will design specific project details as the County selects and funds projects for implementation. Sample project designs are included in section 4 of the Draft Watershed Management Plan.
- County staff are sorting and characterizing policy recommendations for implementation. These recommendations include revisions to zoning regulations and new ordinances.
- The county is conducting an interagency review on the Draft Watershed Management Plan. The County will integrate Agency comments into the draft plan finalized before submitting the final plan to the Board of Supervisors.

### Project Comments: Breakout Groups

The group divided into breakout groups to inspect maps of the watershed management areas with potential projects. Engineers and County staff assisted WAG members in finding projects. Engineers described projects to WAG members highlighting the decision-making factors considered when listing the project, the on-site impacts, and watershed wide benefits of implementing the project. Some specific comments included:

- Maps should be revised before the public forum to reflect that the non-structural projects don't have a time frame associated with them.
- Stream restoration projects like NI9201 on Map 5.3 next to Beech Mill Road should be given higher priority than some of the proposed culvert retrofit projects. VDOT has had a harder time getting some of the culvert retrofit projects through, and it didn't help that they experienced a major blowout after a culvert retrofit on Dale Boulevard. If on the other hand a project can be shown to protect a roadway, e.g. where stream erosion may threaten the edge of a road, then they may be able to act on those more readily as a public safety issue.
- Better explain that conservation easement projects are located in areas that are currently undeveloped and proposed for future development according to the Comprehensive Plan; explain that they would/should be implemented before development occurs.
- PN9201 has a bridge as part of the project – to reduce costs, it could be a crossing with concrete pillars for hikers and horse paths.
- PN9407 needs more clarification regarding the culvert description.

### Next Steps

WAG members were encouraged to take maps home and share them with their communities. WAG members can request additional printed or digital copies of the Public Forum flyer for distribution within their communities. The County will accept comments on the draft watershed management plan until October 23. If members have any feedback they should note the project ID number and send comments to Melissa Taibi ([mtaibi@fxbrowne.com](mailto:mtaibi@fxbrowne.com)) or Joe Sanchirico ([Joseph.Sanchirico@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Joseph.Sanchirico@fairfaxcounty.gov).) FX Browne will also review any public feedback to revise the draft watershed management plan. Comments can be submitted at the public forum on September 23, via the County's [Nichol Pond](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/nichol_pond) website, via mail to the Stormwater Planning Division at 12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 449 Fairfax VA 22035, or via Fax 703-802-5955 or Phone 703-324-5500, TTY 711.

The Nichol Run and Pond Branch watershed is 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. F.X. Browne, 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 <[Joseph.Sanchirico@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Joseph.Sanchirico@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***

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SEPTEMBER 9, 2010**

**Meeting Participants+**

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Dena Bergstom\*  
Richard Bottomley  
Susan Bottomley  
Bev Geserick\*  
Bret Leslie\*  
Alex McVeigh  
Amy Stephan\*  
Elaine Tholen\*  
Tom Wassaff\*

**Fairfax County Staff**

Takisha Cannon  
Sajan Pokharel  
Fred Rose  
Joe Sanchirico

**Engineering Team**

Jon-Paul Do, F.X. Browne, Inc.  
Melissa Taibi, F.X. Browne, Inc.

**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](mailto:jgershowitz@resolv.org)) and he will add you to the list.