

Fairfax County Stormwater Planning Division

SUGARLAND RUN/HORSEPEN CREEK DRAFT WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN PUBLIC FORUM

AUGUST 3, 2010

Reston Community Center – Lake Anne

Jo Ann Rose Gallery

1609-A Washington Plaza | Reston, VA 20190

I. Welcome and Introductions

[Please note that the presentation from the August 3, 2010 Sugarland Run/Horsepen Creek Draft Watershed Management Plan Public Forum will be available online at

http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/watersheds/sugarland_docs.htm].

Juliana Birkhoff, RESOLVE, opened the Sugarland Run/Horsepen Creek Draft Watershed Management Plan (DWMP) Public Forum. She welcomed the Sugarland Run/Horsepen Creek Watershed Advisory Group (WAG) and other members of the public. Ms. Birkhoff reviewed the meeting agenda and group expectations.¹

II. Welcome and Process Update

Fred Rose, the Branch 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 DWMP. He reviewed the watershed management planning process, which began with a comprehensive assessment of the County's stream and watershed quality. The County developed a Watershed Advisory Group (WAG) as a resource to assist the county in the planning process. The County hosted a public forum in October of 2008 to introduce the public to the watershed planning process and define needs within the Sugarland Run/Horsepen Creek watersheds. Since 2008, the County has received policy recommendations to adjust policies to better support watershed management. Mr. Rose said that the County is taking steps to enact policy recommendations, such as revising County ordinances.

Mr. Rose emphasized the objective of the watershed management process is for an adaptive approach to solving watershed quality problems. The watershed management plan is dynamic and will reflect countywide needs. Mr. Rose explained that it was possible that the County may adopt watershed objectives to meet the federal Chesapeake Bay TMDL requirements. Fairfax County's watershed management initiatives will support the federal Chesapeake Bay initiatives from a local level.

John Foust, the Dranesville District Supervisor, thanked members of the public for attending the public forum and for staying involved throughout this two year planning process. He said that these watersheds involve multiple districts and include a large inventory of projects which County staff will

¹ Approximately 25 members of the public and 10 members of the staff team attended the meeting. A copy of the meeting agenda is available at http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/watersheds/sugarlandrun_docs.htm.

address annually. Mr. Foust recalled the 2006 penny for stormwater initiative, which secured a portion of constituents' real estate tax to fund stormwater and watershed management. He indicated that state and federal stream quality and sediment control requirements will be a part of Fairfax County governance in the future.

II. Introduction to Watershed Concepts

Joe Sanchirico, Ecologist in the Fairfax County Watershed Planning & Assessment Branch, reviewed terms and concepts behind watershed planning. He discussed the organization of watershed boundaries. He noted that Fairfax County watersheds are within the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The watershed planning process breaks up each watershed into Watershed Management Areas (WMAs), defined as a three to five square mile area with similar land use and development characteristics and a common drainage area. WMAs allow engineers to gather more data to inform project proposals. Mr. Sanchirico reviewed the different stormwater structures proposed as projects in the DWMP. Each structure addresses stormwater needs such as runoff, sediment control, and high volume management.

The DWMP includes a 10-year and 25-year prioritized list of proposed projects. The county will use a comprehensive plan to address the financial implications, recreational opportunities, property value, and other countywide issues. The county has currently completed plans for approximately 50% of Fairfax County. Engineering staff added that Sugarland Run and Horsepen Creek watersheds both spill into Loudon County. The DWMP does not include any proposed projects in Loudon County.

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.² She reviewed the following components of the draft watershed plan:

i. Executive Summary

The executive summary includes background information for Sugarland Run and Horsepen Creek 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, 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

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/sugarlandrun_docs.htm

composite scores and how FX Browne used them 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 subwatershed stressors. There are also maps for each subwatershed, with Sugarland first.

4. Summary of Watershed Restoration Strategies

Ms. Taibi reviewed how FX Browne prioritized projects' subwatershed restoration strategies. She highlighted that F.X. Browne grouped some projects as potential alternatives to regional ponds. Ms. Taibi informed WAG members that the descriptions of each project type (both structural and non-structural) are in this section with pictures and diagrams for clarification purposes.

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.

7. Glossary 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 subwatershed strategies, priorities for potential projects, the model data collection, and C: *Public Involvement* records and summaries.

Following Ms. Taibi's presentation, there was a brief Q&A session. During the discussion, Ms. Taibi noted:

- The County will use automated samples collected from a joint Fairfax County/USGS pilot study to assist in monitoring watershed quality improvements. The data from these samples is available in real-time online.
 - There are 4 USGS automated measurement devices; one in Dead Run, two in Difficult Run, and one in Flatlick Branch.
- The County may work with Virginia Tech to complement watershed quality monitoring.

- The County does not have resources to monitor every project. The Virginia Tech and USGS data collection initiatives will develop a snapshot of watershed quality. The results of these data collection initiatives will be available in stormwater status reports. The County may also develop a more robust information center for reporting on WMP implementation process.

Project Comments and Watershed Input: Breakout Groups

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

Next Steps

Joe Sanchirico informed participants that the County will accept comments on the draft watershed management plan for a 30 day comment period, ending September 3. Comments can be submitted via the County's [Sugarland Horsepen](#) 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. Mr. Sanchirico added that County agencies are reviewing the plan. The County will submit the final WMP to the County Board of Supervisors in December.

Juliana Birkhoff encouraged participants to spread the word about the plan and encourage their communities to provide feedback on the plan.

The Sugarland Run and Horsepen Creek 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

**SUGARLAND RUN / HORSEPEN CREEK WATERSHEDS
DRAFT WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN FORUM
AUGUST 3RD, 2010**

Forum Participants

Nicki Foremsky Bellezza
Jennifer Boysko
Jeremias Breeks
Todd Doley
Jay Elston
Jeff Fairfield
Musteya Faizullabnoy
Alan Ford
Goldie A. Harrison
Jill Harte
Barbara Hudspeth
Robert Hudspeth
Meaghan Kiefer
Brian King
Sam King
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Patti Mietla
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Delores Plum
David Pollock
Dan Pritchard
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Glen Rubis
John M. Wilson
Giuoshun Zhang



Healthy Watersheds, Healthier Communities

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Sugarland Run & Horsepen Creek Draft Watershed Management Plan Forum

*Reston Community Center – Lake Anne
1609-A Washington Plaza
Jo Ann Rose Gallery
Reston, VA 20190*

Tuesday, August 3, 2010 6:30-9:00 pm

Agenda

- 6:30 p.m. Watershed Registration – Sign in**

- 7:00 p.m. Welcome** by Fred Rose, Chief, Watershed Planning and Assessment Branch, Fairfax County

Supervisor John W. Foust, Dranesville District

- 7:15 p.m. Slide Show:** Introduction to watershed concepts and overview of the Sugarland Run & Horsepen Creek Draft Watershed Management Plan

- 8:00 p.m. Watershed Input:** Learn about the plan comment period and timeline and attend breakout sessions to view watershed maps and provide feedback for proposed projects

- 9:00 p.m. Adjourn** (*turn in any comment sheets*)

For more information:

http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/watersheds/sugarlandrun_docs.htm



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