

**FAIRFAX COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION  
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE TOUR  
SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 2007**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

James R. Hart, Commissioner At-large  
Nancy Hopkins, Dranesville District  
Kenneth A. Lawrence, Providence District

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Walter L. Alcorn, At-Large  
Frank A. de la Fe, Hunter Mill District  
Rodney L. Lusk, Lee District  
Timothy J. Sargeant, At-Large

**PLANNING COMMISSION STAFF PRESENT:**

Barbara J. Lipa, Director, Planning Commission Office  
S. Robin Hardy, Assistant Director, Planning Commission Office

**DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ZONING STAFF PRESENT:**

Noel Kaplan, Senior Environmental Planner, Planning Division (PD)  
Pamela Nee, Chief, Environment & Development Review Branch, PD

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

William Nell, Vice-President, Wetland Studies and Solutions, Inc.  
Michael Rolband, President, Wetland Studies and Solutions, Inc.

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Beginning at 10:00 a.m., the Planning Commission's Environment Committee met in a special session to tour the Wetlands Studies and Solutions (WSSI) office in Gainesville, VA to see its nationally-certified, environmentally-friendly, "green" building. This was done as part of the Committee's ongoing review of "green" building practices.

Assisted by William Nell, Company Vice-President, Michael Rolband, President of WSSI, explained during an initial briefing that their building had been constructed using low impact development techniques to manage stormwater, and was certified "Gold" under the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design for Commercial Interiors (LEED-CI) standards, set forth by the U.S. Green Building Council. He noted that the LEED program was voluntary and allowed developers to be recognized as environmentally-conscious in design, engineering and construction. He further explained the certification levels of the LEED program and how his company had met the certification. (Handouts are available in the date file.) He then answered questions from the group.

Following the orientation, the Committee and staff attendees toured the building and site to see first-hand the features that had been explained. Among the features viewed were the WSSI

building's rooftop rain garden and underground gravel bed detention system, reflective and "green" roof, native landscaping, pervious surfaces, and downward-directed lighting into the site. The interior building was also "environmentally-friendly" and featured sensors for lighting, individually-controlled thermal comfort zones, emission-free fabrics and surfaces, and individual task lighting for employees.

Following the tour, Chairman Hart thanked Mr. Rolband and Mr. Nell for the invitation to see the WSSI facilities and for the informative presentation. He noted that the Committee would continue its focus on this issue at its May meeting with a presentation from the Northern Virginia Building Industry Association.

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The meeting was adjourned at 12:55 p.m.  
James R. Hart, Chairman

For a record of this meeting, reference may be made to the file which can be found in the Planning Commission Office.

Minutes by: Barbara J. Lippa

Approved: June 8, 2007

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Linda B. Rodeffer, Clerk  
Fairfax County Planning Commission