



LAND USE & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes – February 14, 2013

Attendees:

Gayle Sheldon	Fauquier Trails Coalition
Brian Daniel	Madison County
David Ek	Fauquier County
Gary Switzer	Virginia Department of Health
Ray Pickering	Fauquier County
Bob Slusser	Department of Conservation & Recreation
Michelle Edwards	Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission
Jenny Biche'	Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission
Larry Miller	Fauquier County Parks & Recreation
Patrick Mauney	Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission
Jeffrey Walker	Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission
Gardiner Mulford	Culpeper Horse Owners Association
Deirdre Clark	John Marshall Soil & Water Conservation District

Funding Local Parks & Recreation Projects

Larry Miller, Fauquier County

Mr. Miller provided an overview of some of the successful projects Fauquier County Parks and Recreation implemented over the last 10 years. A copy of his presentation is available on the Land Use and Environment Committee's webpage at www.rrregion.org/envcmte.html.

High lights and Recommendations include:

- An Equestrian Forum was created and became part of the planning process for land acquired in Stafford County to be used towards an Equestrian Trail; this demonstrates a good public-planning partnership;
- Keep up relationships established during grant projects even after the project ends; organizations and businesses have donated items to Fauquier Parks & Recreation that they no longer need and have reached out to them to partner on other projects;
- Leverage grant funds, donations, and matching funds;
- Invest time in relationship building with Foundations, Donors, etc: Provide a good, quality project with the donated funds, provide public recognition, demonstrate community

support, and investors may continually donate instead of just investing in a one time project;

- Use land as match—don't take title of the property until the grant is secured. Often land can not be used as match if you owned it prior to the grant application;
- Don't change your project to meet grant requirements; but use your project to focus on your proposal;
- Safe Routes to School is a grant that requires no match and is in need of applications;
- Public appreciation may encourage additional funds—relationship building is invaluable to local funding

Comments and questions from Mr. Miller's presentation include:

Jeffrey Walker stated that Orange County is working on a similar Equestrian Trails project connecting the Town of Orange and Montpelier and has implemented the "Liberty Trail Ride" to raise awareness and funding for the project. Mr. Walker suggested that perhaps the two Equestrian Groups consider meeting with one another. Mr. Miller agreed to relay the information to the Fauquier Equestrian Forum.

Bob Slusser commented that trail projects can impact adjacent streams and the other surface water bodies. Funding is available to assist with stream bank restoration, wetland construction, etc. Mr. Slusser recommended Wetland Systems and Solutions Inc. in Gainesville be toured to see examples of pervious pavement.

Deirdre Clark suggested that Mr. Miller share information about Fauquier Parks and Recreation's BioBlitz tool with attendees. Mr. Miller explained that a stewardship team conducted a BioBlitz when developing White's Mill Trail in Warrenton. The BioBlitz is an inventory of natural and cultural resources in the area, which is then used to create a resource management plan for the area. Interpretive signs were created and placed along the trail to explain the impact the area had on the Chesapeake Bay.

An inquiry was made as to who is responsible for the maintenance of the playground equipment installed at Vint Hill. Mr. Miller replied that Fauquier Parks and Recreation maintains the equipment at the schools, and the Homeowner Associations are responsible for the connections. However, Mr. Miller anticipates that the Homeowners Associations will be requesting Fauquier Parks and Recreation to maintain all of the equipment in the future.

Regional Green Infrastructure Phase II

Patrick Mauney, Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission

Mr. Mauney gave an overview of the Regional Green Infrastructure Phase II with the use of a power point presentation. A copy of his presentation is available on the Land Use and Environment Committee's webpage at www.rregion.org/envcmte.html. Phase I involved updating the VCLNA Ecological Cores Data to account for development in the region since its release five years ago. The update indicated not a lot of acreage was lost however there was some fragmentation that occurred. Phase II focuses on updates and analysis of the VCLNA Forest Economics and Cultural Assets data layers. It will also utilize DCR and local data sources

to develop a protected lands layer. Easement data, National Register of Historic Places and View shed Analysis will also be incorporated.

Group discussion followed and highlights include:

- When complete, the Regional Green Infrastructure Map can be used as a tool that can identify corridors and help prioritize areas in Comprehensive Plans;
- The Regional Green Infrastructure Map can also be used when approaching funders or securing buy-in from partners. It can be used to show importance of an area graphically;
- Map can be used to carve battlefields out of service district; use corridors for trails;
- Gardiner Mulford suggested that localities adopt an ordinance to use the Regional Green Infrastructure Map when evaluating development rights. The Comprehensive Plan is only used as a guide. Having an ordinance would make use of the Regional Green Infrastructure Map more applicable;

Storm water Program Development Update

Michelle Edwards, Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission

RRRC received \$108,000 in grant funds from DCR to assist local governments in developing and/or revising their stormwater programs. Friends of the Rappahannock donated \$20,000 in matching funds to the effort. A kick-off meeting with project partners and DCR staff was held in January, followed by individual meetings with each locality to assess their needs. RRRC and Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District (CSWCD) staff will provide technical assistance to assist each locality in developing draft local stormwater ordinances and staffing plans, which are due to DCR by the April 1, 2013. Local implementation of the new stormwater regulations is required beginning July 1, 2014.

Member Roundtable

Brian Daniel, Madison County, provided a flyer (see attached) with information on Madison County's request for an entrance to Shenandoah National Park within the county. Madison County is the only adjoining county without an entrance into the park. The Madison County Administrator is requesting support from surrounding localities.

John Marshal Soil and Water Conservation District (JMSWCD) Board Member, Deirdre Clark stated that rain barrels are available for purchase from both CSWCD and JMSWCD for \$75 each. Please contact the SWCD to make a purchase.

The Rappahannock River Basin Commission released a draft of the Rappahannock River Gauge System Study and will be taking comments until March 11, 2013. Please contact Eldon James for further information at ejames7@earthlink.net.

Next Land Use & Environment Committee Meeting:

The next Land Use & Environment Committee meeting will be held on May 15, 2013 at 10am at the Regional Commission.

Please email Michelle at medwards@rrregion.org with suggestions for future meeting topics.