

Membership Meeting
7:30 pm, Thursday, February 20, 2014
Braddock Hall (9002 Burke Lake Road, Burke, VA 22015)

Call to Order/Welcome – President Jackson called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

► **Administrative Matters** – Rob Jackson

Approval of the January Membership Meeting Minutes – In the future there will be links in MailChimp to the minutes and the agenda on the Federation website. The draft Minutes will need to be posted on the Federation website. A watermark will be added on the draft document to differentiate them from final version. Mr. Tim Thompson moved approval of the minutes; it was seconded by Ed Saperstein. The minutes were approved as presented with 1 abstention since a member had not received a copy of the Minutes to review.

Information on Meetup platform and the new email system will be coming. Tania Hossain is working on both tools now. One attendee got the information about this meeting from Meetup.

Treasurer's report –over \$17,000 in revenue which is ahead of last year's projection. 47 HOAs are members this year. The report was received and filed for the record.

There was no other urgent business for the Membership.

► **Membership Programming** – Environment (Flint Webb) – The Stormwater Budget: What does the 2¢ Stormwater Service District Tax support? Mr. Randy Bartlett, Deputy Director of Public Works and Environmental Services, Fairfax County presented information about the Stormwater budget and what comprises its cost centers/ program projects.

The County Executive has asked for a 5-year budget. Drivers for the Stormwater Division's budget are:

- Chesapeake Bay TMDL (total maximum daily limit)
- Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit—awaiting approval
- Local TMDLs
- Infrastructure
- Dam Safety

In 2010 a review was performed about what program projects should be included in the program if it was fully funded. The programs will be moving forward in stream and water quality improvements. Fully funded program projects would cost \$97.8M per year or 5 cents on the tax rate for the Stormwater Service District. There is not much Federal Stormwater funding and only a little state funding in the last year. Most of the projects are unfunded mandates from the federal government. There is not full funding of the \$97.8M, the rate is currently only 2 cents. There are law suits being

brought in other areas by businesses and residents that could be brought in Fairfax County if Stormwater does not meet the federal mandates.

The Chesapeake Bay TMDL plan, developed by the Stormwater Division to meet the standards, includes a 15-year period to construct/remediate facilities. The “chevy”, not the “cadillac”, plan is to achieve mandated contaminant reductions of:

- 5% during the initial 5 years
- 35% during the second 5 years
- 60% during the final 5 years

Phosphorus is the contaminant of concern.

The money originally gained by the one cent tax and later increases has been used to:

- inventory areas of concern such as categorizing 84 water areas as impaired, up over 400% from the waters identified in 2004, and prepare action plans
- identify MS4 Permit areas that need retrofits, structural and course controls, illegal/improper discharge sites, etc.
- develop plan and provide for staffing.

Stormwater Division has evaluated ½ cent and ¼ cent per year increases. Stormwater Division is proposing to fund these remediation projects at the ¼ cent per year rate up to 5 cents. Bonds would be another way to also fund the program needs, but the cost of debt service made the option not as attractive.

Emergency and Flood Response is a smaller cost center that helps mitigate structure flooding where the county is liable.

Dam Safety and Facility Rehabilitation is an area expected to grow if the county assumes responsibility for all stormwater structures in the county. Currently there are 1,540 county maintained structures, but over 3,720 that are privately owned. The county’s current responsibility is to inspect the private structures once every 5 years and the proposed budget for FY2015 is \$4.5M. If the county assumes responsibility for the private ones also, the budget could increase to about \$16.5M per year. The Board of Supervisors has been briefed on this and the discussion with the Board continues.

The county has 4 big manmade lakes. Sediment builds up quickly in the lakes and must be dredged to maintain healthy plants and fish. Aerators and other devices should help with water quality. County is looking for various means to count toward its federal mandates for the Chesapeake Bay and under the Water Quality Act.

Conveyance System Rehabilitation is another large program cost center. There are over 16,000 miles of pipe and paved channel. Reinvestment of 1% per year is required for 100 year life of these pipes and channels. Several projects were depicted in before and after photos.

Q: How well do these remediations hold up?

A: There is not a long history to review yet, but most appear to be holding up well. The county is trying various remediation methods and techniques and evaluating which provide the best service with the least costs.

Reston and Vienna are included in the county for stormwater projects. Fairfax City is not part of the service district.

Stormwater Division partners with Virginia Department of Transportation, Fairfax County Public Schools, Fairfax County Parks and other agencies to coordinate projects and support.

Q: Is staffing for the program administration adequate?

A: Staffing for the program has increased to an adequate number based on 1.5 cent tax.

Q: Is there a place to get info for our HOAs about best practices and how to make improvements?

A: Check the Stormwater Division and Soil and Water Conservation websites. Rain gardens, rain barrels, etc. can be installed privately and have impact on water runoff.

The Stormwater Program's recommendation to the Board of Supervisors:

- Move forward steadily but slowly
- Initial plan is ¼ cent/year
- Continue to evaluate alternative solutions
- Budget needs will continue at \$100M per year over time.

Q: How often should a biometric study of a private pond be done?

A: Probably about every 5 years or if there appears to be a problem.

Q: How does Fairfax County work with other jurisdictions?

A: Prince William and Loudoun County must meet the same standards as Fairfax County, so we consult on projects areas that join other jurisdictions.

Q: In terms of spending, compared to other jurisdictions, does Fairfax County do about what is required of it? More than required? Not enough?

A: We are not doing more than is required. We are ahead of most communities in what we are doing because there are resources in Fairfax County to do remediation and the county has been working on its stormwater issues for a longer time.

Q: Does Stormwater Division work with VDOT on projects?

A: Upon invitation from VDOT, but there is no review and approval of VDOT projects. VDOT has its own MS4 permit. VDOT's permit is a Tier 2 permit while the county's is a Tier 1 permit which means the county has more stringent permit requirements than VDOT has.

Q: What is the effect of all the salt that is being used on the roads because of weather events?

A: No "nutrients" are involved so, compared with the benefit to public safety, there is no justification to stop road treatment.

Q: When all of this projected work is done, what is the impact on the Chesapeake Bay?

A: Already there are effects—algae plumes have decreased, crabs and oysters are back, fishing is improving and the Bay appears to be coming back.

► Old Business/New Business

HB 791

Mr. Hinman asked for support for the Bill. Time is critical because the bill will be decided very soon by the General Assembly.

AHOME speaker

AHOME President, Jim Edmondson, is available as a speaker/program for neighborhood associations, district councils and other groups on the topic "Affordable Housing Challenges in Fairfax County, 1986–2016." Organization program chairmen may negotiate a mutually convenient date, time, and place via email exchanges to **jedmondson@eandggroup.com**.

► **Adjournment**

The Federation Membership meeting adjourned at 9:16 p.m.

Next Meetings: Board Meeting, February 27, 2014, Hidden Oaks Nature Center, 7701 Royce Street, Annandale; Board Meeting (including Budget recommendations), March 20, 2014, Hidden Oaks Nature Center, 7701 Royce Street, Annandale; Membership Meeting (Budget), March 27, 2014, Mason Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA 22003.