



**Meeting Notes – NBII Urban Biodiversity Information Node
Stakeholders Informational Meeting
Hosted by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
October 25, 2001**

Attendees

Joanna Arciszewski	NOVA Soil and Water Conservation District
Kathleen Beeton	Alexandria Dept of Zoning & Planning
Todd Bolton	Fairfax County Park Authority
Margaret Bryant	Virginia Tech Landscape Architecture
Colleen W. Charles	US Geological Survey - Biological Resources Discipline
David Chojnacky	USDA, Forest Service
Rob Dietz	US Geological Survey - Biological Resources Discipline
Leigh Dunkelberger	Friends of the Potomac
Dave Eckert	Concerned citizen and filmmaker
Stuart Finley	Lake Barcroft Watershed Improvement District
Guy Foulks	US Fish and Wildlife Service
John Galli	Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
Tricia Gibbons	Moderator, Lead Alliance
Katie Goldberg	Northern Virginia Conservation Trust
Thomas Grizzard	Virginia Tech Civil and Environmental Engineering
Peggy Harwood	USDA, Forest Service
Bill Hicks	Alexandria Dept of Transportation and Environmental Services
Lief Horwitz	US Geological Survey - Biological Resources Discipline
Kate Kase	US Geological Survey - Biological Resources Discipline
Michael Knapp	Fairfax County, Urban Forestry Division
Jim Laurie	Biologist
Brian LeCouteur	Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
Carissa Lee	VA Department of Conservation and Recreation
Matt Myers	Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services
John Randolph	Virginia Tech Urban Affairs and Planning
Lynn Richards	EPA, Office of Policy, Economics and Innovations
Andy Rosenberger	Virginia Tech Conservation Management Institute
Robert Slusser	Virginia Tech Natural Resources
Bernice Smith	Virginia Tech Urban Affairs and Planning
Eric Sprague	EPA, Office of Policy, Economics and Innovations
Dave Trauger	Virginia Tech Natural Resources
Ravi Vukkadala	Virginia Tech Computer Science
Aileen Winquist	Arlington County Environmental Services
Ken Young	Virginia Lakes & Watersheds Association





Meeting Summary

The purpose of this meeting was to invite watershed stakeholders to participate in the formulation of data and products for the pilot project of the NBII Urban Biodiversity Node. The objective of the pilot is to consider a variety of issues that affect urban biodiversity – sprawl, habitat fragmentation, degradation and loss, and water and air quality. The final products are intended to provide users with an array of data, tools, support and best management practices to assist them in making sound, environmentally responsible decisions.

The meeting ran from 10 AM to 2 PM, divided into the following sections: (1) Public involvement and human dimensions of conservation within the watershed – identifying major topics and driving issues in the watershed; (2) Working lunch – uncovering and sharing current data, information, and research holdings; and (3) Data/information needs and product brainstorming – identifying actual datasets and information products that would be useful to decision-makers in the watershed.

Active participation from the group led to a very productive meeting. As summarized below, the major issues facing the watershed were outlined, knowledge of current data and information was shared by the group, and future needs were discussed and prioritized.





Key Watershed Issues

During brainstorming sessions, meeting participants discussed the most pressing issues facing the natural systems of the watershed. The resultant list below ranks these issues, starting with the highest priority as determined by the group.

1. Stormwater runoff (impacts and planning, management, flooding, stream buffers, impacts to water quality)
2. Development patterns (land use policy and planning, infill development, modeling of impervious surfaces)
3. Biodiversity and habitat preservation/conservation (fragmentation/connectivity, modeling, resource management)
4. Access to data resources
5. Public awareness, education, and involvement
6. Watershed and natural resource planning (master plans, improved implementation of current plans)
7. Jurisdictional coordination
8. Wetlands and aquatic habitats (restoration and preservation, reservoir management)
9. Access to funding



Current Data and Information Holdings

After discussing issues facing the watershed, participants developed a list of current sources of data and information that might be useful in addressing those issues. The table below summarizes the data sources that were provided.



Data/Information Holding	Type	Contact
Falls Church Watershed Management Plan	Text	Helen Reinecke-Wilt
Tripps Run GIS Information	Electronic/GIS	Helen Reinecke-Wilt
Historic stream and sediment transport data for Lake Barcroft	Electronic	Tom Grizzard
Phosphorus loading	PDF	www.gky.com - Ken Young
Ten years of Holmes Run cross sections	PDF	www.gky.com - Ken Young
Fairfax County biomonitoring	Electronic/CD	Matt Myers
Quantico Creek reference data	Unknown	Chris Jones (GMU)
Water quality in Quantico Creek	Unknown	National Park Service – Tom Grizzard
Stream morphology and engineering data for Quantico Creek	Unknown	Todd Bolton will supply source.
Christmas bird counts	Electronic	Elizabeth Martin
Bird surveys	Unknown	Smithsonian Conservation Research Center – Guy Foulks
Perennial stream mapping	Electronic/GIS	Matt Myer
Alexandria/FEMA project on Holmes Run flood control (to be updated in Spring 2002)	Electronic/GIS	Bill Hicks
Mapping of vegetative associations based on 1 meter satellite data	Electronic/GIS	Fairfax County, Mike Knapp
USGS studies in 4-Mile Run and Accotink Creek	Unknown	Matt Myers
Fecal coliform in 4-Mile Run	Unknown	Northern VA Regional Comm. – Don Wayne
General geologic data for Fairfax County	Unknown	Mike Johnson (Dave Eckert)
Geologic data for Northern VA	Unknown	Avery Drake (Dave Eckert)
Remapping of Fairfax County soils (future)	Electronic/GIS	NOVA SWCD Joanna Arciszewski
Data from citizen stream monitoring sites	Unknown	NOVA SWCD Joanna Arciszewski
Storm drains, conduits, BMPs, NPDES permits	Electronic/GIS	Fairfax and Falls Church – Dave Eckert
Fish population data in Lake Barcroft	Unknown	Don Kelso GMU, Stu Finley, LBWID



Priority Data and Information Needs

Having been asked to list the most important data and information needs for the watershed, participants supplied the following items (The number in parentheses after each item tallies the number of times that item was listed).

- GIS data
 - Built environment
 - Imperviousness, infrastructure, building footprints (10)
 - Land ownership (4)
 - Zoning, easements, variances (3)
 - Natural environment
 - Vegetative cover (4)
 - Soil (3)
 - Green infrastructure, greenways, trails (3)
 - Streams (2)
 - Habitats (1)
 - Historic wetland sites (1)
 - Watersheds (1)
- Water
 - Water quality (4)
 - Sediment loads (3)
 - Stream flow (incl. 1st order gauging) (3)
 - Physical stream characteristics (2)
- Species
 - Species inventory (4)
 - Native vs. invasive species distributions (3)
 - Species of concern, such as indicator animals and plant species useful for restoration (2)
- Demographics and population density (5)
- Public education materials (5)
- BMP data (2)
- Funding sources and expenditures (2)
- Cultural resources (1)

