

## **Goose Creek Scenic River Advisory Committee**

46753 Winchester Drive  
Sterling VA 20164

Minutes of the September 13, 2006 meeting,  
Lovettsville Room  
Loudoun County Government Center  
1 Harrison Street, S.E., Leesburg, Virginia

**Members Present:** Chairman Helen Casey, Vice Chairman Joan Rokus, Steve Combs-Lafleur, John Isom, Benjamin Lawrence, Mark Peterson, Kurt Erickson

**Members Absent:** Lynn Gibson, Phil Daley

**County Staff Present:** Sarah Milin, Community Planning, Department of Planning; Mark Novak, Recording Secretary, PRCS

### **Chairman's Business**

Chairman Helen Casey called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. The Next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday November 15, 2006 p.m. in the Lovettsville Room. John Isom stated he would not be able to attend. The next order of business was introductions followed by Chairman Casey's request motion to accept September's minutes. Moved by Vice Chairman Joan Rokus; seconded by Steve Combs-Lafleur. Motion passed.

Mark Peterson, Luck Stone, updated the committee on the Luck Stone tunnel. Mark reported that since last meeting core (sampling) drilling has been completed and is currently being analyzed. Area of disturbance has been restored and was protected to prevent any runoff into the Goose. An in-depth report will be presented to the committee at the November meeting by Luck Stone and their tunneling consultant on the results and the next steps. Chairman Casey mentioned that she has received several phone calls from past board members supporting the tunnel vs. bridge.

Mark Peterson gave a brief update on the Loudoun County Strategic Watershed Management Solution (SWMS) that took place over a three month period. SWMS is a collaborative effort to coordinated existing watershed efforts and define a shared vision for watershed activities across Loudoun County. The question now is what to do with all the information; how to get it into the right hands that will began to implement some of the ideas that were generated during the work session. A presentation to the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisor's is pending.

### **Committee Business**

#### Information Items;

- Dick Gibbons, Chairman of the State Scenic River Advisory Board for the Commonwealth, wants to nominate our group for the Scenic Virginia Award. Chairman Casey sent pictures on areas of the Goose Creek, one in particular the old iron (truss) bridge (old route 7), and the work that is being done along the Goose. Vice Chairman, Rokus asked to add that she was also contacted by Dick Gibbons, to get people to write letters on behalf of the group. Vice Chairman, Rokus contacted two people to write letters. One was the executive director of the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority, Paul Gilbert; the other was Mike Horner, who has been very active on the Keep Loudoun Beautiful Board and overseeing the annual canoe cleanup. Mike works the Department of Loudoun County Parks and Recreation and Community Services and is the Park Manager for Franklin Park.
- Chairman Casey has been in contact with Susan Bour, Loudoun County Sanitation Authority (LCSA). When asked when we are going to talk to the engineers or see something, she said they haven't responded directly to that request. They have been in contact with Tony Charfauros, Loudoun County Sediment and Erosion Control inspector. He was to attend today's meeting, however, he is not here. Soil borings have not started. They are still getting ready for them.

#### Discussion Items;

- Paths and Trails Policy, in packet is an e-mail from Virginia Department of Recreation (DCR) Lynn Crump and Jennifer Wampler. They put together things they felt were important to know. The policy of the Goose Creek Committee states all paths and trails shall be of natural, rustic materials only; trails shall be solely for the use of pedestrian hikers; no wheeled vehicles allowed. If necessary, provisions for horses, dogs, and wheelchairs, shall be made elsewhere on the property, outside of the 300' easement. No existing trees, shrubs, plants, grasses, etc. shall be removed. All of the developers we have worked with in getting this easement (300") along the creek, have agreed to this policy, that it serves their proposes too. Mark (PRCS) has been receiving requests from the Equestrian Community to include some sort of prevision for them along the creek. Again, the Committee has no problem with this use as long as it is not within the easement. The information from Richmond (DCR) lists considerations when planning the use of equestrian trails. Chairman Casey asked if Mark (PRCS) would like to discuss PRCS concerns. Mark stated PRCS recognizes the 300' easement and has no problem with the policy; however, has some reservations on excluding uses such as equestrian trails should there be a strong demand. PRCS is committed to work with the Goose Creek Scenic River Advisory Committee in the protection of Goose Creek. When possible such trails would be developed outside of the 300' easement however, when not feasible

PRCS would request the committee consider development of trails on the perimeter or just inside the 300' mark. Committee consensus was there is no need to change the policy at this time. Policy as written will stand.

- Chairman Casey asked Ben Lawrence about an update on the Chesapeake Bay grant. Ben reported he has not heard anything.
- Ben Lawrence asked Mark (PRCS) what the status of brochures were for the Goose Creek. Not a lot has happened, will try to have draft printing at next meeting. Chairman Casey mentioned that the new brochure should reflect the new name.
- Chairman Casey asked Ben Lawrence to update the status on Fauquier County Goose Creek designation as a scenic river. They all set to go, looking at October 24, 2004. An opening ceremony will include the Governor among other officials. They are moving in the right direction.
- Lime Kiln Road update, John Isom stated he has not seen any work across the creek. A lot of work is taking place at Meadowkirk, however. Roads have been put in place. Chairman Casey would like for this to be a topic of discussion at the next meeting. John will follow through to see what's going on.
- Vice Chairman Joan Rokus presented a brochure that the Town of Leesburg mailed out to all town residents this summer dealing with storm water management (SWM). Explains what storm water runoff is and why it is a problem. Good way to inform the public. County has a SWM division that is responsible for maintenance of SWM ponds, David Ward with General Services. Chairman Casey will contact Mr. Ward. The Committee should work with the Town. The word needs to get out, LCSA should send a similar brochure.
- Vice Chairman Joan Rokus mentioned that Keep Loudoun Beautiful (KLB) did a very successful clean up on the Potomac in August. Received local press and recognition. Over the years has brought a lot of awareness to Goose Creek.

Chairman Casey asked Anne Larson if she would like to provide any information on Catoctin Creek. Anne had spoken at the Board of Supervisors' meeting during public comment; only had three minutes to try to get facts out. Anne expressed her fears in a few years time Catoctin Creek will be a series of ponds or worse, a DRY trail.

There being no further business of the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark A. Novak, ASLA, PRCS