

# Four Mile Run Joint Task Force Meeting

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May 15, 2013  
6:30 pm -7:30 pm  
Cora Kelly Recreation Center  
Multipurpose Room

## Meeting Notes

### Introductions and Welcome

Joint Task Force (JTF) Co-chair Judy Noritake welcomed everyone and introduced Liz Birnbaum as the new co-chair. Former co-chair Neil Sigmon has left the JTF and moved to North Carolina. All members of the JTF and others sitting at the table introduced themselves.

### Status of Tidal Restoration Project

Dana Wedeles of the City of Alexandria and Jason Papacosma of Arlington County provided an update on the status of the tidal restoration project (presentation included). There were changes in the Scope of Work based on design flow capacity requirements. The jurisdictions have a total of approx. \$6 million in STAG funds to pay for this project. From 2008 to 2011, the in-stream restoration plan proceeded and reached 90% design. The approach was based on the newly modeled flow for a 100 year flood. The newly modeled flow from a 100 year flood was less than the flow estimated in 1980 and less than the congressionally authorized capacity of the engineered flood control channel, though still providing the flood protection as originally required. The ecologically based design included in-stream restoration with elements such as adding tidal wetlands and engineered log jams. In 2011, the USACE mandated that the channel cannot be changed from its original authorized flow capacity, unless congress reauthorized the channel capacity.

The 90% design of the tidal restoration project was not designed to carry the originally authorized flow capacity. In order to proceed with construction of the tidal restoration project, congressional reauthorization of the flow capacity in the channel to the newly modeled 100 year flood flow was necessary. Congressional reauthorization was attempted but did not pass. The Scope of Work was changed to what is now known as Plan B. However, if congressional reauthorization eventually passes, then additional elements of the tidal restoration project, or Plan A, can be implemented.

Plan B focuses more on recreational features, bank naturalization and minimizing sediment flow into the channel. There are four sites along the reach of Four Mile Run where work is proposed. Site 1 will be a sediment capture area to trap and contain sediment flowing in Four Mile Run. Site 2 is located in the riparian area of the reach. Work at Site 2 involves removing steep rip-rap and replacing it with naturalized and terraced banks. The terraces in the bank will allow for pedestrians to access to the

water. Site 3 involves reconnecting a portion of the floodplain wetland to tidal flow from the main channel. Existing fill and invasive plant species will be removed, and a new path will be constructed to allow for pedestrian access through this area. Work on this site is contingent upon the outcome of soil testing. Site 4 involves diverting water from the Bruce Creek feeder system to a wetland area to restore the hydrology of the wetlands. This site is contingent on hydrologic modeling and is included as an option in the scope of work.

The STAG funds need to be spent by September 30, 2015. Therefore, an aggressive plan and timeline has been established. Currently, the project is in the design and permitting phase until approximately March 2014. At that time, it is anticipated that the project will move forward to the construction phase. It is anticipated that construction will be underway by this time next year and that Plan B will be fully constructed by September of 2015.

### **Status of the Pedestrian/Cyclist Bridge Design Project**

Aimee Vosper of the Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC) provided an update on the pedestrian bridge. Currently the 50% design drawings are under review. JTF can expect to see the 90% drawings in August. At this time, the design is on time for final submission in late fall 2013. Funding sources for construction will need to be identified. Currently, NVRC is researching funding options. Links to the design drawings will be provided to the JTF for review.

### **Status of the ASA project**

The status of the Alexandria Renew pump station (formerly Alexandria Sewer Authority) was discussed. The CEO from Alexandria Renew, Karen Pallansch presented the design concept for the Four Mile Run pump station upgrade. The Alexandria Renew wastewater reclamation facility treats wastewater from the City of Alexandria and portions of Fairfax County. The Four Mile Run pump station lifts and moves wastewater through the sewer lines to the water treatment facility where it is cleaned. The existing pump station was built in the 1950's and needs several upgrades. The upgrade is anticipated to begin in 2014 and be complete by July 2015. The upgrade will involve replacing the pumps and other associated infrastructure, adding on to the existing building, installing a new concrete equipment pad, adding additional screening and replacing the perimeter fence. There may be some disruption to local residents during the 18-month long construction period. Dewatering of pits will result in some noise, access and egress to the facility by construction vehicles may result in some disruption to local traffic patterns and due to the facility's proximity to the Cora Kelly school, safety controls will be also be implemented. Alexandria Renew stated that they will be proactive about minimizing local disruptions. Karen explained that equipment will only be on the new concrete pad during laydown.

The differences between the original design and the new design were discussed. Several members of the JTF expressed their disappointment in the new design. Elements such as the green roof and the building to encapsulate equipment are no longer included in the design. Karen explained that the cost of including those elements in the design were out of their budget so they chose to scale back those elements and focus on meeting the engineering intent of collection and treatment of wastewater. Judy Noritake prompted a discussion of finding low cost, innovate and creative ways to meet the Four Mile Run Design Guidelines. There may be ways to celebrate the industrial corridor of the location and to incorporate public art. For example, 130 panels of art will be installed on the Arlington Water Pollution

Control Plant's fence. With the facility being so close to a STEM school, it is a good opportunity to integrate some educational components to the facility. Karen Pallansch stated that Alexandria Renew is open and willing to work with JTF members to develop some educational components and artwork. Aimee Vosper stated that the concepts and plans for the Arlington wastewater treatment plant are almost ready and can be shared with JTF members.

### **Status of Projects along FMR**

Jason Papacosma discussed the status of the Dominion substation upgrade. The upgrade will stay within the existing footprint on the Arlington side however the staging area will need to use the WMATA bus parking lot. Consequently, there is a need to find a spot to park and store 85 buses in a 2 mile radius for 18 months. The location needs to have security and allow for access and egress of buses. JTF members suggested a few options: 1) the Potomac Yard bridge that isn't being torn down; 2) under the Woodrow Wilson Bridge; and 3) Potomac Yards retail parking lots. Jason stated he will bring these suggestions to the work group for consideration.

Dana Wedeles from the City of Alexandria provided an update on the Potomac Yard bridge demolition. The permits are just about approved for the bridge to come down. Demolition is expected to take place in the next few months.

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Judy Noritake introduced new JTF member Jonathan Krall of Arlington. Jon will be representing the bike trail advocates.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:40. The Alexandria Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Activities held a meeting immediately following the JTF, to review the City-wide "Large Park Master Planning Process" that includes Four Mile Run. Staff updated the community and took additional input on the Four Mile Run Improvement Draft Plan. Several JTF members stayed for this discussion.

### **In Attendance:**

JTF members:

Judy Noritake, Liz Birnbaum, Ripley Forbes, Mike Hanna, Carrie Johnson, Leo Sarli, Kurt Moser, Joe McCoy, Kevin Beekman, Whitney Long, Jonathan Krall

Staff:

Ron Kagawa, Dana Wedeles, Brian Rahal, Lyndon Murray, James Spangler, Gwen Wright, Jason Papacosma, Scott McPartlin, Regan Carver, Aimee Vosper, Corey Miles

Guests:

Karen Pallansch, Janelle Okorie, Joelle Jordan, Susan England, Lisa Lettieri, Jonathan Rak

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## Meeting Agenda

- Introductions and Welcome**..... JTF Co-Chairs  
Judy Noritake and Liz Birnbaum
- Status of Tidal Restoration Project**.....JTF Co-Chairs &  
Alexandria and Arlington Staff
- Update on reauthorization and scope
- Status of the Pedestrian/Cyclist Bridge Design Project**.....Aimee Vosper, NVRC
- Update on progress
- Status of the ASA project** ..... ASA representative,  
Jonathan Rak
- Update on progress
- Status of Projects along FMR**.....Alexandria and Arlington Staff
- Dominion Substation
  - Potomac Yard

*Also, the Alexandria Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Activities is currently in a City-wide "Large Park Master Planning Process" that includes Four Mile Run. Staff will be updating the community and taking additional input on the Four Mile Run Improvement Draft Plan at 7:30 pm immediately following the JTF discussion. Please consider staying to find out more about and participate in the master planning effort.*

# Four Mile Run Restoration Project

## Revised Project Scope

### May 2013



# Four Mile Run Master Plan Design and Capacity

- In 2008, NVRC, Arlington County and Alexandria received a Federal State and Tribal Grant (STAG) matched with local funding for the design and construction of the “Demonstration Project” for stream enhancements from Mt. Vernon Ave to Route-1. Combined, the jurisdictions have approximately \$6 million for the project.
- From 2008 to 2011 the in-stream restoration project proceeded and reached 90% design. The project would have restored in-stream habitat of Four Mile Run and re-introduced tidal wetlands, based upon newly modeled flow, in conjunction with USACE.
- Since Hurricane Katrina, the USACE began stricter implementation of policies, related to flood control structures which effects federally sponsored projects included in the Flood Control and Coastal Emergency Act (PL 84-99).
- Under these policies, the Four Mile Run Restoration Project, was required to meet Authorized Capacity of PL 84-99 by the USACE Baltimore District Levee Safety Section. **The USACE informed the jurisdictions of this new requirement in 2011.**

# Four Mile Run Tidal Restoration Design Capacity Issues

- The Tidal Restoration project cannot carry the Authorized Capacity
- Based upon the new USACE interpretations of the regulations, if the Tidal Restoration Project were to move forward as designed, City/County would have to forego participation in the USACE Flood Control Program (PL 84-99).
- After two attempts for congressional reauthorization in 2012, it has been determined that changing the Authorized Capacity to reflect current methodology (reduced peak flows) through Congress is not feasible\*\*\*.
- A meeting with the EPA in December 2012, determined that STAG grants could be used for a re-design of the project, provided that the funds are used towards ecological and water quality improvements within the Four Mile Run Watershed
- Funds must be used by September 30, 2015

# Flood Protection and Tidal Restoration

- \* Authorized capacity from the 1980's is greater than a 100-year flood by today's estimate
- \* Intent with Tidal Restoration is to provide capacity for today's estimate of a 100-year flood
- \* This approach would maintain the same level of protection from a 100-year flood as was provided when the flood control project was built
- \* If reauthorization is successful, this is the approach that we will follow

# New Scope of Work for STAG project presented to the EPA March 12, 2013

The inter-jurisdiction project team (ACG) is now scoping an alternative design to the Tidal Restoration Project, including bank and wetland restoration. The new scope will follow these guidelines:

- Design must meet authorized capacity
- Must minimize flood risk
- Shall include no rise in water surface elevation
- Design should improve pedestrian access to water and design trail grading
- Explore opening the channel to increase wetland benefits through the existing wetlands
- Re-plant habitat through landscape design
- The project should continue as a joint effort between Arlington and Alexandria

# New Scope of Work (as of 3/22/13)

- Naturalize the banks along the corridor and improved access to the stream through overlooks and terracing
- Minimize sediment flow by capturing it in accessible area (site 1)
- Replace rip-rap with vegetation and improve access on Arlington side (site 2)
- Establish historical tidal wetland condition in Four Mile Run Park (site 3)
- “Bruce Creek” feeder system (site 4), diverting water into the Wetlands



If funds allow additional projects the scope may be expanded to include TMDL load reduction projects, including water quality improvement strategies in the Four Mile Run Watershed (both in Alexandria and Arlington)

# New Timeline for STAG project (as of 3/12/13)

**January – February 2013:** Continue to Work with RKK to revise scope of work

**March 12, 2013:** Send new scope to EPA for approval

**May, 2013:** Inform Joint Task Force of new project scope

**May 2013 – March 2014:** Design and Permitting

**March 2014:** Complete bid documents

**Summer 2014:** Construction out to bid

**September 2014:** Begin construction

**September 2015:** Project complete

**Questions?**

# Pedestrian Bridge Update



- Currently reviewing 50% design drawings
- 90% Presentation to the JTF late summer 2013
- Final Submission & review late fall 2013
- Researching funding avenues for construction