

Prince William County
TRAILS AND BLUEWAYS COUNCIL

Advisors to the Board of County Supervisors

Meeting Minutes
 January 28, 2025; 6:30 PM
 Approved by the T&BC on February 25, 2025

Attendance

District	Appointee	Present (in person)	Present (virtual)	Absent
At Large	Amy Latalladi-Fulton		✓	
	Bill McCarty	✓		
Brentsville	Liz Cronauer (CHR)	✓		
	Catherine O'Connor (VCH)	✓		
Coles	Mike DePue	✓		
	Joe Marshall	✓		
Gainesville	Duane Martin	✓		
	Ken Johnson	✓		
Neabsco	Jason Williams	✓		
	Rich Wilson	✓		
Occoquan	Eileen Sheridan	✓		
	Neil Nelson (SEC)	✓		
Potomac	Steven Cover	✓		
	Kimberly Palacios			✓
Woodbridge	David Brickley	✓		
	Lynda Silverstrand	✓		

Staff persons David Kroeger, Robert Boyd, DPR Deputy Director Janet Bartnik, George Phillips, and Yolanda Hipski were present. Patti Pakkala attended virtually.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Liz at 6:30 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

Administrative:

- Resolution 25-1 was approved, for virtual attendance by Amy Latalladi-Fulton.
- December 17th T&BC minutes were approved through a motion by Eileen and seconded by Rich.

- Notes of the PHNST subcommittee meeting of January 22 were accepted (motion: David; 2nd Eileen).
- Resolution 25-2, Funding for Flat Branch Greenway. The draft resolution was presented, discussed, edited and approved (motion Eileen; 2nd Catherine). Janet noted that the draft had been provided to DPR Director Seth Hendler-Voss, who was asked to forward it to County Executive Chris Shorter and Deputy County Executive Elijah Johnson.

Citizen's Time.

- Charlie Grymes: Trail advocates should be bold and ambitious in asking BOCS for funds; he recommends asking for \$5 million per year. Keep asking and repeat the cycle. Don't just put trails in plans but never fund them. In regard to the Flat Branch trail discussion, he suggested that it could be opened with a budget of about \$20K.
- Russell Bryant agreed with Charlie's comments and reiterated that advocates should also talk to BOCS Chiefs of Staff. They can highlight items for Supervisors and help to set budget priorities.

County Agency Representatives

PWC Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR). David Kroeger

- PHNST stakeholder meetings are scheduled; ATCS will present findings and recommendations of the gap study. Gap 1 on Feb 12 at 1:00 pm; Gap 2 & 3 on Feb 20 at 1:00 pm
- Powell's Creek crossing – negotiating contract for 35% design.
- Occoquan Greenway: Segment 2 bridge construction has started; PBS is on-site; plan completion by June 25. Segment 6 bridge - coordinating with PWW for site access and construction. Segment 7 – has contract with AMT for survey and to develop plats, as soon as alignments are confirmed with LRPA.
- Expecting a new GIS person to be onboard next month.

PWC Transportation. George Phillips

- George presented the VDOT plan for replacement of the I-95 bridge over Neabsco Creek. He indicated it was the final plan, which shows a large new culvert on the east side and leaves no room for a trail. David asked if PWC Transportation ever contacted VDOT? Duane said it is similar to the missed I-66 & Bull Run Trail opportunity, and it seems systemic that VDOT is ignoring PWC plans. He asked what remedial action can be taken by PWC. Jason and Rich should contact Victor Angry. George will ask someone to come back with details. David said he would submit a FOIA request to PWC DOT, seeking records of what they provided to VDOT for a project that was on the comp plan. Neil noted that the culvert would preclude leaving a wildlife corridor, which is contrary to VDOT policy.
- George provided a list of grant applications via the Transportation-Land Use Connections program, and the Regional Roadway Safety program.
- Announced upcoming meeting on VDOT project: Route 28 innovative intersections in Prince William County and the City of Manassas Park. The design public hearing will be held Wednesday, Feb. 26 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Manassas Park City Hall, 100 Park Central Plaza, Manassas Park, VA 20111

PWC Planning, Yolanda Hipski

- Vint Hill corridor study initiated, received \$250K funding for it.

- The Planning Office is beefing up the Community Development Division; Keisha Hall is returning as division head. Jonathan Rodriguez is coming onboard on Feb 17, with experience in multi-modal projects. Will fill two more positions: planner and development services tech.

Community Development Applications

- George stated that there are three huge applications on Vint Hill Rd. A corridor study has been initiated, intended to be a comprehensive look at them, but won't be done before applications must be processed. Comments due Feb 24.
- Rob Boyd added that there are six developments in total, on both sides of Vint Hill Rd. DPR will work with the Planning Office and DOT on this large-scale development of the area.
- Townes at Occoquan (formerly Destination Place). Revised application has proffer for a 20-ft trail easement for PHNST, but with hard to achieve stipulations for it to become permanent. DPR will provide comments.

Business Items: 2025 TBC Goals Finalization

- Liz stated that the TBC Goals list has been updated for 2025, and Joe will continue in role as editor of the document.
- Janet has developed a goal-themed work plan, with two major items for the near term:
 - County wide trails master plan
 - Establish trail priorities with costs. In discussion it was noted that now is the time to advocate for BOCS to fund trail projects; it is CIP time now. Recommended amount is \$5 million per year.
- Ken noted a need to focus on standard signage, #4 in work plan. Rob said that DPR, with a consultant, is working on more comprehensive signage for the whole park system. DPR to work on trail head kiosks, maps, wayfinding, and blazing. Duane asked if PWC will follow state park standard? Patti – trail inventory will capture status of existing signage, what needs to be replaced, where additional is needed.

Presentations/Reports.

a. Trail Priorities with Costs, Janet Bartnik

- Janet reported the estimated cost of the Dawson Beach Rd sidewalk project is \$1.7 million, for 1/10th mile (intent was for this project to be funded by \$1 million allocated by the BOCS for FY25, and show ability to complete projects).
- DOT is working on estimates for sidewalk projects. Estimate \$2.5M per mile for other trail projects.
- Other project estimates: Broad Run Greenway Trail from Victory Lakes to Sowder Village Square - \$5.0 million. Lake Ridge powerline trail between Old Bridge Rd & Minnieville Rd - \$2.5 mil; Occoquan Greenway Trail Segment 2 restoration - \$250K.

b. FY25 CIP funding plan – pedestrian priorities, Bryce Barrett. No presentation

c. Trails Master Plan Process Presentation, Staff

- Rob Boyd gave a presentation on developing the trail master plan and referred to the guiding statement in the Mobility Chapter: Action Strategy RT9.2. “Develop a County-wide Trails Master Plan that identifies trail and active mobility gaps and includes priorities for inclusion into capital improvement and capital maintenance budgets.”

- Three main components:
 - update and evaluate, identify gaps
 - cost estimate for CIP items
 - cost estimate for CMP needs
- Will prioritize what is already in the network; includes shared use paths and trails, not sidewalks.
- Not working toward an update to the comp plan (DPR does not have authority to initiate a comp plan amendment).
- Will finish trail plan at beginning of 2026, working towards BOCS adoption in 2026. The first phase - data collection - has started. Will hold public meeting in late May or early June. Will update TBC every two months (in Feb and Apr). Data collection should be done by 1st public meeting. Next phase is to draft a report. Public meeting planned for late Oct. Target BOCS adoption in Jan 2026. BOCS could initiate a comp plan update.
- Liz - what is DPR looking for from TBC? Rob - advocacy, support at public hearing, publicity. Work with Supervisors on prioritization.

Organization Representatives' Time

Greater Prince William Trails Coalition (GPWTC). Eileen Sheridan

- GPWTC quarterly meeting held on January 23, 2025, with broad attendance of member organization representatives.

Prince William Trails & Streams Coalition (PWTSC). Neil Nelson

- The Second Sunday hike in February (Feb 9) is at Doves Landing Park, 1:00 pm
- First spring stream cleanup is Neabsco Creek and boardwalk, March 1

Mid Atlantic Off-Road Enthusiasts (MORE). Jason Williams

- MORE annual meeting in Silver Spring on Feb 22, at the civic center. The event is a celebration of the volunteers and work accomplished.
- Jason and Rich were selected as MORE trail builders of the year for VA.

Trails Keepers. Catherine O'Connor

- They are preparing for the survey of crosswalks for the Comprehensive Safety Action Plan.

Members' Time:

- Amy: no report
- Bill: no report
- Catherine: no report
- David: Showed pictures of his recent trip to the **South Pole** and stay at the scientific research facility. Asked if there will be a virtual option for attending the Feb 20 PHNST stakeholder meeting.
- Duane: Attended Supervisor Weir's town hall meeting. Digital Gateway was mentioned, and the associated land acquisition is on hold pending lawsuits. Asked how this might impact trail proffers. Patti - if comp plan amendments hold, proffers hold.
- Eileen: no report.
- Jason: be aware of the freeze / thaw cycle and impact of trail use; stay off the trails if muddy.

T&BC Meeting Minutes – January 28, 2025

- Joe: Dominion is expanding the generating capacity at Possum Point which may influence park and trail planning for the area. Janet said DPR is communicating with Dominion. Need for mileage markers on SUP. Making a trip New Zealand for two weeks in Feb.
- Ken: no report.
- Kimberly: Absent from meeting
- Liz: Went on the 1st Day Hike at Bristoe Station Battlefield which included great interpretation by two reps from the Historic Division.
- Lynda: appreciated the reminder that Jason sent about staying off of the unsafe ice.
- Mike: shared a humorous but fictitious report of visit to the **North Pole** over the holiday season
- Neil: planning to attend the presentation on the Chinn Park stream restoration project, Thursday evening (Jan 30)
- Rich: no report.
- Steven: looking for projects in his district for 2025.

Meeting Recap: Janet will send out email on Friday to TBC members, showing any completed cost estimates for trail projects.

Next meetings:

- PHNST stakeholder meetings
 - Gap 1 on Feb 12 at 1:00 pm; Hellwig
 - Gap 2 & 3 on Feb 20 at 1:00 pm; Hellwig
- At Hellwig: Full T&BC – February 25 at 6:30 PM
- PHNST subcommittee meeting, February 26 at 3:00 pm, Hellwig

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM