

NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 1

Occoquan Watershed Coalition December 1994

Background

For approximately four months we have been working to put together a coalition of homeowners and homeowner associations in the Fairfax Station and Clifton areas. The purpose of the coalition is to unite owners and homeowner associations in this area, to provide improved communication, dialogue and influence on issues of importance to those in who live in this environmentally sensitive rural area. Over 90 homeowner associations representing approximately 3000 land owners in these areas have expressed interest in membership. There are an equal number of owners who are not members of formal homeowner association. We are looking for them to join the coalition too.

First Meeting Date

The initial meeting of homeowners and associations interested in joining the Occoquan Watershed Coalition will be held on Wednesday, December 7, 1994 at 7:30PM at the Town Meeting Hall next to the new Clifton Fire House.

Supervisor Elaine McConnell, Delegate Jay O'Brien, Jim Chesley (Clifton Mayor), and Mike

Thompson (Chairman of Springfield District Council) have indicated they plan to attend and will address the coalition.

Defined Geographic Area for Coalition Membership

The region enclosed by Braddock Rd on the north, Union Mill Rd on the west, Route 123 on the east and south to the Fairfax-Prince William County line. Membership in the coalition is open to include everyone living in the defined area.

Invitation to Join

If you live in the defined area and are interested in joining the Occoquan Watershed Coalition, come to the meeting on Dec 7 or mail in the attached membership application. **Become a member!**

- Be better informed.**
- Be involved as an individual owner or as an association.**
- Be a part of the solution to our mutual problems and issues.**
- Help protect and defend our environment.**

Traffic Study Update

Prince William and Fairfax Counties have formed a bi-county subcommittee to address the growing traffic problem between their two counties. The subcommittee will provide guidelines for a \$250,000 study of a yet to be defined area for new or improved river crossings and roads over the Occoquan River

Supervisors in Prince William County are specifically asking that a new crossing and road be considered between I-95 and Old Yates Ford Road. A more western crossing north of Liberia Ave and east of Manassas Park joining Rte 28 near Compton Rd is also being considered. And ... there are others.

Supervisor Gerry Hyland (Mt Vernon/Fairfax) proposed and the subcommittee approved tasking the transportation departments of Prince William and Fairfax County and VDOT to develop recommendations on new feasible crossing sites and new limited access roads to connect the parkways and major commuter routes.

Citizen Input

Citizen input provided at two public meetings was heard by some of the subcommittee but evidently rejected by others. There was little discussion regarding it at the Nov 30 subcommittee meeting. Most citizens called for a broader study; not wanting a band-aid solution to the problem. Supervisor Spellane (PWC) said more than three times,

"it is important we have a new mid-crossing between I-95 and Old Yates Ford Rd." Instead of providing guidance for the study the PWC supervisors seemed to jump immediately to possible conclusions of the study.

Supervisor Mike Frey (Sulley/Fairfax) will chair the next meeting on Jan 11, 1995.

Supervisor McConnell

Elaine McConnell said that the boundaries and scope of the study should be broadened using I-66 to the west/north, I-95/Rte 1 to the east and the county line to the south. She took a firm position against reopening the Ridgefield Road approach again. She indicated this had been studied, rejected by Fairfax Board of Supervisors, and deleted from transportation plans. She indicated that approved plans to widen Rte 123 and Rte 28 to 6 lanes and the improvements to the Rte 28/29 interchange should be expedited. That we should study making improvements to Hooes, Furnace, and Lorton Roads.

Your Comments and Support Are Needed!

Recent citizen efforts to amend the Comprehensive Plan to delete the reference to widening and improving Henderson Rd were successful. This is living proof that we can make a difference in government.

Homeowner associations and homeowners need to band together now. We need to be better informed and in a more timely manner. We need to discuss and

weigh the alternatives, communicate with the county planners on a pro-active basis, and be heard with a louder voice than that of the individual citizen or homes association.

The Occoquan Watershed Coalition provides us an opportunity to unite for causes and issues that are important to everyone in the region.

This beautiful and rural environment is unique and precious. . . it will take our collective efforts to defend and protect it.

Attend the Meeting on Dec 7th or Join by Mail

Mark your calendar. Come to the first meeting of the Occoquan Watershed Coalition.

**Wed, Dec 7th 7:30PM
Town Meeting Hall next to
Clifton Fire House**

Be certain your association is informed and will be represented at the meeting.

Feel free to make extra copies of this Newsletter and share it with your neighbors.

If you can not attend the initial meeting of the Occoquan Watershed Coalition, take the time now to complete and mail the application for membership on the front of this newsletter.

For additional information or questions, call 764-1300.