

**Urban Forestry Commission
June 27, 2013
Meeting Summary**

Attendance

Dean Amel
Larry Finch
Nora Palmatier
Mikaila Milton
Steve Campbell
Paul Campanella
Ed Hilz
Karen Kumm Morris
Elizabeth Rives
Caroline Haynes
Scott Brinitzer

State and County Staff

Vincent Verweij, DPR
Jamie Bartalon, DPR
Jim McGlone, VDOF

Guests

John Wingard
John Rosenbaum
Vicky Tsaparas
Charles Spencer
Lucy Spenser

Public Comment – Ms. Lucy Spenser (a Tree Steward) expressed concerns about the number of trees that are removed during development. She would like to see more efforts made to preserve existing trees when properties are developed.

Lorcom Lane Development Project and Tree Issues – John Rosenbaum, Bedrock Development

John Wingard (Tree Steward) informed the commission that he became interested and concerned about tree impacts when he learned that a property at 3900 Lorcom Lane was going to be re-developed. He spoke with the developer of the property (John Rosenbaum) and arranged for him to describe his experiences trying to preserve trees as he worked through the County's permitting process.

Mr. Rosenbaum reported that he purchased the property at 3900 Lorcom Lane for re-development, and worked hard to explore ways to preserve trees and the topography of the site. The property is slightly less than an acre. The property can be sub-divided into four lots through the by-right development process.

As Mr. Rosenburg worked through the County's permitting process he learned that by-right development requirements for configuring the lots and buildings, providing street access for driveways, and adjusting grades to manage stormwater would not permit him to preserve the most valuable trees. Although a few black locust trees will be preserved, eight to ten larger, more valuable trees will be removed.

Mr. Rosenbaum explored what it would entail to develop the property through the Unified Residential Development (URD) process. The URD process offers more flexibility to developers, but is a more cumbersome process than developing a property by-right. Mr. Rosenbaum stated that economics forced him to develop the property “by-right” because the URD process would:

- delay the project by approximately six months;
- double his legal fees; and,
- require that he provide concessions to the community (which he stated raises uncertainties for a developer).

He appreciated having the opportunity to share his experiences with the Urban Forestry Commission, and hopes that his case may lead to further discussions on how the permitting process may be modified in the future so that it is easier for developers to preserve trees.

Dean Amel asked Mr. Rosenbaum to elaborate on why more trees couldn’t be preserved through the by-right development process. Mr. Rosenbaum explained that he was required to construct a street to serve the four homes (as they could be configured by-right), and that the street had to meet County grading standards of 5%. The new street and associated grading (which required the construction of a retaining wall) resulted in significant tree impacts. Mr. Rosenbaum again stressed that the option of developing the property through the URD process was not an option because of its economic consequences. He feels that the URD process would be more appealing and less cumbersome to developers if it could be streamlined to fit the same timeline required for by-right projects.

Karen Kumm Morris agreed that the cost to develop a site can increase if there is a six month delay in the permitting process. However, it seems that more time will be required for review and approval through the URD process than through the by-right process, even if the County relaxes some permitting conditions for URD’s.

Tree impacts associated with by-right development requirements for building set-backs and layouts were discussed. Vincent Verweij noted that grading necessary to meet stormwater management requirements may impact trees, whether a project is done through the by-right or URD process. Mr. Rosenbaum noted that, for the Lorcom Lane project, extensive grading was required in order to build the new street and “hammerhead” required for by-right construction. Less grading and fewer tree impacts would have resulted if homes could have been accessed by a common driveway, rather than a new street.

Larry Finch agreed that some grading may still have been required through the URD process in order to meet stormwater management regulations. However, he also noted that the “public benefit” requirement for the URD process may have been satisfied by preserving more trees. Scott Brintzer agreed that stormwater management requirements to keep more water on site through the installation of holding tanks and other practices often result in tree impacts on development projects.

Ed Hilz asked Mr. Rosenbaum how he would like to see the URD process changed. Mr. Rosenbaum replied that expediting the URD process so that a developer could make an informed

decision in a more timely manner would be a key change. Karen Kumm Morris asked whether the County process for by-right and URD projects includes a “pre-application” meeting between staff and the developer to review concept drawings. Mr. Rosenbaum stated that the current process doesn’t include such a meeting, and that the URD process involves the inclusion of multiple parties.

Ed Hilz noted that there appears to be a need for the County to assign case managers to URD projects to help guide developers through the process. Larry Finch added that it would be helpful if staff had authority for more flexibility on by-right project requirements if developers demonstrate that more trees would be preserved and less impervious surface would result from their proposed plans.

Staff from CPHD will be invited to a future UFC meeting to discuss the by-right and URD development processes. The discussion will focus on whether there may be ways to expedite the URD process, as well as whether by-right development requirements for street grades, set-backs, and lot frontage can be relaxed if more tree preservation and less impervious surface would result.

Suggestions for Treatment of Natural Lands in the Revised Urban Forest Master Plan – Greg Zell and Larry Finch

Larry Finch summarized recommendations contained in a June 11 memo that he and Greg Zell sent to Vincent Verweij with suggestions for the revised Urban Forest Master Plan (UFMP). The Natural Resources Joint Advisory Group (NRJAG) discussed these recommendations at its June meeting. Greg Zell was not available to attend this UFC meeting.

Some key recommendations in the memo: Forested natural areas should be managed using an ecosystem approach that considers impacts of activities on all vegetation (not just trees) and on soil and water. Recommended policies and best practices for tree protection and preservation should also include the development of a set of written guidelines for the use of heavy equipment in parks. The management of invasive species, as well as the impacts of deer browse, should also be addressed in the revised UFMP, and funding for the 10-year plan for managing invasive species should be a high priority. In view of declining tree canopy in residential areas, there is a need for increased emphasis on public outreach and education on the benefits of native trees and vegetation.

Dean Amel noted that tree impacts have occurred on park projects that have not been subject to commission review. Larry Finch noted that the Natural Resources Management Plan (NRMP) addresses the preservation of natural resources in natural areas, but including a review process in the revised UFMP could help to protect trees and other vegetation in other parks. Nora Palmatier and Caroline Haynes commented that there needs to be more consistency in how natural lands are managed and protected.

Mr. Amel also noted the importance of hiring a third Urban Forester (currently on hold due to a County “hiring slow-down”) so that staff resources are available to revise the UFMP.

2014 Legislative Priorities

The commission discussed ideas for 2014 legislative priorities and reviewed a draft letter for submission to the County Board. The draft letter focuses on three priorities: closer consultation by VDOT with local governments on road projects; invasive species regulations; and, the licensing of arborists in Virginia.

The commission discussed major tree impacts caused by recent VDOT projects in Arlington, and the lack of VDOT consultation with residents and staff during project planning and implementation. Although it is not clear whether this issue would be best addressed through a legislative or administrative process, it was agreed that the recommendation to introduce legislation may result in discussions that lead to desired administrative changes. Nora Palmatier commented that Dean Amel's draft letter was well worded – capturing the problem and the need for improvements.

The portion of the commission's draft letter regarding invasive species regulations was revised to reflect the review of regulations being proposed by the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS). A public comment period on VDACS draft regulations will be open from July 15 through September 13, 2013. Jamie Bartalon will send commission members links to the proposed regulations and process for public comment. The final UFC letter on legislative priorities will urge the County Board to direct staff to comment on VDACS's proposed regulations. Caroline Haynes will review proposed state regulations and provide her recommendations to the UFC at the July 25 meeting.

Mikaila Milton suggested including a recommendation to adjust tax rates according to the amount of pervious vs. impervious surface on a property. Jim McGlone noted that this may be accomplished through an administrative process that does not require state legislation. Dean Amel agreed that the idea may be appropriate to suggest to the County Board, but not as a legislative item at this time.

Ms. Milton also suggested including legislation to phase in the undergrounding of power lines. Mr. Amel clarified that localities could also pursue this without the need for state legislation.

During the discussion of the recommendation to license arborists in Virginia, Paul Campanella expressed doubt that local governments would support publishing an approved/sanctioned list of tree care companies. He also noted that licensing would not necessarily ensure that better quality work will be performed. Jim McGlone noted that establishing a state licensing program is different than publishing an approved list of companies. Mr. Campanella felt that administration and enforcement of a licensing program may still be problematic.

Nora Palmatier remarked that the current task is to recommend legislative priorities to the County Board, not to actually draft the proposed legislation. Dean Amel noted that it would be

helpful to know how many other states require arborists to be licensed. Ms. Palmatier noted that the City of Falls Church requires tree care companies to obtain a permit to perform work in the city. Vincent Verweij added that the authority for Falls Church to enact such a requirement was “grandfathered in”.

Dean Amel will edit the draft letter on UFC legislative priorities to reflect the current status of VDACS invasive species regulatory efforts. The final letter will be submitted to the County Board.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the May 23, 2013, Urban Forestry Commission meeting were approved with minor edits.

Staff Reports

- Jamie Bartalon distributed a news release announcing that Arlington County will begin the West Rosslyn Area Planning Study process. The goal of the study is to develop a conceptual plan and policy recommendations that will guide future development in the study area. The County Board will appoint a working group to work with CPHD Planning Division staff on developing a draft plan.

Karen Kumm Morris suggested that the UFC should pursue having a representative appointed to the work group. Dean Amel will explore the possibility of having a UFC member appointed to the group. Jamie Bartalon will e-mail Richard Tucker (Planning Division staff) to express the UFC’s interest in having a representative appointed to the work group.

- Jamie Bartalon and Nora Palmatier reported that Tree Stewards assisted DPR’s Landscape Unit staff with installing tree identification signs at the Bon Air Park Ornamental Tree Garden.
- Vincent Verweij announced that temporary soil monitoring sensors are being installed in Arlington test areas where Virginia Tech is researching soil mixtures and soil profiles for tree planting. Karen Kumm Morris requested a staff update at the July UFC meeting on efforts to increase soil volume in tree pits and increase the number of street trees per block on Site Plan projects.
- Vincent Verweij reported that Casey Trees is interested in conducting educational outreach in Arlington. Casey Trees is also planting trees on the grounds of Drew Model School.

Commission Member Reports

Natural Resources Joint Advisory Group – The Natural Resources Joint Advisory Group (NRJAG) report by Caroline Haynes is attached.

Park and Recreation Commission – The Park and Recreation Commission report by Caroline Haynes is attached.

Planning Activities – Karen Kumm Morris' report on recent planning activities is attached.

Public Facilities Review Committee (PFRC) – The PFRC report by Ed Hilz is attached.

Environment and Energy Conservation Commission (E2C2) – The E2C2 report by Alex Sanders is attached.

Champion Trees Committee – No report.

Tree Stewards – Nora Palmatier's report on Tree Steward activities is attached.

Tree Canopy Fund – Nora Palmatier's report on the Tree Canopy Fund is attached.

Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC) – Elizabeth Rives' NCAC report is attached.

Columbia Pike Form Based Code Advisory Working Group – Steve Campbell's Columbia Pike Form Based Code Advisory Working Group report is attached.

Northern Virginia Urban Forestry Roundtable – Jim McGlone reported that the next Northern Virginia Urban Forestry Roundtable will be held on August 22, at the Fairfax County Government Center. The roundtable will focus on trees and stream restoration projects.

Virginia Department of Forestry – Jim McGlone reported that the Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF) has teams available to help local governments evaluate trees after major storms. Information provided by the VDOF teams is very helpful when localities file FEMA reports.

Arlington Public Schools (APS) – Jim Meikle's APS update is attached.

Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) – Kirsten Buhls' VCE update is attached.

New Business

- Nora Palmatier proposed that money from Arlington County’s Tree Canopy Fund should be used to fund the County’s Tree Distribution Program, which was cut from DPR’s Fiscal Year 2014 budget. The commission unanimously approved a motion that, “the Urban Forestry Commission concurs with using approximately \$11,000 from the Tree Canopy Fund to cover the cost of the 2013 Tree Distribution Program”.
- Dean Amel asked staff if training for ISA arborist certification is available to members of the County’s tree maintenance team. His question was in response to an e-mail he received from a resident who had spoken to team members at a job site. Jamie Bartalon reported that training opportunities are available to interested staff. Requests for more costly trainings, such as those involving overnight travel, are evaluated on a case-by-case basis in light of budget restrictions.
- Larry Finch reported that he is urging Arlington County to buy his home (2533 N. Utah St.) and the property next door (2527 N. Utah St.) as additions to Zachary Taylor Park. The properties are located by the park entrance, and they form a barrier between the park and the street. At present, access to the park is along the right-of-way for an unbuilt extension of N. Utah St. Acquisition of the properties would ensure continued access to the park if subdivision of N. Upshur St. properties made it necessary to extend N. Utah St., eliminating the present park entrance. Mr. Finch noted that the County would need both properties to benefit fully from the acquisition, and it was unlikely that both would be on the market at the same time for many years..

Mr. Finch is discussing the potential acquisition of the two properties with County Board members and DPR’s Park Development and Design staff. He noted that DPR has limited funds for land acquisition and does not view the Utah St. properties as their first priority. The Donaldson Run Civic Association is sending a letter to the County Board endorsing the County purchase of the two properties, which is also consistent with recommendations in Donaldson Run’s Neighborhood Conservation Plan.

Karen Kumm Morris moved that the UFC should send a letter to the County Board recommending the allocation of funding to purchase properties at 2533 and 2527 North Utah Street so that they may be incorporated into Zachary Taylor Park, as supported by the civic association and the Donaldson Run Neighborhood Conservation Plan. The motion was approved, with Mr. Finch abstaining from the vote. Dean Amel will draft a letter for UFC review before sending it to the County Board.

- Karen Kumm Morris encouraged UFC members to attend the “Realize Rosslyn” forum on open space, to be held on July 10, in the County Board room.

Attachments to June 27, 2013 Urban Forestry Commission Meeting Summary:

Natural Resources Joint Advisory Group – Caroline Haynes

The June meeting focused on a preliminary update to the Urban Forest Master Plan as it relates to the Natural Resource Management Plan. It was noted that Vincent Verweij will not be able to begin work on the updates until another urban forester position is filled, but we wanted to capture the collective wisdom of Greg Zell, Natural Resource Specialist, and Larry Finch before the end of their service (NRMP recommendation #10).

Vincent also provided an update on the GIS methodology for highlighting overlapping significant natural resources. The discussion focused on the steps being taken internally to protect significant resources (NRMP recommendation #3).

Greg Zell also suggested that he is hoping to focus his remaining time with the county working on Park specific natural resource management plans and he provided a draft template for developing the plans (NRMP recommendation #5).

Park and Recreation Commission – Caroline Haynes

Mary Hynes, who is the new County Board liaison to Park and Recreation Commission, attended the meeting. There was a wide ranging discussion on the commission priorities including: 1) need to complete the land acquisition policy; 2) interest in strengthening the relationship between the Park and Rec and the Planning Commissions; 3) next steps on preserving open space with the Wilson School property; 4) interest in having a study on the economic benefits of parks and open space, and 5) strengthening the relationships between DPR and APS. There was a candid exchange of views and a broader discussion about how parks are going to keep pace with the increase in population, and a sense of urgency on the part of Park and Rec Commission members to get moving on the related issues of land acquisition, needs assessment and the Public Spaces Master plan.

Planning Activities – Karen Kumm Morris

The Planning Commission met last month, June 3 and 5. The agenda included a presentation by staff on the proposed Community Energy Plan, and historic designation of the Fraber House and garage. The Planning Commission supported the CEP requesting staff to include language about the contributions of the urban forest in energy reduction. Staff agreed to do so. The Historic designation of the Fraber House and garage were also recommended for approval with a modification that would have allowed the garage to remain in its current location with preservation of the surrounding trees. CB, ultimately approved CM's recommendation to sell the garage with the house, and to relocate it off-site or move it to the Fraber house parcel to save more room for parkland.

Continuing SP 's include Penn Place, a significant opportunity to increase the urban forest in Pentagon City.

Other on-going planning activities include the Rosslyn Sector Plan, and the Western Wilson Planning area.

More planning activities will be reported at tonight's meeting.

Public Facilities Review Committee (PFRC) – Ed Hilz

The Public Facilities Review Committee met on Wednesday June 25 regarding the new elementary school that will be built on the grounds of Williamsburg Middle School at 3600 North Harrison Street. Attached is the meeting agenda and the staff report for the meeting is at <http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/Commissions/PublicFacilitiesReviewCommittee/PFRC-062613-New%20ES1.pdf>.

- Much discussion about the size of the loop (driveway) that will be used by parents to drop off their children. It appears that the loop may be a pervious surface. APS staff indicated they are looking into the cost of the necessary vacuum equipment used to keep the surface from clogging up.
- How much onsite parking there should be is an ongoing concern. The neighborhood would like a lot so that less street parking is used. Others would like less onsite parking so there is more green space.
- There will be two bio-retention areas to capture the storm water from the building and the site. At this time, the storm water from the Williamsburg Middle School, next door, will be not be captured but bio-retention will be considered when improvements are made to WMS.
- Drip irrigation will be installed for the plantings at the retaining walls which will be used for a couple of years to help the plantings get established.
- Several different materials will be used for the façade to produce a colorful appearance
- The HVAC equipment has been relocated to the side of the building so that photovoltaic panels (solar panels) can cover most of the roof.
- Athletic fields will be natural turf with no lights which the neighborhood strongly supports rather than lighted fields with artificial turf

The neighborhood civic association, Rock Spring, has proposed significant changes to the neighborhood conservation plan for pedestrian improvements at the nearby Williamsburg Blvd and Kensington intersection. The issue is with the County Manager for resolution.

Environment and Energy Conservation Commission (E2C2) – Alex Sanders

The June meeting focused on three matters: a presentation from the Office of Emergency Preparedness, review of our 2014 legislative agenda and review of our Williamsburg ES letter.

Our legislative agenda letter included several energy-related requests, the need to direct State agencies to apply climate data to long-term planning and investing, and an appeal for the payment of dues to the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin.

E2C2 continued to take public comment on the Williamsburg ES. We are in support of the ES, but are concerned with the possible implementation of synthetic turf fields and associated lighting.

Tree Steward Activities – Nora Palmatier

Annual Meeting was held June 19, and speaker was from Trees Virginia. Elections were held with new officers in VP Communications Christina Campanella & VP Membership Jessica Holliday, staying on were Treasurer Lynn Koch, President Nora Palmatier, and At Large Directors Jane Longan, Oliver Flint, Kurt Moser. Discussions on how to do public education asked why not have tree tables at soccer events, etc since that's where families who own houses will be – a member is going to experiment with the concept. We are considering how to use yard signs as Falls Church program does to promote tree planting (Sample brought to meeting)

We applied for a TCF Education Grant to get more posters *How to Kill a Tree* and the one of neighborhood tree canopy. We also sought funds to purchase ISA pamphlets on protecting trees during construction, which we will distribute to contractors/developers/participants during the April Home Show. TreeStewards would like to share a booth with UFC that targets those considering house renovations and those that do them – it's a perfect target audience to preserve the tree canopy.

Check your next tax bill from Arlington County Treasurer – TS applied to be one of the nonprofits with an educational message included. With luck, we'll have a ½ sheet on how to remove ivy from trees.

Assuming no storm this Thursday morning, TS volunteers will have placed ID signs along the Ornamental Tree Garden in Bon Air Park.

Tree Canopy Fund – Nora Palmatier

The deadline was last Friday and at total of 341 trees were requested from 17 condo/HOA, 16 groups, 1 individual. Last year it was 338 trees.

Elenor suggested review dates of Thursday, July 18 and Thursday, August 2. Let's do a poll this evening to see how many can attend one or both these dates.

I've been interviewing folks from Falls Church, Fredericksburg, DC and Philadelphia who run volunteer tree planting programs and will get a report together by September. What I'm seeing is that the advantage of volunteer use goes beyond the cost effectiveness issue and raises more public education, more ownership of ongoing tree care, and possibly a better outcome because volunteers are so careful with each tree planted. I'd like to have a discussion by UFC members after they review the report on strategies Arlington could use to create a hybrid program of some locations planted by volunteers and some remaining planted by contractor given the large number of trees involved. Still at the beginning point of the research but I've learned nothing that makes me think we couldn't have a similar program in Arlington.

Elenor Hodges compiled the following chart:

**Report for Urban Forestry Commission
Application Summary – Prepared June 2013**

Applications to the Tree Canopy Fund							
	Condos/Apartments/Other		Civic Associations/Individuals			Total	
	Trees	Groups	Trees	Groups	Individuals	Trees	Groups
2012	124	20	214	15	N/A	338	35
2013	151	17	191	16	1	342	33

Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee – Elizabeth Rives

The Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee had its spring 2013 funding session at its meeting on June 13, 2013. The three projects that qualified were relatively low down on the points list, causing several reps to question why the committee qualified them in place of higher ranking projects. The simple explanation was that none of the higher-point projects were ready for various reasons, but would hopefully be ready by the fall funding session. Several reps strongly advised staff to work harder to ensure there were an ample number of projects ready-to-go so that NCAC would not be in a situation where they have lots of bond funding, but no projects to fund. This would result in the inevitable cutback of future bond amounts to the NCAC program.

The three recommended projects were approved unanimously, with a slight amount of discussion on various aspects of the projects. Only one project appears to involve trees -- a Phase II pedestrian safety and beautification project in the Williamsburg neighborhood (from 26th St. North to the Williamsburg Circle). The project reduces from two lanes of traffic each way to one traffic lane with a bike and parking lane in each direction, separated by a landscaped median (grass and trees) with design features to manage stormwater. I inquired about the width of the median -- was it large enough to support tree plantings -- as well as tree selection. I was surprised to learn that NCAC projects don't work with urban foresters, although they do have landscapers assigned to each project. I was assured the landscaper would make recommendations based upon approved county-specimens that would be appropriate to the site. I was also assured the median would be large enough to support tree planting. Evidently, the landscape and tree aspects of NCAC projects are considered at a later date than when they are approved for funding. Unfortunately, the project is not one that would benefit from money from DES for stormwater retention and mitigation.

The streetlight issue came up yet again as a general discussion item from the floor (not on the agenda). Again, unsurprisingly, it engendered a heated discussion among the reps. The issue is that many residents detest the new LED lights the County is using, both from a brightness and "ugly color" standpoint as well as an aesthetic design viewpoint (some called them industrial while others say they look like a prison yard). Some residents don't seem to even notice them, but this is at least the third meeting I have attended where the subject has been vigorously debated at great length. The Committee has even held a meeting devoted exclusively to streetlights at which Wayne Wentz explained the various options and faced third-degree questioning. Many, if not most, NCAC projects involve some sort of street lighting element in

them (but the County is not initiating any streetlight installations in neighborhoods outside of the NCAC program). After going around in circles several times, the Committee finally decided to form a subcommittee to further examine the issue and make recommendations to the full Committee on next steps for working with the County to address residents' concerns. This seems to be a classic "Not In My Backyard" or, rather, "Not in My Front Yard," issue where residents are supportive of the County's energy efficiency goals (meaning less power-consuming LED streetlights that burn a very bright, white light), but don't want them on their own neighborhoods or streets.

Columbia Pike Form Based Code Advisory Working Group – Steve Campbell

There was a meeting tonight (6/26) of the Col Pike NAP Form-Based Code Advisory Working Group. The first four sections of a new draft of the code were to be presented and discussed. There were no tree-related sections on the agenda, so I did not attend. A second FBC AWG presentation/discussion will take place on July 10, when the sections on Street Space and Open Space will be reviewed. I will attend this meeting.

Another reason for not attending tonight's FBC AWG was so I could sit in on the Rosslyn Process Panel's meeting regarding the Rosslyn Sector Plan Update. The topics at this meeting were parks, open space, and transportation. The group is looking at improvements to Rosslyn over a 20+ year time frame, during which time significant growth and re-development are expected. The panel's and community's goals seem to include (among others) vibrant sidewalks/streetscapes (with more trees!), adequate parks and open space, and better connectivity to the national park areas nearby. Many thanks to Karen Kumm and Vincent for already leading the way for improved planting sites for street trees!

The Rosslyn Process Panel plans to also meet next on July 10 to continue their discussion on parks, open space, and transportation. I'll have to miss this meeting due to a conflict.

Arlington Public Schools (APS) – James Meikle

- a. APS Facilities Maintenance staff welcomed the news that a commitment to the proper care of new young trees will be a future use permit condition. The County and volunteers (led by Nora) have done their best to help us in the past but this rule provides a platform for our future budgeting where young tree care cannot be a 'soft' target in the tightest years. We have already put things in motion. We are putting gator bags on all the young trees at Washington-Lee and Yorktown and setting a filling schedule. Initially this may be a combination of us paying overtime to the County watering team and/or borrowing a truck when it's not in use but we are ordering our own tank and pump to fit on the back of one of our vehicles and expect to have it fully operational in 2-3 weeks. We have also hired summer help for this, copying the County model. I even tried to 'poach' one of your young aces but Vincent caught me in the act! Seriously though the kid provided a great explanation on 'how best' to do this work. So gator bags and a summer filling schedule will become our default going forward at Wakefield, NES#1, Ashlawn, McKinley etc.
- b. The final-final design (following one last review with the stakeholders) for the Magnolia Bog new retaining tank and hillside repair is due to go out to bid in August for Fall work.

- c. Many thanks to Vincent and Ed for helping us ease community concerns over tree removals at Abingdon.

Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) – Kirsten Buhls

University faculty will receive their first pay raise in 6 years, Extension Director Ed Jones is doing a wonderful job of advocacy for us at the university and in Richmond. Restoration of the cuts made to VCE by the state in 2010 have enabled Extension officials to hire more than 25 agents, including new 4H agents in Arlington and Alexandria who both started in the last 6 weeks. Approximately 210 agents are located in county and city offices.

In other news, if you haven't seen it yet, VT's award winning dendrology Tree ID resources on the web are now an iPhone app:

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=org.pottssoftware.agps21&hl=en>

June news includes releases on new work to promote tree planting for energy conservation: [Experts help develop Trees for Energy Conservation online resource](#) and the [Trees-to-Products program offers hands-on learning about forestry for educators](#) teacher training that provides hands on professional development training for classroom educators. Both of these stories are here: <http://www.vtnews.vt.edu/articles/2013/06/060713-ext-treestoproducts.html>

Of interest to some may be that as of 2013 all volunteers in County parks and at county facilities are required to be registered for background checks and to complete a county volunteer registration form. This is in addition to the state volunteer registration as VCE volunteers that trainees complete. VCE-Tree Stewards are required to have an hour total of Civil Rights Compliance and Risk Management training as part of their initial 60 hour training and certification. This is a state requirement for the State of Va's self funded liability coverage that is provided to volunteers. Extension supports VCE volunteer programs with staff and subject area specialists, training and reporting support. Volunteers engage in Extension approved activities and report public participation and education efforts to the state of Virginia through their local Extension offices.