

From: Beverly at bevhunter.com [<mailto:beverly@bevhunter.com>]

Sent: Thursday, January 24, 2013 11:53 AM

To: 'Marc Malik'; 'Dan Spethmann'; 'Forrest Marquisee'; 'jonathan marquisee'; 'Sam Quinn'

Cc: 'Jill Duvall'; 'Greg Wichelns'; 'whistlepighill@hughes.net'; 'Carolyn Thornton'; 'louvernerrva@gmail.com'; 'John Sullivan'

Subject: Town Pond Project mtg with CSWCD Jan. 22

On Jan. 22, Marc Malik and Bev Hunter met with Greg Wichelns at the CSWCD offices in Culpeper to make application to the "Turf to Natives" grant program for funding part of the project with RappFLOW and the Town of Washington to restore and enhance the pond watershed and buffer at Avon Hall. This note summarizes the suggestions made by Wichelns regarding the technical conduct of the project, and recommendations Marc and I have for next steps by RappFLOW and the Town.

Ideas, questions, volunteering to take charge of various areas of this work are all encouraged!

Marc explained details of the drawings he has made based on our meeting in December with Lou Verner of the VA DGIF (see notes attached), coordinations with the ORMN and Town officials, and showed the areas we propose as stage 1 of the project.

The grant itself proposes 45,650 square feet of conversion of turf to native grasses, forbs and shrubs, at an estimated cost of \$8,308 (plus volunteer time), with a grant amount to be reimbursed at \$3,420. Purpose of the Turf to Natives program is to "reduce off-site sedimentation, or reduce nutrient, pesticide or pathogen loads to receiving waters." Completion date between June and December 2014. We filled in a draft application form to give Greg to get the ball rolling, and need to get a signature from some Town official to complete the application.

No permits will be needed for this project as described. Miss Utility should be called before any land disturbance. People doing roundup need to be professional, licensed.

Marc needs to get the drawings to Jonathan for digitizing as a layer on our project GIS system.

Greg's recommendations and questions (lettered for ease of reference):

- a. for reducing the slope on the south side of pond, use a small tractor with a blade, keep soil disturbance to a minimum;
- b. get soil tests on the grounds at various locations
- c. do pH tests on the grassy areas for baseline
- c. reference soil maps (Jonathan should have digital layer of soil maps)
- d. find out from Jail or Town what is the history of treatment of the grounds, e.g. lime or fertilizers? when? frequencies?

- e. get the areas to be converted killed with roundup (see further discussion below)
- f. do soil compaction test probe at various locations as a baseline (expectation is that soil compaction will reduce over time with native vegetation and less mowing)
- g. keep exposed soil to minimum. If seeding, will need to do some raking of thatch but then replace thatch.
- h. include a nurse crop such as annuals oats, rye, with seeds for forbs and grasses
- i. consider fountain in pond for aeration
- j. schedule for project activities, especially killing the grass, has to take into account moisture and temperature

Marc and Bev outlined the following next steps and questions (these don't involve the CSWCD).

1. Marc to work with Jonathan to get the plan digitized. this will become part of the updated project plan
2. Marc to work with Forrest to put flags on the ground corresponding to the lines on the plan for the conversion areas.
3. Plan and schedule the water testing. What to include in the tests? Where? When, what methods? Who to invite to manage the water testing?
4. Someone to work with Sam to get the species inventory underway. Coordinate with Virginia Native Plant Society on plant species inventory (they have already done the butterfly trail area of the grounds).
5. Someone designated to do photography for the project and maintain the photo archives, integrate into plan.
6. Have conversations with Sam and several stakeholders (including town residents) on the topic of trying out different methods of doing the grass conversion. We could have test plots with signage designed to try out different methods, e.g. "just stop mowing" areas; poisoning the grass and planting plugs; other? Stake out the plot areas.
7. Update the overall plan that was created in 2008 to include all revisions and details and maps, and submit/brief to Town Council. Set date for the Council session.
8. Let's try to recruit someone to work closely with Marc, to do scheduling of meetings and activities, networking, documentation, etc.
9. need to get someone to take charge of signage (would be just for pond project or for overall Town commons projects?)
10. Public information, articles, presentations, etc?

Ideas, questions, volunteering to take charge of various areas of this work are all welcome!

Bev and Marc

