

Prince William County
TRAILS AND BLUEWAYS COUNCIL

Advisors to the Board of County Supervisors

Meeting Minutes
 May 23, 2023; 6:30 PM

Attendance

District	Appointee	Present (in person)	Present (virtual)	Absent
At Large	Amy Latalladi-Fulton	✓		
	Bill McCarty	✓		
Brentsville	Tom Coyle			✓
	Liz Cronauer	✓		
Coles	Mike DePue	✓		
	Joe Marshall	✓		
Gainesville	Duane Martin	✓		
	VACANT			
Neabsco	Jason Williams	✓		
	Rich Wilson	✓		
Potomac	Raheel Sheikh		✓	
	VACANT			
Occoquan	Eileen Sheridan	✓		
	Neil Nelson	✓		
Woodbridge	David Brickley			✓
	Lynda Silverstrand		✓	

Staff persons Patti Pakkala, Rob Orrison, Eugene Loew, and DPRT Deputy Director Janet Bartnik were present. John Simkins, Bryce Barrett, and Mark McCaskill attended virtually.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Liz Cronauer at 6:31 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

Administrative:

- April 25, 2023 T&BC minutes were approved through a motion by Neil and seconded by Duane.
- April 20, 2023 PHNST Subcommittee minutes were approved through a motion by Neil and seconded by Jason.

- A correction noting that Jason was absent from May 10, 2023 PHNST Subcommittee meeting will be made to those minutes. They were approved as corrected through a motion by Neil and seconded by Jason.
- John Simkins was introduced as the new trail supervisor handling all trails questions.
- Janet presented what could be a resolution for remote participation. She adopted what the BOCS does for remote participation and noted that it requires a quorum physically present to approve someone else to remotely participate and vote. Thus, this will not help the T&BC achieve a quorum via remote participation. She will look at the Historical Commission approach and contrast this for a future meeting.

Citizen's Time.

- Charlie Grymes talked about identifying barriers to safe routes to schools and parks and that a process was upcoming for public input. It is important this is done in partnership with the schools as schools typically try to restrict this.
- William Niedringhaus and Karen Jones were present to take part in discussions later in the meeting about the Bull Run Trail.

County Agency Representatives

PWC Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism. Patti Pakkala, Janet Bartnik

- With the end of the fiscal year approaching June 30th, there is a spending hold.
- The rezoning of the Digital Gateway has been resubmitted with comments expected in July.

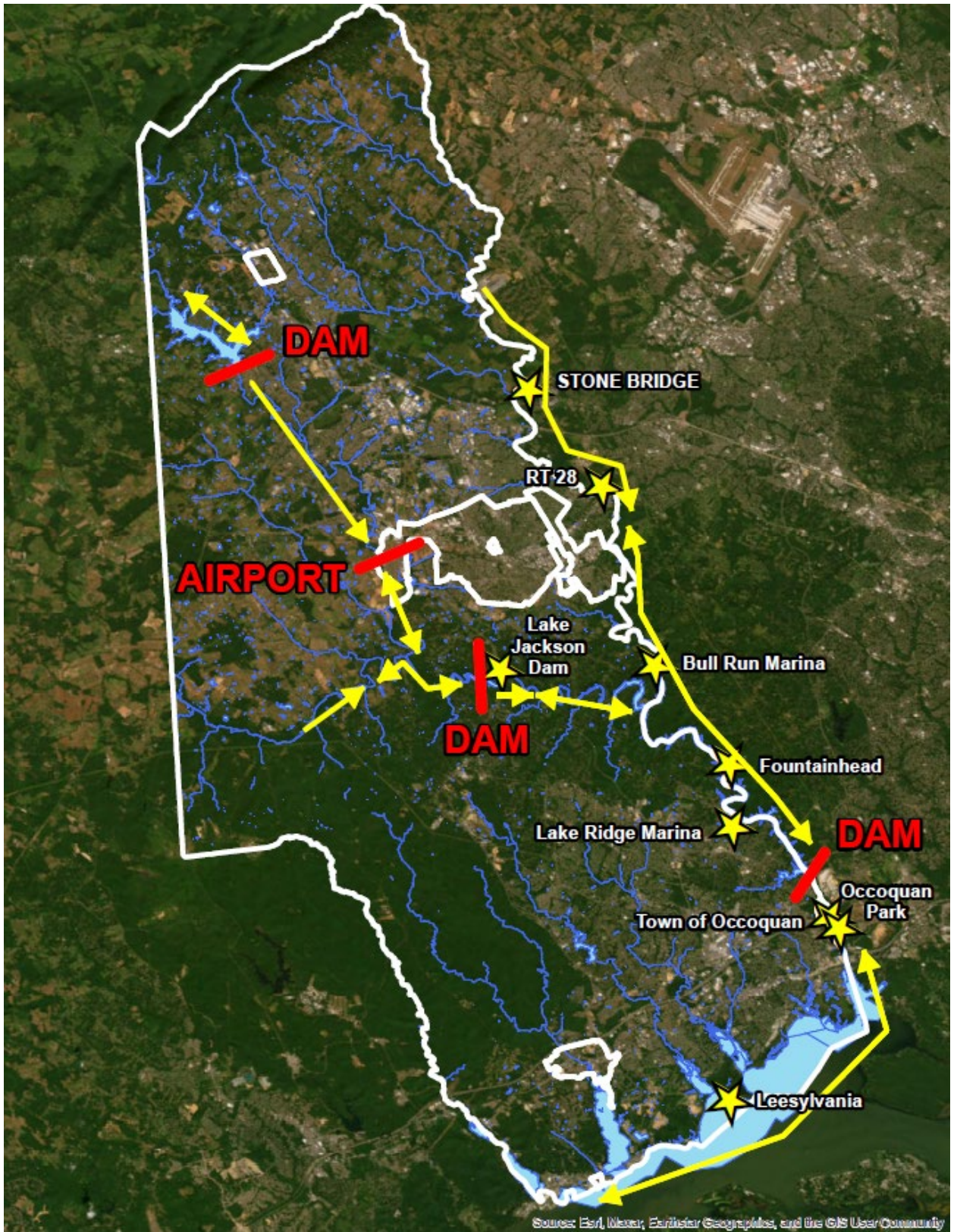
PWC Transportation. Bryce Barrett

- Bike to Work Day on May 19th was a big success. The accompanying art contest was also successful, garnering many entries and public participation.
- The kickoff of the VDOT Regional Biking Study has occurred with a focus on regionally significant gaps and estimating their costs to realize. Bryce will check on what is being used to measure improvements and what issues are present with increasing the numbers of bicycles being ridden through the region.

Presentations/Reports.

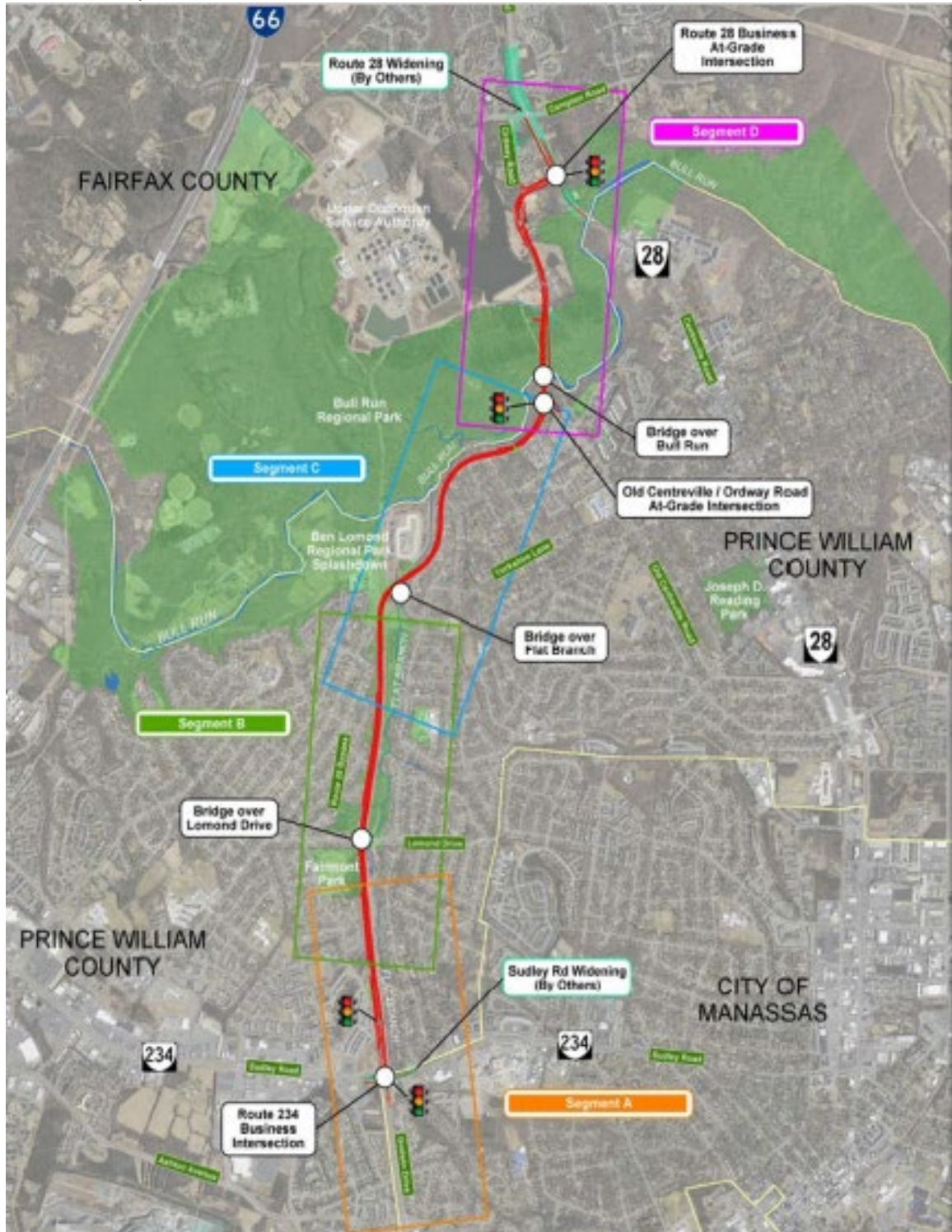
Blueways Update. Mike DePue

- Mike talked about the "B" in T&BC, that is blueways in the county.
- He showed a slide about current Blueways in the county and showed the map on the following page. Potential Blueways are shown in yellow with arrowheads indicating reasonable direction of paddling for canoes or kayaks. Stars indicate the current places where one can (often with effort or expense) put in and take out on those Blueways. Restriction of Blueways are shown by Red lines. He then explained how the only easy to access entry in PWC above the tidal Potomac is at Lake Ridge Marina. (There are four access points along the Bull Run in Fairfax County shown.)
- He described the water on Broad Run from the Dam to the Airport as one way and difficult to access. Below the airport, Broad Run provides good water, and it passes by Doves Landing. There is a good portage opportunity at Lake Jackson as this dam is operated and maintained by PWC not the property owners who live around it.
- Next month, Mike wants to talk about opportunities in the next 20 years to add access points and create true Blueways within the county.



Route 28 Bypass Trail Options. Mike DePue

- Mike showed various slides from the county's Route 28 Bypass Project that was presented at its first design information meeting to bring all members of the T&BC up to date. An overall map is shown below. A shared use path will run the length of the new bypass connecting with the shared use path at Sudley and Godwin in Manassas and the shared use paths along Route 28 in Fairfax County.



- There were several problems noted with this initial design. There is only one connection to communities in Prince William and that is at Lomond Drive. Parks will lose a Ball Field up near Splashdown Park. There are no connections to the north side communities from the shared use path even though there are several places where connections could be. Flat Branch provides a barrier to the shared use path on the south. No connections shown to Ben Lomond Park. Parks owns a strip of land along the bypass that would make planned connections possible if there is a path to connect to.
- A potential blueway access to Bull Run was described and its connection to the bypass recommended to be added to the plan.
- A resolution was introduced, discussed, adjusted, and completed to address many of the deficiencies of the design. Resolution 23-3 was then approved by a motion and vote at the meeting and is attached to these minutes.

Bull Run Loop Trail. Duane Martin

- Duane described the Bull Run Loop Trail. It first appeared in the Fairfax County trail plan in 2017 but was not known in PWC until 2021. Bill Niedringhaus and Karen Jones were introduced as members of the Potomac Heritage Trails Association and presented a graphic of the trail.
- It would require two crossings of Bull Run between Fairfax and PWC. One crossing would be above I-66 somewhere in the Manassas National Battlefield Park (MNBP) or nearby. However, the MNBP does not allow bikes though it is no longer a user fee park. The upper corner of the park could provide a very accessible crossing with access to Fairfax County's Poplar Ford Park.
- The second crossing is in the same region as the 28 Bypass Project and there are several potential locations for a bridge. For instance, Flat Branch empties into Bull Run at the site of an old road Ford.
- Duane then talked about the trail south of I-66 and the two ditches that block an otherwise good trail from I-66 to Ben Lomond Park. The first crossing has an alternate but the second crossing near Mayhew Park is highly erodible and totally temporary. He showed a video and some pictures of the area. A better solution is needed before this trail could be publicized. Discussion about how to fix it centered on this being a Service Authority Issue and the need for an engineering design of the fix or bridge for parks.

PHNST Subcommittee. Jason Williams

- Updates from meeting captured in Google Docs.
- Van Buren update needs funding.
- The next subcommittee meeting is scheduled for June 7th at 1 PM in the Hellwig Parks Building.

Organization Representatives' Time

Greater Prince William Trails Coalition (GPWTC). Eileen Sheridan, Vice Chair, Neil Nelson, Secretary

- The next quarterly meeting will be held a month early on June 15th at 10 AM at the Potomac Science Center.

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

- On June 11th there will be a second Sunday hike along Powell's Creek.

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

- MORE is sponsoring a family oriented SMORES program to show how to ride a bike and perform bike maintenance for new riders. Two SMORES rides have occurred with the next on May 30th.

Members' Time:

- Amy:
 - No comments.
- Bill:
 - No comments.
- David:
 - Not present.
- Duane:
 - No comments.
- Eileen:
 - No comments.
- Jason:
 - Check out the Hedges Run Bridge on Occoquan Greenway segment 3. Expect a video of its installation on the Parks website shortly.
- Joe:
 - Asked about Discovery Trail at the Landfill and was told the opening has been postponed until the Fall due to the continued use of the Utility Road that cuts it into four pieces.
- Liz:
 - No comments.
- Lynda:
 - No comments.
- Mike:
 - Thanks to Duane for his presentation.
- Neil:
 - No comments.
- Raheel:
 - No comments.
- Rich:
 - No comments.
- Tom:
 - Not in attendance.

Meeting Recap:

- None

Next meeting agenda items:

- Janet: Virtual Meeting Resolutions from Historical Commission
- Mike: Blueways Opportunities
- Reports from the PHNST Subcommittee
- Agenda items for the June meeting should be forwarded to Liz, Amy or Joe by June 14th.

Next meetings:

At Hellwig: PHNST Subcommittee – June 7th at 1 PM

At Hellwig: Full T&BC – June 27th at 6:30 PM.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 8:52 PM based on motion by Duane, second by Jason.