

Prince William County
TRAILS AND BLUEWAYS COUNCIL

Advisors to the Board of County Supervisors

Meeting Minutes
August 26, 2025; 6:30 PM

Attendance

District	Appointee	Present (in person)	Present (virtual)	Absent
At Large	Amy Latalladi-Fulton	✓		
	Bill McCarty			✓
Brentsville	Liz Cronauer (CHR)	✓		
	Vacant			
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 present: Janet Bartnik, Robert Boyd, Bryce Barrett, Yolanda Hipski; Patti Pakkala attended virtually.

Call to Order

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Administrative:

- Resolution 25-15 for remote attendance for Steve Cover was approved (motion: Amy; 2nd Eileen)
- Minutes of the Aug 26 TBC meeting were approved (motion: Ken; 2nd David)
- Acceptance of July 17 PHNST Subcommittee Notes – deferred to September meeting.

- Letter of Support for Prince William Forest Park Funding: Kevin Costello, Director of Tourism discussed a recommendation by the Tourism Advisory Board to direct funds collected via the transient occupancy tax to PW Forest Park, for an archeological study and cultural landscape study, related to the PHNST route in the Park. The PWC tax has been collected at the RV park for two decades. The Tourism Advisory Board has approved a resolution which recommends that the BOCS allocate up to \$200K in FY26 to the National Park Service for the studies. Kevin suggested the TBC endorse the recommendation with a letter of support, which was approved (Motion: Kimberly; 2nd Amy).
- Kevin also mentioned there is FY26 funding for a maritime study, on how to activate waterfronts in PWC, and a consultant will be hired. He said the TBC will be asked for input.

Citizen's Time. Charlie Grymes: The TBC and Parks Commission should ask for funds for trails and parks. The annual trail funding should be bumped up to \$5 million. We should advocate for and seek public support for a Nov 2026 bond issue, with \$300 million for park acquisition and \$300 million to implement the Trails Master Plan. The BOCS should approve the Trails Master Plan in Jan 2026, which will include cost estimates.

County Agency Representatives

PWC Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR). Rob Boyd

- PHNST Gap Study. The report will be amended to indicate that the preferred route for Gap 1 in the long term is along the water (Alternative 1.2). With the revision to the report, TBC Resolution 25-13 is unnecessary, and the resolution was tabled (Motion David: 2nd Duane). (Resolution 25-13 was prepared and approved at the July meeting, but was not sent forward to the BOCS). DPR has received comments from VDOT and is finalizing the report.
- General Updates. Occoquan Greenway - Ed DeLeon is looking at reroute near the pump station at Spinnaker Court, where the PWW pump station replacement project will block the trail. Hoping to find a way to minimize the impact to trail users.

PWC Transportation. Bryce Barrett

- The Jefferson Park Connector, the first project using \$1 million in annual trails funding added by BOCS in FY25 budget, will be a 10-foot wide stone dust trail from a new public playground at Jefferson Plaza Apartments on Route 1 to Veterans Park. Project should reach 60% design by December.
- Trails Funding Projects Plan - FY26 funding will be used for a sidewalk connection along the PW Parkway between I-95 and Summerland Dr. It will close an existing gap that has a heavily used "goat path" along the roadway. The gap was to be closed by Rays Regard development proffer but that project is stalled.
- FY27 \$\$ could expand trail network at Catharpin Creek and Route 15, connecting new trail underneath highway to Catharpin Greenway on north side of the creek.
- Rt. 28 Bypass Comprehensive Plan Amendment (CPA) Update. Although the BOCS cancelled the project, it still appears in the Comp Plan. The BOCS issued two directives to amend the Comp Plan – remove the bypass and add other road projects including widening of Rt 28. Hired consultant to do traffic modeling, to reflect the directed changes. Will bring recommendations for changes to road facilities to BOCS by the end of the year. Will initiate a small area plan for Yorkshire area next year.
- Rail with Trail Feasibility Study Update: Had open house on July 30. Presented concept design by consultant for 20-mile trail from City of Manassas to Landmark in Alexandria. Jointly funded

feasibility study; will submit project to NVTa for 70% funding. Includes 3-mile segment from Manassas VRE to Manassas Park VRE to Bull Run crossing into Fairfax. Will be 10-ft asphalt trail between VR stations. Dominion has a construction road in Blooms Park, asked them to leave it in place when finished, but Dominion would have to amend environmental approvals which currently require restoration. Survey on rail to trail feasibility study is still open.

- Other: Dept of Trans will sponsor a bike rodeo at the PWC Fire & Rescue System 2nd Annual Public Safety Fall Expo on Oct 4. Looking to acquire bikes, accepting donations.

PWC Planning, Yolanda Hipski – Yolanda presented slides on the Town of Dumfries Comp Plan update, approved on June 17.

Community Development Applications, Robert Boyd

- DPR submitted comments on 4th submission of the four Kettle run rezoning applications. Developers have cooperated, given what DPR asked for, including 80 acres of parkland. Also building public trails; DPR will take over maintenance on some. Shared use path on both sides of Vint Hill. School and fire station sites will also be dedicated. Conservation residential zoning.

Business Items: 2025.

- Prioritization of Trail Projects by District. For the Sep meeting, TBC members should review their district list (attached) and update it; include blueways. Send in updates to Rob, Patti, Janet. (The list was prepared for TBC Resolution 24-18, FUNDING IN THE FY26 BUDGET FOR TRAILS, Oct 2024).
- Trails Master Plan Update / Next Steps. By Sep should have planned and proposed segments in the Master Plan. Will have another charrette meeting in Oct. Next steps: create segments, prioritize / determine rank in each District, and estimate cost. Public survey will be out in two weeks and will remain open until community meeting in Oct.
- Blueways Time: Mike presented his map with potential blueway routes; some are unrealistic, very challenging, or would only be usable when water level is right; some would be one-way only. Lake Ridge Park is currently the only viable paddling location for everybody, for general use. Neil noted that Doves Landing & Sinclair Mill will be usable facilities where you can drive up and unload boats, and water level consistently supports paddling. Patti noted the Lake Jackson Dam launch site needs improvement to get back upstream. Patti is looking for feedback on where launch sites are needed and how far you paddle.

Presentations/Reports. Deferred to next meeting.

Organization Representatives' Time

Greater Prince William Trails Coalition (GPWTC). Eileen Sheridan

- Quarterly meeting scheduled for Oct 23.
- Five trails will be highlighted for **Walk and Talk Wellness** campaign between September 13-October 12, together with Suicide Prevention Month and Public Lands Day
- Youth conference on Oct 25 at McCoart; will staff a display table, would like assistance.

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

- 2nd Sunday hike September 14, Locust Shade Park, north end including connection to Marine Corps Museum and loop on Museum grounds.

Mid Atlantic Off-Road Enthusiasts (MORE). No update

Members' Time:

Kimberly – paddled from Neabsco Boardwalk launch site, had to drag kayak in shallow area. Plans to do more kayaking on the Occoquan.

Eileen – will give GPWTC update at NPS sponsored meeting on the PHNST, Sep 5

Neil – recently paddled from Leesylvania State Park to Neabsco Boardwalk launch site (and back); water level is very variable due to tides and amount of rainfall; encounter shallow spots near the boardwalk; also has had to drag kayak on occasion.

David – 9/11 Tour de Trail event, Pentagon, Sep 28 (<https://www.911trail.org>)

Mike – look forward to working on blueways. Not hard to find locations, need county commitment. Ben Lomond and Mayhugh are opportunities - county owned land on Bull Run.

Duane – rode in New River Valley and VA Highlands. Trails suffered impacts from hurricane Helene; trail maintenance is important and depends on good construction.

Jason – thanks to DPR staff. Rides bike in Andrew Leitch every morning or as often as he can.

Liz – thanks to staff for their work.

Meeting Recap:

Next meetings:

- TBC meeting on Sep 23, 6:30 pm

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM