

Greenway Financing in the Shenandoah Valley

BIOS

Charrette Facilitator

Dan Nees

Director, Environmental Finance Center

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Mr. Nees has been with EFC for five years and assumed the role of Director in January 2005. Over the past seven years, he has worked with communities in the Chesapeake Bay watershed on environmental finance and sustainable development initiatives. His work focuses on building coalitions of diverse interest groups and directing them towards common finance and implementation goals. Additional experience includes serving as Project Manager of Corporate Programs at The Nature Conservancy and Manager of Alternative Marketing at U.S. News and World Report. Mr. Nees holds a B.A. in Economics, a Master of Environmental Policy, and an MBA, all from the University of Maryland, College Park.

Charrette Panelists

Dan Dodd, RLA

Landscape Architect and Recreation Planner

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Daniel Dodd is a registered Landscape Architect and Recreation Planner for LandDesign in Charlotte, NC. Dan is one of the few licensed landscape architects with an advanced degree in Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management specializing in community leisure service delivery and park system planning and design. Mr. Dodd has managed park, recreation and greenway projects throughout the east coast and understands the components needed to offer high quality municipal recreation experiences including; pro-active facility planning and design, targeted recreation programming, efficient maintenance operations, administration stability, strong political and public support and realistic financial planning.

Jakob Helmboldt

Safe Routes to Schools Coordinator

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Jakob Helmboldt is a Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Coordinator at the Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Traffic Engineering. Jakob is responsible for the implementation of Virginia's new SRTS program which provides grant funding to communities to encourage and enable school-age children to bike and walk to school. He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners and has worked in land use, environmental, transit, and transportation planning. Jakob is also a competitive cyclist and has experience in bicycle and pedestrian accommodations and policy.

Kelly Hitchcock

Regional Development Specialist I

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Kelly Hitchcock has worked as a Community Planner the last five years with the Local Government Council, or Planning District 11. The PDC was the lead agency in developing a regional resource protection initiative known as the Region 2000 Greenways, Blueways, and Trail Plan – a region wide conceptual plan of trail connections throughout the PDC area. The Plan lays the foundation for a series of connections that provides resource protection to the natural, cultural, and historic resources, promote tourism, cultural and economic investment, provide alternate transportation, and increase recreational and healthy lifestyle opportunities.

Kelly also works with localities in applying for and managing Community Development Block Grant projects within the Central Virginia region, works as a grant writer, and participates in a number of regional environmental projects such as TMDL, Total Maximum Daily Load, studies for the area. Prior to leaving the work force for 10 years, Kelly was a Research Assistant at the Chesapeake Research Consortium, a cooperative agency with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

Jim Lawrence

RC&D Vice Chair,

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Jim serves as the chair of the RC&D Education & Information Committee. Mr. Lawrence is a co-chair of the Winchester-Frederick County Community Consensus Coalition (CCC), a consortium of organizations with a diverse representation of stakeholders, including members of the business community, environmental groups, and liaisons to local governments. He serves as project coordinator for the Winchester Green Circle, a biking/walking trail along Town Run and Abrams Creek. The Green Circle will promote Best Management Practices (BMPs) while providing a safe alternate means of transportation throughout the City. Mr. Lawrence graduated in 2001 from the Virginia Natural Resources Leadership Institute and has participated in various workshops, including GIS training, stream bank restoration, watershed management, Green Infrastructure and grant management. His work experience includes restoration contracting, farming, and woodlot management. His formal education has involved coursework in economics, real estate, environmental science, as well as graduate courses in architecture at the University of Virginia. In his free time, Jim enjoys outdoor activities like fishing and hiking.

Ursula Lemanski,

Project Manager

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Ursula Lemanski is currently employed as a Project Manager for the National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program. With over twenty years of experience in the field of community planning and natural resource management, Ursula has led inter-disciplinary teams and community partnerships on a variety of topics including greenways and trail planning; river conservation; floodplain management and watershed management; outdoor recreation planning; land use planning and community design. Ms. Lamanski. Prior to working at the National Park Service, Ursula served in a number of positions in state, and local government, as well as in the private sector. Ursula has assisted various civic and non-profit organizations, serving as Vice-Chair of the Leesburg Environmental Advisory Commission; and on the Executive Board of the Capital Crescent Trail Coalition, and the Friends of the Washington & Old Dominion Trail. Ursula is a member of several professional organizations including the American Planning Association, and the American Institute of Certified Planners. She holds a MS in Environmental Studies from Shippensburg University and was a 2001 Graduate Fellow of the Virginia Natural Resources Leadership Institute, University of Virginia.

Pamela M. Liston

Project Manager

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Pam has been with VDOT for 21 years. In her current position as Transportation Enhancement and Scenic Byways Project Manager, she covers the Staunton, Culpeper, and Northern Virginia Districts. She has been in this position for 5 1/2 years. Prior to this, I worked 13 years as a contract administrator in the Northern Virginia District and 2 1/2 years in the Staunton District handling contractor payments. Ms. Liston is a graduate of the College of William and Mary and currently resides in Richmond.

Shane Sawyer

Regional Planner

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Shane Sawyer has been employed as a Regional Planner with the Roanoke Valley – Alleghany Regional Commission since 2001, where he works on a variety of community development, transportation, and environmental planning projects. Shane received a BA in geography from the University of South Carolina. He also received a MA in geography, with a specialization in Regional and Rural Planning, from Western Illinois University as part of a Peace Corps Fellows Program in Community Development. Shane was a Peace Corps Volunteer in Tanzania, East Africa, where biking and walking was his primary means of transportation. Currently, he serves on the board of directors of BikeWalk Virginia and the Citizens Planning Education Association of Virginia. In his spare time, Shane teaches geography courses at Roanoke College and Virginia Western Community College, plays rugby and Ultimate Frisbee, and participates in a variety of outdoors activities. Shane is also an avid mountain biker, bike commuter, and greenway user.

Paul B. Tubach, Jr., ASLA
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Paul Tubach is a registered Landscape Architect and has been responsible for park and greenway planning efforts in James City County for the past ten years. In addition to master planning, site design, construction detailing and project management, his efforts include historic preservation, environmental protection, open space planning, landscape planning, site plan reviews, and mapping. He has authored three publications: the 1995 Virginia Tech Master Plan, the 2002 James City County Greenway Master Plan and the 2006 Williamsburg Botanical Garden Prospectus. Paul has received over 20 awards and recognitions during the past 23 years. Paul is a founding member of the Williamsburg Botanical Garden, Chaired the Property Committee for six years and is the immediate past Chairman of the Board.