

**Chessie Nature Trail Public Meeting
2 December 2015**

Chris Wise, RACC
Sam Crickenberger, Rockbridge County
CPT Aaron Groah, VMI
LTC Todd Pegg, VMI
LTC Richard Fletcher, VMI
Col. James Williams, VMI
Jeff Mortone, City of Lexington
Darren Coffey, City of Lexington
Michael Kennedy, City of Lexington
Jay Scutter, City of Buena Vista
Noah Simon, City of Lexington
Keith Holland, Adjacent Landowner
Absent: Lisa Tracy, RACC

1. VMI Recreational Trails Grant Update
 - a. Bridge Repair
 - b. Signage – trail head signs and landscaping around trail entrance on the Lexington end.
 - c. Bridge work on the existing three bridges. All bridges are in acceptable condition but it is recommended that VMI has an inspection each 12 months (annually)
 - d. Culvert repairs
 - e. Washout repairs
 - f. Parking Areas
 - g. Replace 8 gates
 - h. Bollards to keep vehicles off trail
 - i. Trail surface improvements
 - j. Completion in August 2017

2. City of Lexington Grant
 - a. Available funds of \$400,000 did not meet the proposed scope of the project.
 - b. Project has been reduced with the elimination of the pedestrian bridge to keep the project within budget.
 - i. Bridge was 70' long and 14' wide.
 - ii. Not fitting for the context of Jordan's Point Park
 - iii. VDOT approved the elimination of this scope
 - c. Reviewed how the project could be done even without using the grant funds.
 - d. The project may trigger an Indiana Bat Study. This is TBD.

- e. Some revisions were made on the thickness and length of the asphalt.
 - f. County Supervisors and Lexington City Council agreed to move forward with the project without the bridge.
 - g. Meeting was held with LPDA on 12/2/15. Revised plans are due back in three weeks for review.
 - h. Then the VDOT and Environmental Submissions will be completed.
 - i. Could begin project in 6 months to get full VDOT approval.
 - j. The feasibility of installation of a bridge in the future will be considered to bridge the Woods Creek with a pedestrian bridge.
 - i. Could be a timber framing project or other possible option.
 - k. A master plan for the Brushy Blue should continue to be used as the long term vision.
3. City of Buena Vista Project
- a. The trail is a revitalization tool that can be connected to several existing trails in BV to draw visitors to Buena Vista.
 - b. Connecting the CNT to the City of BV Flood Wall through the bridge, through Bontex and to the Flood Wall (Sidewalk and Trail System)
 - c. Transportation Alternative Grant to make this connection. It may take a year and a half for the funds to be approved. It is estimated to be about \$200,000 with a 20% match.
 - d. Current sidewalks are under construction to make the connection.
 - e. Added about .25 of concrete sidewalk from the Robey Bridge to connect into the City of Buena Vista.
 - f. The trails in BV that lead to the Elephant Mountain Trail and Reservoir Hollow Trail..and up into the AT. Also with access to the Glen Maury Park (500 acres)...trout stocking etc. Working on a master plan to link all of this together. Major initiative to connect the City to the Chessie Nature Trail.
 - g. Working with the AT guidebook writes to promote the access to BV.
 - h. Awards on the TAG Grant in late summer 2016.
4. South River Bridge (\$80K for cable bridge)
5. Gates and Bridges Update by Friends of the Chessie Nature Trail
- a. Appears to be functional
6. Demolition Permit
7. Membership of Tourism to the Advisory Committee
8. New Items
- a. Property Ownership and the access and use of the public across the private property.

9. b.