

## **RCDD Environmental Meeting**

**February 16, 2017**

Present: M. Spillane, R. Sienkowski, L. Lancette, J. Rowan (a quorum was present)

Severn Trent advisors: B. McKnight, M. Meadows

### **Old Business**

The RCDD and RCA continue to explore the possibility of merging the CDD Environmental Committee and the RCA Grounds Committee to coordinate the work for shared areas of responsibility. It is hoped that this will engage more residents, and create cohesive solutions for shared stewardship of the preserves and the storm water management pond system.

Pond water quality was addressed as referenced in the October 2016 CPH report. Some aspects of the chemistry of the ponds is a result of naturally occurring phenomena. Other man-made impacts may be addressed by education for community members and landscapers related to mowing, fertilizing and the ponds being the final destination of all water flow on Riverwood property, including run-off from driveways, streets, and yards. Jill Rowan was asked to create some educational information to be included in The Heron. Contact with landscapers was not assigned.

Invasive species and clearing of downed dead wood in the preserves was reviewed. Current areas being completed, and remaining work planned for this fiscal year were summarized. Current methods for prioritizing work were reviewed. All currently mapped preserves are on a maintenance schedule for removal of exotics and clearing of downed dead debris. This work had been neglected by the builders and has resulted in a high cost to 'catch up', it is anticipated that going forward costs will decrease as less clearing from previously treated plants will be required and proper removal methods will be employed when exotics are treated. Resident concerns, including a petition from Grand Vista residents, about potential fire hazards related to excessive dead wood in preserve areas adjacent to homes were heard. Discussion about making recommendations to the Board of Supervisors resulted in a continuation of this meeting to make time for site visits with M. Meadows on February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 8:30 AM.

Erosion discussion was informed by residents present who detailed past Board of Supervisor (BOS) actions, current need for a decision about how to maintain homeowner property, and interpretations of conflicting reports obtained by the RCDD and RCA.

Committee membership was discussed and agreed to be increased to include two more full-time residents so that a quorum can be present for meetings in the summer months.

### **New Business**

Discussion about how to fund current work under contract, prioritizing areas for work going forward, and selecting the method to execute work i.e. clearing vs leave in place, were tabled for the next meeting. The committee will create a plan to assist budgeting by the BOS.

The meeting was continued to Thursday, February 23, 2017 at 8:30 AM. Committee members available and residents may meet M. Meadows in the RCDD office for a site inspection of current areas with excessive downed dead wood and control structures that are inaccessible.

Minutes submitted by : Jill Rowan