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## Stream Decision Deferred

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The Reston Association Design Review Board Tuesday night deferred a decision on continuing the ongoing stream restoration project into reaches 1 through 3 of the Glade stream until January after listening to more than three hours of public comment, most of it opposed to the project.

More than 100 people attended the meeting, which ended at 11:30 p.m. The board said it will review Wetland Studies and Solutions Inc.'s application again at its next full board meeting. After listening to public comments the board attempted to go into discussion but continued to be interrupted by more audience questions. "We've got it," said Richard Newlon, chairman of the board. "We could sit here all night coming up with new arguments."

Board member Michael Miller said he believed the project was necessary. "Reston was farmland not that many years ago," he said. "I'm tired of the glass being half empty." Miller said he wanted residents to think of the glass half full because the project will improve the streams in Reston. After increased community concern during the past few weeks, Miller said he believes that Wetland Studies understands the need to be more sensitive.

"Nature is an ever-changing thing," Miller said. He said they have a responsibility to repair the damage that has been created by the development of Reston. When the area was being built the streams had been stripped to put down sewer lines and there were no trees there, he said. Wetland Studies is trying to improve the condition of the streams with a learning curve, Miller said.

After meeting with many area residents over the past few weeks Wetland Studies made changes to its plans and presented the revised plans to the DRB Tuesday night. Newlon said he wanted to defer the decision so DRB members could have time to read the new plans and meet with Mike Rolband, president of Wetland Studies.

Rolband showed a presentation of the plan revisions to the board and the audience during the meeting. RA and Wetland Studies staff members have conducted wildlife studies in each of the reaches, marked all trees to be removed with blue markings and have made other changes to reduce the impact to trees, including reducing their limits of clearing.

"We would like everybody to be happy, which probably isn't going to happen," Miller said. He said after reviewing and implementing changes and providing the community time to "gain some perspective" perhaps they would be more accepting of the project. Because the next full board meeting is scheduled for Jan. 20, inauguration day, Newlon

made a motion to move the meeting to Jan. 27.

During public comment dozens of residents spoke out against the project. Many residents said they wanted the DRB to delay the project for a few years to see what happens to the Snakeden stream valley. Others said they would prefer if the DRB delayed the project indefinitely. A number of those who spoke also said the project does not follow the DRB's guidelines and is breaking the bylaws.

"You should all be ashamed of yourselves if you allow this to continue," said Gordon McCracken. He said he has lived in the area since he was a child and the exposed utility wires and sewer lines have been exposed since the 1970s. McCracken said he feels as if RA and the residents are being "hoodwinked" and the Wetland Studies staff "feel like they have some God-given right to save the world."

Linda Smith said RA staff should have been more mindful of keeping as many trees as possible. Helaine Cooper said RA staff should have known that there would be community outrage because of the project. "I would fire you and your team because you should have known," she said.

About half a dozen people spoke in favor of the project. Reston's founder Bob Simon said when he came here in 1966 and it snowed he and his friends were able to ski in the stream valley areas because there were no trees there before development in Reston began. "We couldn't do that today because it's a forest," he said.

A number of people said they were concerned about the safety condition of the streams in their current state.

"It's not a natural situation," said Nick Bauer. "We live in an engineered environment, an engineered solution is appropriate."