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## DRB to Rule on Stream Project Tuesday

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Reston Association and Wetland Studies and Solutions held a meeting Saturday at RA's headquarters to help homeowners learn more about how the stream renovation project might affect them. After the meeting they walked the streams with residents to further explain the details of the plans.

In recent weeks residents have approached RA with increased concerns about the project. Hundreds attended meetings held by RA to express their concern. During Saturday's meeting RA and WSSI staff went through plans page by page with residents showing them where their properties were in relation to the project boundaries.

At the meeting residents were able to ask specific, in-depth questions about the project. Reston resident Mike McDermott said it has been fascinating to watch how WSSI has interacted with area residents over the past few weeks, but thought the reaction was normal for politically active Reston. McDermott lives in reach three of the Glade, which is slated for construction next. "When I first saw this I was worried about all the trees going," he said. "It's a constant education issue."

McDermott said good communication was necessary and RA may have underestimated in their outreach efforts. He said he also thinks many residents have a hard time understanding the project language and terminology that RA and WSSI staff use, which has been another barrier. McDermott said he was not reading the plans correctly on his own and he was looking forward to walking the streams so he could better understand the project. "Today was a very good meeting," he said.

Yonna Kromholz, who is opposed to the project, said she is trying to understand the reasoning that RA and WSSI staff have for some of their decisions. She said with a large project that involves millions of dollars she just wants to make sure that any work done to Reston's streams is successful. "There is a lot of doubt," Kromholz said. She said she questions whether or not the new plants and trees will survive.

Kromholz said she still would like an independent group to oversee the project. "It's the soul of Reston," she said of the streams. She said many residents moved here for the woods and while WSSI is treating the streams they are not treating the cause. Kromholz said WSSI has lost a lot of public trust because of what they did in the Snakeden stream valley. "They're putting in a lot of work to make this work with the community, no doubt," she said.

WSSI Owner Mike Rolband said, "I think the meeting went really, really well." He said they were able to show people exactly where they would have an impact on the streams

and try to incorporate residents' suggestions. "We had some really good discussion and came to a consensus on most issues," he said. RA President Robin Smyers said she hopes residents will continue to communicate their concerns and suggestions.

Since December WSSI has made many revisions to the project that are a result of resident requests. Some of those changes included changing the bridge style, using paved pathways to save trees, refining their limits of clearing to avoid high-value trees, making stock areas smaller and eliminating the stock space in the firefly area. Additionally RA and WSSI staff completed a wildlife study to minimize impact on animals.

Tuesday WSSI staff will bring the project to the Design Review Board again. The board deferred the project in December after members listened to more than three hours of public comment from concerned residents. Tuesday's meeting begins at 7 p.m. at RA headquarters located at 1930 Issac Newton Sq. If approved, construction could begin Feb. 9. Rolband said if they are approved a plant rescue will be held from Feb. 5-7 and residents may come take plants from the areas WSSI will be working in. For those not strong enough to dig up plants themselves 10 WSSI staff members will be on hand to assist them.