

On Mon, Sep 2, 2024 at 10:44 AM Hunter Morin <hmorin@gemroi.com> wrote:

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From: Sarah Southworth <sarahsouthworth@icloud.com>

Sent: Monday, September 2, 2024 4:51 AM

To: Deuntay T. Diggs <DDiggs@staffordcountyva.gov>

Cc: Hunter Morin <hmorin@gemroi.com>; letitshine.joni@gmail.com <letitshine.joni@gmail.com>; Lee Cherwek <lee.cherwek@gmail.com>; CharlesEJett@gmail.com <CharlesEJett@gmail.com>; halwiggins@msn.com <halwiggins@msn.com>; taehman@gmail.com <taehman@gmail.com>; gerdajett@gmail.com <gerdajett@gmail.com>

Subject: Re: Belle Plains Campground Update

Good morning, Deuntay and all,

I have received phone calls from some of the state agency employees who know and love Crow's Nest Area Natural Preserve and "off the record" have told me how concerned they are about damage to Big Marsh and understand my/our ecological concerns. They informed me the request for the state agencies to become involved must come from the county governing body; Stafford County. My reaching out to them for help will not suffice, but they appreciate my/our efforts and for making them aware of this potentially ecologically devastating development.

The destruction and permanent harm this project will do to the quiet, unspoiled, very fragile, tidal, freshwater estuary, Big Marsh, is nothing less than criminal. There are VERY FEW of these extremely important freshwater marshes in existence. The Potomac Creek wildlife THRIVES because of its existence. Because of the project's location adjoining Big Marsh, the WHOLE AREA'S wildlife is being threatened. The county's growth is squeezing out wildlife habitats, yet one of the attractions to the county has been its abundant wildlife and the Big Marsh habitat is RARE. The wildlife that begins life here and/or resides here has no other place to go. This IS the marsh for our whole creek. We MUST fight to protect and save it because once spoiled, this all important wildlife breeding ground, nursery and habitat is gone and the wildlife that must have this type of habitat, dies.

Stafford County knows what the McCleods' ultimate plans include. Even if they were merely planning a dirt road with cleared spots for tents (primitive camping), the silt would be disconcerting. I read the correspondence between Stafford County and the McCleods and they are pushing back hard in a very threatening way about NOT merely having primitive tent camping, but to provide every camping site with sewer hookups, water AND electricity. This is NOT the primitive tent campground permitted "by-right." The McCleods say it would be inconvenient and financially difficult to put in all of these utilities at a later time. Why do they not know there will not BE a "later time?" Why are they certain that once they break ground, they can fulfill all of their plans? Why can't Stafford County inform them right now that it will ONLY allow primitive camping and nothing more, as permitted "by-right," because if they will not be allowed to build their Outdoor Adventure development, most likely they would not continue with this project. However, for some reason, they are certain they can push and threaten and get their way. They are in this for the money. They wouldn't spend hundreds of thousands of dollars for a primitive tent campground with no water access and no "adventure" attractions. Charles, Mari and I talked with them for two hours after the Town Hall meeting. They are sure that once they get the first