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12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 905 ♦ Fairfax, VA 22035-5512
Telephone 703-324-1460 ♦ Fax 703-324-1421
<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/nvswcd/>

16 DEC 2008

Michael S. Rolband, P.E., P.W.S., P.W.D.
Roy Van Houten, CPESC, CESSWI, CISEC
Wetland Studies and Solutions, Inc.
5300 Wellington Branch Drive, Suite 100
Gainesville, VA 20155

Dear Mike & Roy,

Thank you for asking me to look at the Northern Virginia Stream Restoration Bank – Snakeden Stream Restoration project with Roy this morning. I am very favorably impressed with the work you are doing. In over 50 years in this business, I don't believe I have seen a project of this nature that was more carefully designed and concerned with having the least adverse impact on the environment. From ensuring that the stream bottom and banks were stable, to removing the least amount of woody vegetation necessary, to revegetating and replanting trees, I commend WSSI for an outstanding job. This project must have been one of the reasons WSSI will be honored by Fairfax County and our No. VA SWCD with a 2008 Land Conservation Award. I also had the chance to talk with technical specialists from our No. VA SWCD who were familiar with your work on this project. They too were impressed with your work. Our No. VA SWCD had also been involved with the Reston Association on some earlier restoration work.

Stream restoration & stabilization projects do help restore and enhance the environment. A well-designed and properly constructed stream restoration is well worth the cost and initial loss of vegetation. Introducing the appropriate stream geometry (dimension, pattern and profile) does require removal of some established trees that had been in place before the stream responded to the change in its hydrology (i.e. started widening and incising) due to development in the contributing watershed. The need to introduce the much needed meanders, the need for ingress and egress of construction equipment, the need to 'lay back' portions of the banks of an incised channel are but a few of the reasons why trees & vegetation are removed during restoration. The channel reaches I looked at had degraded 10-12 feet in some places before your restoration work. WSSI's engineers and other technical specialists obviously understand loose boundary hydraulics and stream regime.

It is important for people to know that the cleared areas were replanted with select, diverse vegetation which in a few years will grow to become the basis of a new riparian corridor, stabilizing the banks, providing diverse habitats and inviting more wildlife. Your replanted trees are strategically placed

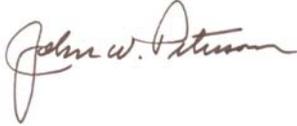
to provide appropriate canopy shading the stream. They are also better positioned to minimize toppling-over during storm events.

Through constant discussion and education, people may become more open-minded and willing to look down the road 10- 15 years from now, and accept that the work is an investment that will pay environmental dividends. Depending on the situation, doing nothing is a recipe for irreparable riparian zone deterioration, disaster. That stream would continue to degrade impacting roads, bridges, sewer systems, etc. The Reston Association made a wise decision in asking WSSI to plan this restoration.

Another good example is our No. VA SWCD Kingstown Stream Restoration Project. Today, it is stable, and it's hard to believe that most of its original vegetation was removed during its restoration.

Thank you again for asking me to look at this work. Seeing it reinforces my belief that WSSI is one of the most respected and competent natural & cultural resource consulting firms in the Mid-Atlantic area.

Best personal regards,

A handwritten signature in brown ink that reads "John W. Peterson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

John W. Peterson, PE, CPESC

[Director (Vice Chair – Treasurer) Northern Virginia Soil & Water Conservation District]

President/CEO

KEMPS Consultants, Inc.

Consultants in natural resources public policy, water resources, erosion and sediment control

9304 Lundy Court

Burke, VA 22015-3431 USA