

- Draft -

Anacostia Watershed Citizens Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary
Tuesday, November 18th, 2008

Meeting Attendance:

Members and Associates

Mary Barber (District of Columbia)
Dennis Chestnut (District of Columbia)
Jim Fary (Montgomery County)
Andy Fellows (Prince George's County)
Dan Smith (Prince George's County)
Bill Matuszeski (District of Columbia)

Absent Members and Associates

Elizabeth Arnold (Prince George's County)
Brent Bolin (Prince George's County)
Susan Barnett (Prince George's County)
Jim Collier (District of Columbia)
David Dunmire (Montgomery County)
Elaine Friehele (Prince George's County)
Luther Bruner, Jr (District of Columbia)
Brenda Bruner-Crumley (District of Columbia)
Elissa Feldman (District of Columbia)
Bob Ferraro (Montgomery County)
Gabe Horchler (Prince George's County)
Dale Manty (Prince George's County)
Christopher Pohlhaus (Prince George's County)
Larry Silverman (Montgomery County)
Irv Sheffey (District of Columbia)
John Garner (District of Columbia)
Mi Ae Kim (Prince George's County)
Lutz Rastaetter (Prince George's County)
Carl Reeverts (District of Columbia)

Guests/Interested Parties

Dana Minerva (Anacostia Watershed Restoration Partnership)

COG Support Staff

John Galli
Aubin Maynard

I. Welcome and Introductions

AWCAC Chair Mary Barber (District of Columbia) began the meeting at 7:30 pm. All present were asked to introduce themselves to the group.

II. Approval of 9-9-08 Meeting Summary

Action/Outcome: The minutes were approved unanimously.

III. Anacostia River Keeper Report

The Anacostia River Keeper Dottie Yunger was unable to attend; schedule conflicts may prevent Ms. Yunger from attending Tuesday AWCAC meetings. Chair Barber said she would continue to try to connect with the River Keeper.

Action/Outcome: Chair Baber will communicate with the Anacostia River Keeper Dottie Yunger regarding future coordination with AWCAC.

IV. Executive Director's Report

Ms. Dana Minerva (AWRP) explained that Montgomery County will be holding its public comment period for the new MS4 permit November 19th and that Mr. Mike Smith will testify on behalf of AWCAC. Ms. Minerva prepared the testimony, consisting of several main points:

- Appreciation of hard work on the part of environmental and regulatory communities. Montgomery County has some of the strictest stormwater laws in the country and deserves credit.
- The MS4 permit needs to have a clear deadline for dealing with trash. Even though there is already a regional trash initiative to clean up the Potomac by 2013, the permit only requires self-made deadlines.
- The permit requires that 20% of existing imperviousness to be addressed, but the description is so broad that it may only include stream stabilization with no imperviousness actually being stormwater retrofitted or reduced. A clearer definition is needed.

Mr. Jim Fary (Montgomery County) added that without stricter enforcement/monitoring the effectiveness of the MS4 permit will be limited.

Ms. Minerva continued by saying that she also testified on behalf of DC's stormwater permit proposal of the 1-inch runoff standard. She said that DC's proposed standard would help send a message to MD regarding their requirements. Ms. Minerva was also told that representatives from DDOE intend to participate in the MDE stormwater process.

On October 17th MDE released their proposed stormwater redevelopment regulations. Nothing she or AWCAC proposed was included. In response, AWCAC discussed how to respond for the next deadline. Ms. Minerva said it would be good to get comments in early (perhaps as early as the December 8th public meeting).

Ms. Minerva also briefly described her work to get EPA and MDE to look at Lower Beaverdam Creek toxic issues. Ms. Harriette Phelps' data had tracked the PCB source to a small area. MDE

representatives seem to be interested, and an investigation similar to the chromium one in Baltimore Harbor might be conducted.

Finally, Ms. Minerva alerted the group to a major development project along the river front. The project will include dredging the river between the 11th Street and CSX Bridges.

V. Anacostia Watershed Restoration Plan Update

Mr. John Galli (MWCOG) gave a brief update on the Anacostia Watershed Restoration Plan. He said that the Interim Report to congress will be publically released November 21st. As was described before, the report concentrates on Sligo Creek and includes a focus on LID and restoration projects. Modeling results indicated that more programmatic approaches will be needed to address water pollution, which will be included in the next report (scheduled to be released in a year). He indicated the Army Corps of Engineers will be using a subcontractor to complete the detailed analysis of the other remaining thirteen subwatersheds and tidal river.

Mr. Galli said that Plan team also discussed, at the request of the Steering Committee, the post 2010 goal setting process. The process would basically align goals identified through the Restoration Plan and those already in existence. A handout was given out detailing the process. A short discussion followed:

- Mr. Bill Matuszeski (District of Columbia) wondered whether the prioritization of projects will show that it is nearly impossible to complete an effective restoration. Chair Barber replied that there are both expensive and affordable projects included. Mr. Galli added that the Friends of Sligo Creek assisted in the prioritization of projects and that priorities will change as other subwatershed projects are evaluated.
- Vice-Chair, Mr. Dan Smith (District of Columbia) asked if the Friends of Sligo Creek could talk to the other stream groups about what to expect from the involvement process? We suggested that representatives attend the next AWCAC meeting to provide advice on how to maximize participation in the process.
- Ms. Minerva suggested that since restoration projects alone will not be enough to drastically improve water quality/quantity issues, AWCAC should help the team with alternatives.
- Mr. Matuszeski said that both the Plan team and AWCAC members should be wary of the “education silver bullet.” Education will not improve water quality/quantity by itself.
- Mr. Andy Fellows (Prince George’s County) suggested that rewriting road codes be considered as an approach. He then had several broad questions: 1. Were elected officials asked for comments? 2. Do elected officials need to know about this work?
- Mr. Dan Smith added that the Plan team doesn’t need to make the specific policies, but defensible endpoints must be identified.

Action/Outcome: Representatives from Friends of Sligo will be asked to suggest ways for the other subwatershed groups to maximize their participation in the Anacostia Watershed Restoration Plan process.

VI. Stream Stewardship Workshop Recap

Mr. Aubin Maynard (MWCOG) gave a brief recap of the stream stewardship workshop. He said that 47 people from the Anacostia and neighboring watersheds attended the workshop, including a few from groups outside the watershed. Presentations were given by Ms. Jai Cole (MC-M-NCPPC), Ms. Laura Connelly (PG-M-NCPPC), and Mr. Steve Saari (DCDOE). Various subwatershed members also presented, including: Ms. Ann Vorce, Mr. Dennis Chestnut, Ms. Susan Barnett, and Mr. Dan

Smith. Finally, County Councilmen Thomas Dernoga and Don Praisner gave presentations about the importance of citizen involvement. All those who responded to a post workshop survey found the workshop useful, and many gave good suggestions for future workshops.

VII. Planning Upcoming Workshops

Mr. Fellows said that the advocacy workshop is still in the planning stages. The planning committee hopes to have a location set by mid-December and speakers lined up soon after. Workshop planners hope to have specific training included in the workshop. AWCAC member then discussed venue possibilities, including Adelphi Mill, NASA Goddard facilities, and a local air force base.

VIII. New Business / AWCAC 2009 Goals

Discussion of 2009 goals was dropped due to time.

The possibility of a storm drain making campaign for the entire watershed was briefly discussed. Mr. Fellows suggested that a common logo be used for the logos. Discussion will continue at the next meeting.

Action/Outcome: A Watershed wide storm drain stenciling campaign will be discussed at the next AWCAC meeting.

IX. Old Business

- Logo Redesign

A short discussion was held about changing the current AWCAC logo. While paying for design might be quick, Chair barber suggested that it might be an opportunity for outreach. She will assemble a committee to consider how to update the logo.

Action/Outcome: Chair Barber will appoint a committee to consider if and how to redesign the AWCAC logo.