

**Anacostia Watershed Citizens Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary**

Tuesday, November 11th, 2011

- DRAFT -

Meeting Attendance:

Members and Associates

Brent Bolin (Prince George's County)
Mike Bolinder (Anacostia Riverkeeper)
Dennis Chestnut (Washington DC)
Cary Coppock (Prince George's County)
Gabe Horchler (Prince George's County)
Julie Lawson (DC Surfriders)
Audra Lew (ICPRB)
Harriette Phelps (Prince George's County)
Mike Smith (Montgomery County)

Non-Members

Dana Minerva (AWRP)
Aubin Maynard (COG)

Absent Members and Associates

Mary Barber (District of Columbia)
Fajr Chestnut (District of Columbia)
Jim Collier (District of Columbia)
Bill Duncan (Prince George's County)
Jim Fary (Montgomery County)
Andy Fellows (Clean Water Action)
Dale Manty (Prince George's County)
Bill Matuszeski (District of Columbia)
Dan Smith (Prince George's County)
Lutz Rastaetter (Prince George's County)
Irv Sheffey (District of Columbia)

I. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Cary Coppock (Prince George's County) began the meeting at 7:30 pm following a social "hour" that began at 7:00 pm. All present were asked to introduce themselves to the group.

II. Approval of the 9-13-11 Meeting Summary

The 9-13-11 meeting summary was approved unanimously.

III. AWSC Update

Ms. Dana Minerva (AWRP) provided a brief update on AWSC activities. During the September Steering Committee meeting, the Ad-hoc workgroups (Messaging, Demonstration Approaches and Funding) reported on their efforts. The committees had many strong recommendations which, and Ms. Minerva suggested members review the AWSC minutes for a complete list. Of particular interest to AWCAC members was the push for Jurisdictions to pool resources of their public messaging campaigns (e.g. stormwater awareness, pet waste control, etc), a recommendation for a green streets design competition, and work toward a joint funding request to congress. Ms. Minerva encouraged AWCAC to appoint members to the Financing and Messaging workgroups (Chair Coppock is already a member of the Demonstrating Approaches subcommittee). AWCAC members generally agreed representation would be beneficial, and Chair Coppock will send out a request to AWCAC members.

During the AWSC meeting, updates and announcements were given. Unfortunately, NPS announced that cleanup of the Kenniworth Landfill will not begin until 2013. In collaboration with participating members, the Partnership will release a RFP for a economist to evaluate the economic benefits of a restored Anacostia River. NOAA will provide \$50,000 for such a study, additional will need to be raised depending on the results of the RFP. Finally, Ms. Minerva invited AWCAC members to the next AWSC meeting.

Action/Outcome: AWCAC will be asked for volunteers to participate in the messaging and financing committees.

IV. 2012 AWCAC Goals and Increasing AWCAC Membership

Chair Coppock led a discussion regarding 2012 AWCAC goals. As the AWRP was still formulating its post 2010 goals and purpose, Chair Coppock suggested that AWCAC be willing to support whatever goals are formulated in the AWSC ad-hoc groups.

Goal 1: Generally support goals and outcomes set by the three AWSC groups 1)Messaging , 2) Financing and 3) Demonstrating Approaches

Vice-Chair Mike Smith (Montgomery County) explained the prior goal of Anacostia signage across the watershed, and that in Montgomery County it was particularly important. In addition, many people (even in the subwatershed groups) don't even know what AWCAC or the partnership is or what they do. It was generally agreed that AWCAC should take a more active role in advertizing itself.

Goal 2: Messaging: Advertize AWCAC, ARP and promote an Anacostia wide trail system.

After a very brief discussion, Members agreed to provide support to the newly forming Brier Ditch group. Members did not specifically what type of support they would supply.

Goal 3: Assist the with the formation of a new Subwatershed group near Brier Ditch (Brier Mill Run)

Chair Coppock explained that through conversations with various river advocates, there seemed to be interest in pulling in groups not traditionally associated with the restoration movement (such as civic groups). Focusing on this would also address AWCAC's interest in increasing membership as well as

focus on the messaging component. Members generally agreed on this goal, and Mr. Gabe Horchler suggested working with building management companies. Quincy Run (a small tributary near the Bladensburg boat launch) produces a lot of trash from an upstream apartment complex, and Mr. Horchler AWCAC might fix the issue by working with them. Ms. Audra Law added that Victor Ukpolo interested in working with Management companies, and he may be interested in collaborating with AWCAC on that issue.

Goal 4: Bring in outside groups

Ms. Minerva inquired if AWCAC members were interested in monitoring the CSX intermodal issue as a goal. After a brief discussion members agreed that the issue was important, but present facts suggested the facility was not going to be build on the BARC property. AWCAC should monitor the situation and take the issue on if it seemed the facility would be built on the property.

Goal 5: Intermodal (tentative)

Action/Outcome: Mr. Aubin Maynard (COG) and Chair Coppock will summarize the goals conversation and email members asking for comments.

V. District of Columbia Outreach/Bandalong Trash Trap Update

Vice-Chair Chestnut provided a brief update of Groundwork Anacostia (GW) activities, specifically their work with the Bandalong Trash Trap in Watts Branch. After providing an overview of activities, Vice-Chair Chestnut explained that GW received a grant for monitoring the trash trap in Watts Branch. Monitoring activities have been time intensive, but they have remove a substantial amount of trash from the stream (~6,000lbs). GW has brought in students from various schools as part of an outreach initiative, which has been successful in changing student's minds about trash and its effects. Unfortunately, this Bandalong is not a great general public education tool, due to its location. A new instillation in the upper portion of Watts Branch (in DC), will allow greater public visibility. A short discussion followed.

- Dr. Harriette Phelps (Prince George's County) suggested that UDC might be a good place to pull in students to volunteer and assist with data analysis. Mr. Chestnut indicated he would communicate with Dr. Phelps on the suggestion.
- Mr. Mike Bolinder (Anacostia Riverkeeper) explained that Riverkeeper had received the contracts to oversee two new Bandalong devices including the Watts Branch device and another in James Creek, both will be good sites for interpretive signage and outreach activities.

VI. Old/New Business

- Ms. Julie Lawson (DC Surfriders) explained that 10,000 or more reusable bags would be distributed November 22, 2011 to advertize/announce the bag fee issue, and prepare for passing a bill to the county to pass a bag fee.. On December 3rd, the Prince George's County

Council will hold a public meeting on the bag fee authorization bill, and Ms. Lawson requested that AWCAC members get the word out and assist with the distribution on the 22nd. Help is also needed on November 12th stuffing informational flyers into the bags.

Ms. Lawson also explained that there was now evidence that the DC Bag Fee had resulted in job creation. The bag fee revenue has allowed DC to expand its RiverSmart Homes program. As a result the rainbarrel marketer that supplies the program built a regional facility to meet increased demand.

- Mr. Horchler explained the USACE had removed debris from the tidal Anacostia River early in the fall, but the previous week a rowing team suffered \$12,000 of damage to a boat from woody debris in the waterway. Mr. Horchler explained that he drafted a letter on behalf of AWCAC, thanking the USACE for their work and requesting that they remove debris further up in the river. A brief discussion followed regarding what the USACE is required to clear. Mr. Bolinder offered to look into the topic for the next meeting.
- Dr. Phelps announced that she had submitted her paper for publication and inquired if she should present her findings at a future meeting.