

**Anacostia Watershed Citizens Advisory Committee  
Meeting Summary**

**Tuesday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

**- DRAFT -**

**Meeting Attendance:**

***Members and Associates***

Mary Barber (District of Columbia)  
Jim Collier (District of Columbia)  
Cary Coppock (Prince George's County)  
Bill Duncan (Prince George's County)  
Jim Fary (Montgomery County)  
Gabe Horchler (Prince George's County)  
Bill Matuszeski (District of Columbia)  
Harriette Phelps (Prince George's County)  
Dan Smith (Prince George's County)  
Mike Smith (Montgomery County)  
Irv Sheffey (District of Columbia)

**Guests/Interested Parties**

Dana Minerva (Executive Director, Anacostia Watershed Restoration Partnership)

**COG Support Staff:**

Aubin Maynard  
John Galli

***Absent Members and Associates***

Brent Bolin (Prince George's County)  
Andy Fellows (Clean Water Action)  
Dale Manty (Prince George's County)  
Ed Murtagh (Montgomery County)  
Lutz Rastaetter (Prince George's County)

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

Chair Mike Smith (Montgomery 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 3-9-10 Meeting Summary

**Action/Outcome: the 3-9-10 meeting summary will be reviewed and approved at the July AWCAC meeting.**

## III. AWSC Update

Chair Smith briefly summarized relevant topics covered at the 4-22-10 AWSC meeting. He specifically noted that:

- Two sub-committees were reconvened: 1) the funding committee will identify potential partnership and ARP project funding; and 2) the goal setting committee will identify post 2010 goals. Chair Smith explained he had suggested considering the previous goals set in the 2001 agreement, as the previous goals are strong and it would save time to use them.
- The request from the AWSC to SHA for ICC-site specific project information is still pending.
- AWCACs request for the loss of forest cover in the Anacostia was discussed. Ken Yetman (DNR) will be working on the issue and AWCAC should receive a response letter shortly.
- No progress has been made procuring Anacostia specific signage, but Chair Smith will continue to push for the signs (which may need to contain a modified partnership logo as the 'turn-it-around' logo may not be recognizable from a moving vehicle).

## IV. Toxics Update

Dr. Harriette Phelps (Prince George's County) presented findings from her toxics study in Lower Beaverdam Creek and Sligo Creek. Dr. Phelps indicated that results from both sites showed high levels of chlordane, leading her to inquire why no TMDL exists for chlordane. Working with high school students, Dr. Phelps collected *corbicula* (clams) from the Potomac River, 'cleaned' them, placed them in the two Anacostia tributaries, and sent them to be analyzed.

In both locations, high chlordane levels were identified, but no point sources were found. MDE also found high levels in LBDC, and has taken over the LBDC investigation. On the other hand, in Sligo creek MDE found much lower levels. Dr. Phelps explained she is frustrated with MDE for not being more communicative about their results, but the labs used for analysis will be

comparing methods. Dr. Phelps indicated that the most important factor is that the issue is examined in more depth, even if the lower levels are found to be correct.

The *corbicula* investigation is getting a lot of publicity. People are interested due to student involvement and the possibility of a polluted water source so close to homes. A brief discussion followed.

- Chair Smith indicated Montgomery Department of the Environment canceled a meeting with Dr. Phelps. DEP representatives prefer that MDE is also present to expedite discussions. He inquired as to when the labs' would respond with the results of their test comparisons, but Dr. Phelps did not know.
- Mr. John Galli (COG) noted that MDE probably received their results as part of the PCB Sligo TMDL monitoring effort. Mr. Galli asked if Dr. Phelps had examined chlordane levels in Sligo Creek four or five years prior in a related study. Dr. Phelps replied that the monitoring site had been in the Northwest Branch just above Sligo Creek.
- Irv Sheffey (DC) inquired as to the next steps in the Sligo study. Dr. Phelps explained that the results would be published, and hopefully funding for additional testing would become available.

## V. Executive Director Update

Ms. Dana Minerva (AWRP, Executive Director) highlighted several of her recent activities, including:

- On April 19<sup>th</sup>, the Anacostia Restoration Plan (ARP) release event was held at the Bladensburg Waterfront Park. This very successful event included many all four congressional representatives (i.e., Steny Hoyer, Chris Van Hollen, Eleanor Homes Norton, and Donna Edwards) and other elected officials, from Maryland, the District of Columbia, and the federal government. The next step is to secure funding for restoration efforts, which is being sought by the Partnership with the help of DC Appleseed and others.
- Ms. Minerva has redrafted the Prince George's County stormwater ordinance at the request of Councilmen Dernoga, and she hoped AWCAC members would get others to write letters of support.

- The District of Columbia's MS4 is generally acceptable, but Ms. Minerva is currently working on comments before the deadline on June 4<sup>th</sup>.
- The Capitol Riverfront BID Anacostia River Business Summit will be held at 20 M Street, SE on May 18<sup>th</sup> beginning at 1:30 p.m. Subwatershed groups are encouraged to have booths as the registration fee will be waived for them.

## **VI. Trash TMDL Update and Discussion**

Mr. Jim Collier (DC) gave a PowerPoint presentation and led a discussion of the new Anacostia Trash TMDL. Mr. Collier began by providing a basic explanation of what a total maximum daily load (TMDL) is and what it means for the Anacostia River. Mr. Collier explained the TMDL as "allocating what you have to take out." He then described the sampling methods used to calculate the loading rates. While the exact calculations were not provided by MDE, the rates are based on land uses, multiplied over the watershed using GIS.

- Ms. Minerva inquired about the difference in loading rates between Prince George's County and Montgomery County. Mr. Galli responded that the higher rate in Prince George's County is most likely due to: 1) Prince George's County has the most land area in the Anacostia; 2) there are more industrial areas in the county, which have higher loading rates; and 3) socio-economic issues.

Mr. Collier pointed out that the lower Anacostia had lower rates because the CSO area was not included in the calculations. He also explained how the permit separated point source trash (Items small enough to move through storm drain system) and nonpoint source trash (Items too large to move through storm drain system). He concluded by describing the 'assurance of implementation', and explained how it really did nothing to make sure the river was cleaned up. The only avenue to clean the river is through permit action. Mr. Collier then handed out the proposed AWCAC letter of support of the Trash TMDL, including suggested changes. AWCAC members then held a lengthy discussion on modifications to the letter (final letter attached). In the end, Mr. Matuszeski (DC) moved to accept the letter and authorize Chair Smith to modify it as needed and send it before the May 18<sup>th</sup> deadline, Mr. Collier seconded.

**ACTION/OUTCOME: Chair Smith will make the recommended changes to AWCAC's TMDL letter of support, and send it before the May 18<sup>th</sup> comment deadline.**

## **VII. New Business**

Mr. Irv Sheffey expressed his continued intent to plan an Anacostia Advocacy III workshop. Mr. Sheffey requested that members contact him if they are interested in helping. He then suggest the workshop topic could be revisiting the Chesapeake Bays Agreement's six goals, where we are today and how to best move forward.

- Chair Smith explained that the DNR is considering a fall ARP implementation workshop. Mr. Sheffey indicated he would be willing to work with the DNR representative and roll the two workshops together.

Chair Smith requested AWCAC members' opinion of holding some sort of contest (e.g. art, photography) with a prize to advertize AWCAC and the partnership to subwatershed group members and beyond. He requested that members contact him with ideas.

Mr. Matuszeski indicated that the Hickey Run restoration, in the Arboretum, looks like it is finally underway. The restoration of the Spring Run tributary will include trash collection devices and a BaySaver to collect oil.

Mr. Gabe Horchler (DC) pointed out that a local Rowing team won the Bladensburg Regatta, and explained that it did not look like the USACE had removed debris as requested.

**ACTION/OUTCOME: AWCAC members will contact Mr. Sheffey if they are interested in the Anacostia Advocacy III workshop.**

**AWCAC member will send Chair Smith ideas for a contest to advertize AWCAC and the partnership.**