

FY 2009 Anacostia Restoration Fund

COG Final Progress Report (Period: July 1, 2008– June 30, 2009)

Task 1. Anacostia Coordination and Reporting Activities

Subtask 1A. Anacostia Committee Support

1. Anacostia Watershed Management and Steering Committees

- Assisted the Partnership’s ED complete the Anacostia Action Agenda report, which highlights the Partnership’s restoration goal-related accomplishments and planned actions (summer 2008);
- Participated in the September 17, 2008 Anacostia Leadership Council river tour event at Bladensburg, MD which was part of the Governor’s ‘Capital for a Day’ initiative. It should be noted that the event: included several local elected officials, received positive media coverage and marked the official public distribution of the Action Agenda;
- Wrote Summit Fund grant proposal for support of Partnership and ED position, February- 2009, (Note: Summit Fund fully funded);
- Wrote Cafritz Foundation grant proposal for support of Partnership and ED position, February- 2009, (Note: Not funded);
- Wrote Keith Campbell Foundation grant proposal for support of Partnership and ED position, February- 2009, (Note: Under consideration);
- Prepared the Partnership’s \$3.3 million Chesapeake Bay 2010 Trust Fund “Sligo Creek Urban Watershed Restoration” proposal (July-August 2008). While the proposal was not funded it was very well-received by both MDDNR and the Governor’s Scientific Advisory Panel. It should be noted that several of the proposal-related restoration activities are moving forward;

- Planned and coordinated the Partnership’s March 26, 2009 “Promoting Redevelopment LID in the Anacostia Watershed” workshop. This highly successful one-day workshop, which was funded by the Summit Fund of Washington and USEPA, drew over 90 participants;
- Six regular SC meetings (August 7, 2008, October 2, 2008, December 4, 2008, February 26, 2009, April 23, 2009 and June 25, 2009);
- Four regular MC meetings (September 17, 2007 and December 3, 2007, March 11, 2008 and May 21, 2008);
- Eleven regular USACE/AWMC Anacostia Watershed Restoration Plan Development Team (PDT) meetings (July 31, 2008, August 14, 2008, September 18, 2008, October 14, 2008, December 13, 2008, January 12, 2009, February 23, 2009, March 16, 2009, April 20, 2009, May 18, 2009 and June 15, 2009). Worked with PDT members to provide a field tour for Lewis Berger Associates (i.e., Corps contractor) of the Indian Creek subwatershed, to identify both potential restoration projects and practices (March 27, 2009);
- Two regular Anacostia Restoration Potential Workgroup meetings (September 10, 2008 and January 14, 2009);
- Near monthly MDE/EPA Anacostia Trash TMDL conference calls (July 15, 2008- June 3, 2009);
- Submitted Anacostia reforestation scope of work to MDDNR (September 2008). MOU approved in December 2008;
- In partnership with PGDER, prepared a joint Section 319, Lower Sligo Creek sediment nutrient reduction-related grant proposal to MDE (June 2009);

2. Special Workgroups

- Participated in two Anacostia Watershed Toxics Alliance meetings (October 28, 2008 and April 13, 2009);
- Participated in one Prince George’s County, Lower Paint Branch Workgroup meeting (June 17, 2009);

- Participated in one MDE Amphibian Monitoring Workgroup meeting (January 2009); and
- Participated in one MSHA Upper Paint Branch Brown trout Workgroup meeting.

3. Progress and Status Reporting in the Anacostia

- Prepared FY09 COG ARF final progress report (June 2009).

Subtask 1B. Environmental Conditions Restoration Progress Reporting

- Working with the MC's Anacostia Restoration Potential Workgroup (ARPW), completed a preliminary calendar year 2001-2008 Key Indicators progress summary table and began developing a companion progress report (February-June 2009).

Subtask 1C. Interagency Coordination

- Participated in three M-NCPPC (MOCO and PGCO) riparian reforestation coordination meetings;
- Met with City of Takoma Park staff to coordinate stormwater retrofit and stream restoration activities in the Takoma Branch portion of Sligo Creek (January 23, 2009);
- Participated in MCDEP/USGS Anacostia water quality monitoring Paint Branch field meeting with MCDEP, to discuss water quality monitoring options (February 2009);
- Continued to improve coordination between the MC, the University of Maryland, the Anacostia Watershed Toxics Alliance and various federal agencies and facilities in the basin (EPA, NPS, USDA, DOD, etc.) to further the overall restoration effort;
- Continued regular coordination with both the Montgomery and Prince George's Counties halves of the M-NCPPC;

- Continued regular coordination with MCDEP and PGDER on Anacostia trash reduction and LID retrofit-related progress (July 2008-present);
- Continued to participate in a multi-agency effort to upgrade water quality models for both the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers;
- Continued to work with DDOE, NOAA, EOPB, M-NCPPC, MDDNR, MSHA, PDGER, MCDEP, NPS, the University of Maryland, and others to modify or remove existing priority fish blockages in the watershed; and
- Continued to coordinate with DDOE, M-NCPPC, MDDNR, NPS, ICPRB, CRI, and PCC to gauge and monitor the extent of the 2009 Anacostia anadromous fish spring migration (February-May 2009).

Subtask 1D. Watershed Restoration Networking

- Represented Partnership at Prince George's County's 'Greenfest' and presented a copy of the Action Agenda to County Executive Jack Johnson (October 11, 2008);
- Made major upgrades to the Anacostia Restoration Web site by: 1) developing a new, modern and attractive splash page with an easy to use menu bar, 2) adding dedicated committee and forum sections, 3) adding additional materials to both the data and publications archive sections, 4) updating both the restoration progress and subwatershed information sections, and 5) adding new photographs and downloadable files (July 2008-June 2009);
- Continued to periodically update and maintain the Anacostia Watershed Environmental Directory;
- Represented the Partnership at the April 28, 2009 AWS Earth Day event at Bladensburg Waterfront Park. Along with maps and information and handouts, the ARP display table featured two live tanks for both Anacostia resident and spring migratory fish.
- Updated contact information for all of the elected officials in the Anacostia watershed and all of the members of the Anacostia Watershed Steering and Management Committees (May 2009);

- Provided coordination assistance and support for the bi-monthly meetings of the Chillum-Ray Environment Committee (September 2008 – May 2009);
- Worked with the University of Maryland College Park Scholars to plan for a major Paint Branch “Service Day” clean up event scheduled for August 28, 2009 (May-June 2009); and
- Continued to work with AFF and others to help implement both Trash Free Potomac and Anacostia Trash Reduction Strategy-related recommendations.

Subtask 1E. General Technical Assistance and Support

- Continued to assist Prince George’s County in performing Anacostia trash TMDL-related baseline conditions monitoring (July 2008-June 2009);
- Continued to assist Montgomery County in performing Anacostia trash TMDL-related baseline conditions monitoring (July 2008-June 2009);
- Continued to assist the MC membership in developing watershed-based approaches for dealing with major issues such as stormwater management, stream restoration, fish passage, wetland creation and restoration, TMDL’s, BOD, DO, toxic sediments, bacterial contamination, trash and CSO’s;
- Performed downspout disconnection survey of eight representative single family residential developments in the Prince George’s County portion of the watershed (January 2009);
- Assisted PGDER staff in identifying potential vernal pool amphibian monitoring sites and developing associated monitoring protocols (November 2008-April 2009);
- Prepared “Anacostia LID and Trash Reduction Initiative: Takoma Branch Subwatershed Pilot Project Evaluation” report for PGDER (September 2009);

- Prepared “Anacostia LID and Trash Reduction Initiative: Takoma Branch LID Retrofit and Trash Reduction Inventory” report for PGDER (September 2009);

Subtask 1F. Watershed Resource Monitoring, Inventorying and Tracking

- Working with the MC’s Anacostia Restoration Potential Workgroup (ARPW), completed the FY10-14 Anacostia Watershed Restoration Monitoring Strategy (Note: the Strategy was approved by the SC on April 23, 2009);
- Completed a qualitative macroinvertebrate survey of Upper and Lower Beaverdam Creeks and Watts Branch (November 2008);
- Retrieved thermograph thermometers to help characterize the 2008 summer water temperature regimes of the Sligo Creek, lower Northeast and Northwest Branches, Paint Branch, Little Paint Branch, Indian Creek and Upper Beaverdam Creek (all Prince George’s County) (December 2008);
- Continued to add to Anacostia natural and cultural resources photograph library;
- Performed three days of anadromous fish electrofishing survey for Northwest and Northeast Branches, and Upper Beaverdam Creek (March and April 2009);
- Completed streambed stability and RSAT surveys for Upper and Lower Beaverdam Creeks and Watts Branch (July 2008- June 2009);
- Performed baseflow water quality instantaneous measurements for Upper and lower Beaverdam Creeks and Watts Branch (July 2008- April 2009);
- Performed 20-jab macroinvertebrate multiple best stream habitat sampling for Upper Beaverdam Creek and Clear Creek. The core Maryland Biological Stream Survey (MBSS) metrics for streams in the Coastal Plain physiographic region will be employed (April 2009);

- Deployed recording thermograph thermometers to help characterize the 2009 summer water temperature regimes of the lower Sligo Creek, Northeast and Northwest Branches, lower Paint Branch, lower Little Paint Branch, Indian Creek and Upper Beaverdam Creek (all Prince George’s County) May 2009;

Task 2. Targeted Outreach

Subtask 2A. Briefings

- Multiple briefings for individual members of the Anacostia Management and Steering Committees (August 2008-present);
- Briefed new AWS President, Jim Foster, on Anacostia-related restoration efforts and progress (March 19, 2009);
- Briefed Ridgecrest Elementary School Principal (Dan Heller) on upcoming Takoma Branch restoration-related efforts (April 2009); and
- Continued to participate in regular briefings with Anacostia Executive Director, Ms. Dana Minerva, on various Anacostia restoration-related topics (July 2008-present).

Subtask 2B. Anacostia Watershed Citizens Advisory Committee

- Provided staff and secretarial support for six regular AWCAC meetings (July 8, 2008, September 9, 2008, November 18, 2008, January 13, 2009, March 10, 2009 and May 12, 2009);
- Worked with AWCAC members to develop the agendas for the November 15, 2008 Stream Restoration Workshop, the March 7, 2009 Advocacy I Workshop and the June 13, 2009 Advocacy II Workshop (~120 attendees, total for all three). Prepared Workshop summaries for AWCAC. Worked out all meeting location requirements and logistical support needs;
- Provided AWCAC members with Anacostia maps and other restoration-related materials (July 2008 – present);

Subtask 2C. Small Habitat Improvement Program (SHIP)

- Performed Anacostia riparian buffer plant survivability surveys for MDDNR (June 2009);
- Coordinated MDDNR Firewise Workshop held November 20, 2008 at the Montgomery County Agricultural Farm Park (~50 attendees);
- Fall 2008 - Augured a total of 155 holes for riparian reforestation work Little Paint Branch/BARC (November 1, 2008). The project (155 trees total) resulted in the reforestation of approximately 0.12 acres. This project was closely coordinated with FOLPB, NNWB, BARC, BCWWG and involved approximately 25 volunteers;
- Spring 2009- Augured a total of 350 holes for riparian reforestation work at Fletchers Field Park (May 2, 2009), and Northeast Branch/Riverdale Park (May 16, 2009). The two projects combined (350 trees total) resulted in the reforestation of approximately 0.62 acres, and were closely coordinated with M-NCPPC, BCWWG, NNWB, AWS and local residents. *It should be noted that the total acreage reforested in FY09 was approximately 0.74 acres and involved a total of approximately 50 volunteers;*
- In partnership with local Riverdale Park residents, performed a stream cleanup at Fetchers Field Park (April 18, 2009);
- In partnership with the Chillum-Ray Citizens Association and PGDER participated in the June 6, 2009 community cleanup;
- In partnership with BARC, provided reforestation project maintenance for the Spray Irrigation Tributary/Little Paint Branch (June, 2009); and
- In partnership with M-NCPPC, provided invasive plant project maintenance (i.e., mowing) for the Takoma Branch/Knollbrook Road site (June, 2009).