

**Anacostia Watershed Management Committee**

**-DRAFT-**

*Wednesday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2013*

*10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.*

*Board Room – Third Floor*

**Meeting Attendance:**

	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Ms.	Sheila	Besse	DDOE
Mr.	Steve	Bieber	MWCOG
Mr.	Craig	Carson	MC DEP
Ms.	Laura	Chamberlin	AFF
Mr.	Cary	Coppock	AWCAC
Ms.	Meo	Curtis	MC DEP
Mr.	Curtis	Dalpra	ICPRB
Mr.	Paul	Emmart	MDE-By Phone
Mr.	John	Galli	MWCOG
Ms.	Marian	Honecзы	MDDNR
Mr.	Brian	LeCouteur	MWCOG
Mr.	Aubin	Maynard	MWCOG
Dr.	Cherie	Miller	USGS
Chair	Sam	Moki	PG DER
Mr.	Reggie	Parrish	USEPA
Mr.	David	Prevar	USDA
Mr.	Rob	Shreeve	SHA
Mr.	Phong	Trieu	MWCOG
Mr.	Ken	Yetman	MDDNR

**I. Call to Order/Introductions**

Chair Sam Moki (Prince George's County DER) called the meeting to order and requested that everyone present introduce themselves.

**II. Approval of the March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2013 Meeting Summary**

*ACTION/OUTCOME: The 3/26/13 meeting summary was approved unanimously.*

**III. AWCAC Chair Report**

Mr. Cary Coppock (AWCAC Chair) provided a very brief update of recent AWCAC activities. At the March meeting, Larry Coffman (Prince George's County DER) gave a presentation on the P3 initiative. He also indicated that AWCAC agreed to support a group opposing the proposed COSTCO gas station in Westfield Wheaton shopping center, Montgomery County. Mr. Coppock

also reported that Dr. David Myers (UMCP) successfully held a second Anacostia Trails workshop, and hopes outcomes will lead to a unified Anacostia trail system.

#### **IV. Discussion: Indicators and Targets**

Mr. John Galli (COG) began by thanking MC members working on the Indicators and Targets recommendations for the SC. Since last fall MC members have been discussing the Partnership's previous restoration indicators and targets. The SC had tasked the MC to re-examine both the "purpose and need," of each of the targets and indicators and report back with recommendations. Part of the process would include identifying a transparent restoration progress reporting method (for both elected officials and the public).

Mr. Galli briefly explained that MC members provided comments to COG on each of the existing 12 'Key Indicators' as well as an additional 12 'provisional' indicators. Member comments were summarized and provided in meeting handouts. At the afternoon May 9<sup>th</sup> special workgroup meeting, per member recommendation, the twelve key indicators were kept. However, it was recognized that target language need to be modified to align with existing regulatory MS4 and WIP-II reporting requirements.

Of twelve additional 'provisional' indicators seven were accepted (five were dropped), and they included nitrogen, phosphorus, suspended sediment, toxics, 1" WQv reduction, urban tree canopy (in light of the MD House Bill 706) and public education/outreach. Members indicated they would also like to track additional public activities beyond trash cleanups and number of members (e.g. advocacy related and other outreach activities). Mr. Galli emphasized that additional discussion is required related to toxics and toxics monitoring. Importantly, it was agreed that the indicators and target timeframe would cover 2010 through 2020 (i.e., a 10 year period).

Mr. Galli continued to report that AWCAC members had submitted seven additional indicators and targets. . Workgroup meeting members generally supported the four following indicator and targets: 1) canoe trail/accessible areas, 2) watershed trail system, 3) outdoor educational experiences for students and 4) public awareness survey(s). However, member responses indicated that they do not have authority as it relates to these supported indicators and targets and that M-NCPPC, NPS, school boards, etc. be engaged.

The MC did not support three suggested indicators and targets. Their comments included the following: the indicators and targets were difficult to meet in the 10-year timeframe, exceeded the 10-year target period as well as being inconsistent with existing jurisdictional goals.

Mr. Galli requested MC members provide final comments on indicators and targets by COB Thursday, May 16<sup>th</sup>. A draft report would then be provided for MC review by May 31<sup>st</sup>, with comments due to COG by COB Friday, June 14<sup>th</sup>. Recommendations would then be finalized and submitted to the SC at their June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2013 meeting. Following the presentation members held a brief discussion, summarized below.

- Vice-Chair Sheila Besse (District Department of the Environment) explained that environmental education is an important issue to tackle, and questioned if there is a way to

capture the indicator or at least an intention for better environmental education with the new targets. Mr. Galli explained the intention is to convey support, possibly trying to identify additional resources for this type of education. Mr. Ken Yetman (MDNR) suggested education could be the focus of a MC working session, but is hesitant for the MC to take it on now since the committee is currently addressing so many issues.

- Mr. Yetman explained that coordinating reporting on indicators and targets will be complicated. Members briefly discussed reporting requirements and deadlines, and Mr. Yetman concluded reporting would be six months to a year behind.
- Mr. Coppock explained that tree canopy is an important issue to AWCAC members, and would like to see more canopy tracking and data made available. Mr. Galli replied there is some local monitoring and tracking, and suggested the afternoon's presentation by MDDNR may answer additional question.

**Action/Outcome: MC members will provide final comments on proposed Indicators and Targets by COB May 16<sup>th</sup>.**

**Action/Outcome: COG will draft MC final Target and Indicator recommendations based on member comments by May 31<sup>st</sup>.**

**Action/Outcome: MC members will provide comments on final Indicators and Targets by COB June 14<sup>th</sup>.**

**Action/Outcome: Final MC Target and Indicator recommendations will be given to the SC at their June 27<sup>th</sup> meeting.**

## **V. Preliminary COG FY14 ARF Work Program and Budget**

Mr. Steve Bieber (COG) provided a brief overview of the first draft COG recommended FY14 ARF work program and budget. Mr. Bieber reminded members that the Summit Fund support was coming to an end, and announced support for the Executive Director position would be over as of July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013. Key Partnership members have expressed an interest in continuing the contractual position and recommended, COG to evaluate an Implementation Coordinator (IC) at a half time versus a full time position. COG has included that in the budget. Responding to questions regarding Summit Fund support, Mr. Bieber explained COG Executive Director Chuck Bean met with Linda Howard of the Summit Fund, who confirmed the Summit Fund was wrapping up its funding support for various Anacostia efforts in Washington, DC Ms. Howard concurred and stated briefly that the Summit Fund will end its funding support to the Partnership as of July 2014. Furthermore the Summit Fund will end its Anacostia-related funding support as early as 2014. She indicated that her Partnership participation will also be reduced.

Mr. Galli gave a detailed explanation of all budget items. Overall, FY14 funding would be the same as the previous year, with a few changes to the structure of the Partnership. First, the SC would change from meeting every other month to possibly a bi-annual meeting schedule, and the MC would continue to meet four times a year with the addition of one or more special sessions.

Key members have indicated they are interested in funding the part-time IC position, but no details have yet been worked out. Finally, to meet increased interest in COG monitoring activities, funds have been reallocated from the technical briefing and general assistance and support to monitoring/inventory/tracking line item. Mr. Galli requested MC members provide comments on the budget as soon as possible and it would be presented to the SC at their June 27<sup>th</sup> meeting.

- Vice-Chair Besse inquired if the ah-hoc committees were going to continue after the new Partnership changes. Mr. Galli indicated the SC would need to give guidance on ad-hoc committees. Mr. Coppock indicated that the demonstrating approaches committee added an important element to the Partnership, and it would be a waste to see it dissolved.
- Ms. Meo Curtis (Montgomery County DEP) requested that COG share their data from the small habitat improvement projects. Mr. Galli indicated Ms. Curtis should speak with Mr. Phong Trieu (COG) regarding the data.

## **VI. MD House Bill 706 (Forestry) and Regional Urban Tree Canopy Workgroup Updates**

Ms. Marian Honeczy (MDDNR) described the main features of the recently passed House Bill 706, including 1) state policy of maintaining 40 percent state wide tree cover (first statewide tree canopy requirement in the country), 2) income tax credits for conversion of turf to trees, 3) facilitation of stream restoration projects and disposition of development fees collected under the Forest Conservation Act, 4) local government guidance, and 5) anticipated regulatory changes. Ms. Honeczy explained that the bill was assembled in three months and, surprisingly, had broad support. Currently the state has over 40 percent coverage, but the Bill stipulates that if that percentage drops below 40 percent, stakeholders must meet and determine how to bring coverage back to 40 percent. It is expected that existing policy and incentives, in addition to those provided by Bill 706, will be sufficient to maintain the required canopy.

The Bill fixed several issues with current regulations, including modifying fines for starting wildfires, allowing SHA to do larger reforestation mitigation, providing exemptions for specific stream restoration projects and certain stormwater pond modifications, and setting up a funding source to meet future forest emergencies (e.g. fighting emerald ash borer). The bill also addressed issues with the review process, as some counties were inappropriately using fee in lieu funds for non-forestry-related budget items. A short discussion followed.

- Mr. Coppock inquired if there were additional details regarding where the 40 percent coverage must be located (i.e. does every county have to meet the canopy requirement?). Ms. Honeczy explained that it was a statewide requirement but data shows current canopy is well distributed across the state (except Baltimore County and the City of Baltimore, where canopy is low).
- Mr. Trieu inquired about how canopy changes would be tracked. Ms. Honeczy indicated there would be a statewide assessment every five years similar to that of University of Vermont tree canopy assessment

Mr. Brian LeCouteur reported on the activities of COG's ad-hoc regional Urban Tree Canopy Workgroup. Mr. LeCouteur explained the Workgroup was focusing on a regional tree canopy strategy (including addressing air quality and stormwater issues). The workgroup is set to release a report by midsummer 2013.

## **VII. Lower Northwest and Northeast Branches: 2013 Herring Monitoring Update**

Mr. Trieu reported on recent COG herring-related monitoring efforts in the Lower Northwest Branch. Mr. Trieu described both the sampling station location and historical anadromous fish data. Unfortunately, over the past four to five years strength of run/capture rates have been very low in the Anacostia, but seem to be now at least holding steady. Data from the District Department of the Environment and others show a similar trend in the Anacostia and around the Chesapeake Bay watershed. On a positive note, Mr. Trieu added that more hickory shad have been captured, possibly indicating some level of recovery for that species' population. Additional bycatches included large and small-mouthed bass, yellow perch, inland silverside, and quillback. COG Young-of-year (YOY) sampling will continue in late summer and early fall.

- Mr. Yetman inquired if data shows some estimate of the river improving. Mr. Trieu indicated more data is needed, but there has been a slight increase in the population of alewife herring and no increases in DELTs.
- Mr. Craig Carson (Montgomery County DEP) questioned Virginia's weak management plans of the anadromous fish populations. Mr. Trieu explained that while he could not comment on Virginia's plans, but increases in white catfish, cormorants and other predators are putting additional pressure on these fish populations.

## **VIII. Anacostia River Toxics Update Brown Bullhead Survey Results**

Mr. Pinkney explained that there are two different implications of brown bullhead catfish tumor findings. One is fish health; the other is public health. Threats to fish health include fish kills, bacterial and fungal diseases, endocrine disruption, and tumors in brown bullhead catfish caused by PAHs and other chemicals. Human health is impacted by consuming fish such as channel and blue catfish contaminated by PCBs. Mike Rutter of Penn State and John Harshbarger of George Washington University analyzed fish over eleven inches long collected at several sites in 1996, 2000/2001 and 2009/2011. They also recently sampled fish in the Potomac and Piscataway Rivers.

The team found that liver tumors were more prevalent in older female fish. Over the period, there were no marked changes in influx of PAHs to the river, so linking trends with actions is not possible with current data. PCB prevalence in Anacostia Fish has not changed significantly since 1995—they are also still above the 'do not eat' threshold. Although the rates of liver tumors in the Anacostia decreased by half from 1996 to 2011, the rate of liver tumors in the Anacostia, the Potomac, and Piscataway rivers still had much higher rates than in the baseline group taken from around the Chesapeake Bay. Skin tumors were also found at elevated rates in both the Potomac and the Anacostia rivers, but there was not a statically significant decrease from 1996 to 2011.

Mr. Pinkney emphasized the importance of reducing PAH and PCBs. A recent survey of Anacostia anglers by Opinion Works indicated a high level of fish consumption and sharing, despite fish consumption advisories. Extending the survey to anglers in the Potomac, where fish advisories also exist would be advantages to get a clearer picture of consumption.

Mr. Pinkney concluded his presentation by suggesting that improved source tracking, such as requiring a state of the art monitoring technique, could speed recovery. New techniques were employed in the Delaware Bay, which helped identify sources, leading to a 46% reduction of PAHs. Mr. Pinkney noted that the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin (ICPRB) could implement better monitoring and work with sources to reduce pollutants entering waterways. Other ideas included creating voluntary incentives to take existing transformers out of service, and LID and other technologies to control stormwater would help stem sediment loads that potentially add PCBs/PAHs from historic sites. Mr. Pinkney would also like to see expanded coal tar sealant bans.

- Mr. Yetman inquired as to what efforts were being made in the Anacostia River to identify toxic sources. Ms. Curtis explained that recently DEP completed a landuse based approach looking for landuse sources, but were unable to identify any major sources.
- Mr. Galli questioned what amount of the PCB in the tributaries was depositional from the atmosphere.

## **IX. Montgomery County Anacostia Restoration Projects Update**

Ms. Curtis indicated that to keep the current meeting on schedule her litter-related portion of the presentation would be given at a future meeting Mr. Carson provided a brief update on recent Anacostia stormwater project-related work and other activities in Montgomery County. Mr. Carson explained that to meet MS4-related requirements and make progress toward pollutant reductions, DEP has been constructing many LID projects and partnering with various entities. In the Anacostia DEP has completed 29 LID projects, with an additional 22 LID projects to be constructed, two stream restorations and 14 stormwater pond retrofits were in design. Three additional stream projects are in design phase in coordination with the USACE. Mr. Carson then briefly reviewed several of DEP's eleven green street projects, including practices uses and costs. Projects highlighted included: 1) Arcola Avenue (treats 2.4 impervious acres and cost \$540,065), Forest Estates (treats 5.06 impervious acres and cost \$815,517), Dennis Avenue (estimated to treat 20 impervious acres and cost \$4,843,410), Franklin Knolls, Sligo Park Hills and the White Oak/Lockwood Drive/Stewart Lane projects. It is expected that there will be monthly maintenance for most projects.

Mr. Carson provided a few 'lessons learned' related to green streets: 1) coordinating with DOT is very difficult, road resurfacing projects post green street installation can change the 'forebay' areas of the newly constructed bioretention/infiltration facilities.. So while it may seem counter intuitive, DEP finds it is best to 'cut the curb' and construct green street LID after DOT is finished, 2)communication with each neighborhood is also critical, as each is unique (e.g. in the Franklin Knolls project, trash can location and how residence get out of cars effected which streets were focused on), 3) Neighborhood layout can effect practices used (e.g. in Sligo Park Hills there is no

storm drain network, and lots of illegal parking pads, so we tried to incorporate the pads into the designs), 4) stay away from really steep areas, as it is cost prohibitive or not possible to build LID in such areas and 5) its critical to find out if residence actually would accept the green street.

- Mr. Galli inquired if there is a maximum slope steepness DEP considers for site selection purposes. Mr. Carson indicated that they avoided any areas with over a four percent slope.

## **X. ICC Mitigation/Stewardship Project Update**

Mr. Rob Shreeve (SHA) gave a brief update on ICC construction. Overall contracts 'A, B, and C' have been completed and contract 'D' has moved forward to 30% complete. Mr. Shreeve highlighted various restoration projects including tree plantings, stormwater ponds, and stream restoration projects.

## **XI. Announcements**

- Chair Moki announced that Mr. Galli would be retiring at the end of May, and thanked him for his dedication and hard work. Mr. Galli expressed his gratitude to MC members for their efforts on behalf of the Anacostia River, and COG staff. Mr. Galli also commended Chair Moki for his effective service as MC Chair.
- Chair Moki announced that he has enjoyed being Chair of the MC, but will be stepping down at the next MC meeting. He hopes that Vice-Chair Besse (DDOE) would be willing to take the chairmanship as it rotates to DC, and that MC members would support her.
- Mr. Ken Yetman (MDNR) announced a Partnership canoe trip along the Anacostia September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013 (October 20<sup>th</sup> rain date). Additional information will be provided later in the summer.