

Attachment
-DRAFT-
Anacostia Watershed Management Committee
Meeting Summary
Thursday, September 17th, 2009

Meeting Attendance:

	Name		Organization
Chair	Ken	Yetman	Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources
Ms.	Mary	Barber	Anacostia Watershed Citizens Advisory Committee
Ms.	Sheila	Besse	DC Department of the Environment
Dr.	Mow-Soung	Cheng	Prince George's County Department of Environmental Resources
Mr.	Jim	Connolly	Anacostia Watershed Society
Mr.	Curtis	Dalpra	ICPRB
Mr.	Eden	Defendoni	DC Department of the Environment
Ms.	Trinh	Doan	DC Department of the Environment
Ms.	Diane	Douglas	DC Department of the Environment
Mr.	John	Galli	MWCOG
Mr.	Brad	Garner	USGS
Mr.	Jim	George	Maryland Department of the Environment
Dr.	Ted	Graham	MWCOG
Ms.	Carol	Hearle	University of Maryland
Ms.	Catherine	King	US Environmental Protection Agency
Mr.	Tony	Martin	DCEOM
Ms.	Cherie	Miller	USGS
Ms.	Dana	Minerva	Anacostia Restoration Partnership- Executive Director
Mr.	Sam	Moki	Prince George's County Department of Environmental Resources
Ms.	Tyler	Pearce	Clean Water Action
Dr.	Harriette	Phelps	UDC
Mr.	David	Prevar	USDA
Mr.	Steve	Shofar	Montgomery County Department of the Environment
Mr.	Rob	Shreve	Maryland State Highway Administration
Mr.	Phong	Trieu	MWCOG
Mr.	Greg	Voight	US Environmental Protection Agency

I. Call to Order/Introductions

Chair Ken Yetman (MDNR) called the meeting to order at 10:00 am and requested that everyone introduce themselves.

II. Approval of June 18, 2009 Meeting Summary

The 6/18/09 meeting summary was approved unanimously.

III. AWCAC Chair Report

AWCAC Vice-Chair Mary Barber (Washington, DC) provided details of AWCAC's June 13th workshop. Ms. Barber indicated that many attended the workshop, and coming away from the day's activities there was an overriding sense to increase advocacy for restoration of the Anacostia. Participants from the District of Columbia have since met twice, with Irv Sheffey spearheading efforts. AWCAC Vice-Chair Brent Bolin (Prince George's County) and Ms. Susan Barnett (Prince George's County) have been working in Prince George's County. Ms. Barnett organized a well-attended stormwater workshop, with presentations from Mr. Bruce Gilmore (AWS) and representatives from the City of Greenbelt's departments of Planning and Public Works.

Ms. Barber explained that AWCAC was also trying to work with subwatershed groups through a storm drain marker initiative, with the intention of getting subwatershed groups to put out both marker and door hangers. During the current year, AWCAC will also focus on other stormwater issues and assist with the completion and implementation of the Anacostia Restoration Plan where possible.

IV. USACE Anacostia Watershed Restoration Plan Update

Ms. Amy Guise gave a brief update on the status of the ARP by phone. Ms. Guise indicated that the ARP is on track and that a full presentation and detailed discussion would occur the following week at the Steering Committee (SC) meeting (September 24th). The draft ARP will be given out to both SC and MC members prior to the September 24th meeting, with comments due by October 22nd. Finally, a public meeting is tentatively being set up for December 3rd (specific time and place yet to be determined). Ms. Guise added that various GIS map products will be used to help facilitate better public understanding of the plan.

A short discussion followed:

- Chair Yetman confirmed that the Management Committee has been invited to the presentation on the 24th.
- Ms. Carol Hearle (UMD) indicated that a number of professors would not be able to make the SC presentation, and wondered if the presentation could be podcasted or streamed on the web. She also inquired if the programmatic approaches would be included in the SC presentation.
- Amy Guise said the concept of pod casting would be considered. Public involvement, and programmatic approaches will be included.
- Chair Yetman indicated that several small watershed actions plans (SWAPs) might also be out for review.
- Ms. Dana Minerva (Executive Director-Anacostia Watershed Restoration Partnership) explained that she had only received comments from DDOE, Mr. Robert Pace (USACE) and Ms. Nancy Stoner (NRDC) relating to the programmatic piece. Ms. Minerva requested that additional comments be sent to her as soon as possible.

- Mr. Jim George (MDE) indicated that Ms. Minerva should have received comments from MDE, but will make sure she receives them.
- Responding to a question of documents size, Ms. Guise explained that the final report would consist of the main report (digestible to a wide audience), 14 SWAPs and several appendices.
- Chair Yetman requested that the documents TOC be sent to the MC.

***Action/Outcome: Management Committee members will send comments on the programmatic section of the ARP to Ms. Minerva as soon as possible.**

***Action/Outcome: Management Committee members will provide comments on the draft ARP by October 22nd.**

V. USGS Anacostia Monitoring Report.....Ms. Cherie Miller and Mr. Brad Garner

Ms. Cherie Miller (USGS) listed and thanked all funding partners supporting the Anacostia watershed water quality and flow monitoring studies. Mr. Brad Garner (USGS) then reviewed USGS' recent activities in the watershed specifically 2003 thru 2005, and 2007 to present.

Two USGS stations (i.e., the Northwest and Northeast Branch stations) have been monitored for water quality between 2003 and 2005, and noting that 70% of the flow to the Anacostia River pass these stations. Samples taken at 15-minute intervals were analyzed and regressions created for estimating future suspended sediment concentrations (SSCs), trace metals, nutrients, and organic carbon. The report summarizing the data can be found at <http://pubs.usgs.gov/sir/2007/5142/>. Continuous flow related data is on the web at http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/uv?site_no=01649500 , http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/uv?site_no=01651000 and http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/uv?site_no=01649190 Estimates for total nitrogen, total phosphorus and suspended sediment based on continuous flow and TSS data can be viewed at <http://nrtwq.usgs.gov/md/>

Mr. Garner indicated that a pilot organics sampling approach is being tried in the Paint Branch, in addition to the continuous water monitoring. This approach extends work by using methods developed by the USGS Texas office, and uses suspended-sediment sampling during storm events to look at Hydrophobic organic compounds (HOCs), PAH's, PCB's and other halogenated compounds. To date, samples were collected from three storms during spring 2009. While data is still provisional, there were numerous detections of PAHs (15). The most frequently detected have exceeded sediment-quality guidelines (several March 2009 PAH concentrations exceeded PEC guidelines). Generally, levels were similar to those seen in Texas where the technique was created. In addition, nine PCB congeners were found, with elevated concentrations of -Chlorpyrifos, cis-chlordane, and triclosan. Additional funding could allow per-storm load and yield calculations, additional comparison with other studies and against

published sediment-quality guidelines and probable effect concentrations, and inference about probable sources of compounds (i.e. natural sources, internal combustion engines, road and parking lot sealants, etc).

A lengthy discussion followed:

- Chair Yetman inquired if the PEC is from coal tar sealants. Since the Partnership is considering pushing for capping riverbed areas with contaminated sediments, it would be good to know if this contaminant is coming down into the river.
- Ms. Minerva inquired if there is any way to identify where the PAHs are originating based on the data.
- Mr. Garner replied that the exact fingerprint is unknown. High PAH's could be from auto exhaust, leaking motor oil, coal-tar pavement sealants, tire particles or historic and current manufacturing processes.
- Ms. Sheila Besse (DCDOE) inquired if the sediment-based sampling costs more than other approaches.
- Mr. Garner replied that the approach produced the best bang for the buck. While it might miss some dissolved chemicals, it is an accepted approach. He indicated that some notable results from the sediment sample approach include: detected 9 PCB congeners, and at some points, total PCBs and POEs above 200. Higher than normal concentrations of chlorprifos and cis-chlordane were also detected. Mr. Garner also indicated that because there is extra space at the flow gauge station on Sligo Creek additional water quality sampling could be done with increased funding.
- Chair Yetman inquired about the funding status of current stations.
- Mr. Galli explained that lots of funding is coming from the counties and DC, and for the current year, at least, the flow gauges are funded.
- Ms. Minerva explained that the EPA is pushing for bioaccumulation standards, and wondered how this continuous monitoring might relate to that approach.
- Mr. George indicated that there were both water column concentration standards and bioaccumulation standards. The problem with both approaches is the lack of information about the interaction between multiple substances (i.e. some chemicals might not be a problem on their own, but could be an issue when they interact with others). Therefore, it is very difficult to quantify where to set acceptable levels.

VI. District of Columbia Anacostia Groundwater Monitoring Update

Ms. Dianne Douglas (DCDOE) presented a PowerPoint on groundwater monitoring efforts in the District of Columbia. She began by presenting results from 20 monitoring wells placed on public land throughout DC (17 in the Anacostia watershed). They tested for the presence of many substances *in shallow groundwater* and found that concentrations generally do not exceed DC's groundwater standards or those of USEPA drinking water standards.

Naturally high levels of iron and manganese were seen in some wells and arsenic was detected in one. This well was near Anacostia River Park, and in an area that had been backfilled early in the 20th century. Pesticides were detected (not over standards) at one well near Connecticut Avenue and Kenilworth Park. Tetrachloroethelene was also detected at one well, and exceeded DC's GWS. No exceedances were found near the Navy Yard. Additional testing was done in 2008 in all wells with high levels, but data has not been compiled yet. Finally, the presence of the water quality parameters found could not be linked to any specific sources.

Ms. Douglas next described new information regarding the geomorphology of the Anacostia River. It had been assumed a contiguous clay layer extended from the river out under the flood plain, which separated the deep aquifer from the river. However, borings showed that the clay layer was not uniform and, in fact, was completely absent in some areas. Examination of DCWASA tunneling data shows the same phenomenon. It is important to note that in the event of river and/or groundwater contamination at sites close to the Lower Anacostia, contaminants could move through the base of the river channel and potentially contaminate the underlying Patuxent aquifer. A short discussion followed.

- Chair Yetman inquired if metro pumping of water into the storm drains was considered as a possible future source of contamination.
- Ms. Douglas indicated that it has been considered, but investigation is difficult because water from many locations is combined before it is discharged. As a result any contamination could be diluted.
- Mr. John Galli (COG) pointed out that during drought years, much of the upper Sligo Creek base flow originates from Metro discharging groundwater into the Flora Lane storm drain system and tributary. Mr. Galli then inquired if DDOE staff considered distance from underground storage tanks as a source of contamination found in wells.
- Ms. Douglas replied that most old tanks have been replaced, but tanks less than 10,000 gallons historically were not registered. DOE also has not looked at distance to tanks, because they are not currently looking for responsible parties. In five years wells will be reexamined.

VII. SHA ICC Report

Mr. Rob Shreeve (SHA) provided a short update on ICC related activities. Mr. Shreeve began by suggesting that members visit www.iccproject.com for additional photos and updated information. Progress on each of the construction contracts are as follows: contract A, 55%; contract B, 15%; contract C, 39%. Bridges are completed or in the process of completion over Northwest Branch,

Little Paint Branch and Paint branch. The wetland near the trolley museum is being further enhanced after previous monitoring of groundwater and vegetation. Restoration projects starting soon include a 25 acre tree planting in Seneca Creek Park, 30 acres near the Triadelphia Reservoir, and 10 acres along the Paint Branch.

A brief discussion followed.

- Ms. Barber asked if SHA had a difficult time protecting newly planted trees from deer. Mr. Shreeve replied that they use cages both to protect the young trees from being eaten, as well as to prevent rubbing.
- Dr. Cheng (PGDER) voiced a major concern that none of the mitigation sites are taking place within Prince Georges County. Mr. Shreeve responded that from a legal and state standpoint, SHA is unconcerned with the location of mitigation projects verses stewardship projects.
- Ms. Barber inquired if there was any connection between ICC stewardship/mitigation projects and the ARP, as she is concerned with redundancy with the Plan. Mr. Shreeve replied that SHA had worked with the CORPS to devise a priority list. Mr. Galli added that there were indeed a couple areas of redundancy of projects now under construction.
- Mr. Yetman indicated that he heard Contract E was not going to be built. Mr. Shreeve replied that the status of contract E changes almost daily, and suggested to watch the project website for more info.
- Mr. George inquired about the ICC completion date. Mr. Shreeve replied that contract A would finish fall 2010, and B and C fall 2011.

VIII. Anacostia Trash TMDL Update

Mr. Greg Voight (EPA) quickly updated the committee on the trash TMDL related activities. He was pleased to be part of this ‘unique and exciting’ project that is on tract for final approval in January or February 2010. He then thanked all individuals who completed the monitoring. The data collected is currently be used to calculate loading rates for individual land-uses.

Mr. Phong Trieu (COG) indicated that COG had completed the MD portion of the monitoring, including streams, storm drain outfalls, and “Trash Traps” and is in the process of completing the final report. MDE and their contractor, Tetra Tech, have received all of the data. Mr. Trieu then briefly touched on some preliminary results. COG staff found that that top items in streams were plastic bags, food packaging, Styrofoam, plastic bottles and aluminum cans. However, in storm drains Styrofoam, plastic bags and food packaging were the most common.

- Chair Yetman inquired if it was even possible to implement a trash reduction approach and in five years go out and measure if it is working?

- Mr. Voight said that there would actually be provisions in the TMDL requiring monitoring. As a result, the baseline may change over time to fully reach the narrative level of “trash shall not reach nuisance levels.”

IX. Anacostia Monitoring Strategy

Mr. Galli provided a short update on the Anacostia monitoring strategy. The current level of monitoring will be funded through next year, but as is common knowledge, much of the funding comes from local jurisdictions that are having financial trouble. Unfortunately, there is no money for herring monitoring in 2010.

A brief discussion followed:

- Chair Yetman pointed out that this year herring eggs had been found for the first time above Queen’s Chapel road. Perhaps each partner could throw in some small amount of funding to provide some minimal monitoring.
- Mr. George wondered if there could be a legacy fund (i.e. Monitor for a decade?), perhaps Ms. Minerva and Funding committee could look for such funding.
- Ms. Carol Hearle (UMD) suggested that the management committee formally request Mr. Steve Pattison (Chair, AWSC) to push for some minimum level of funding for Monitoring, and inclusion of monitoring in the funding strategy. Mr. George agreed that there should be a specific request from the Management Committee.

***Action/Outcome: Chair Yetman will make a formal request that monitoring become part of the Funding Strategy.**

X. Lower Beaverdam Creek PCB Monitoring Update

Mr. George gave a PowerPoint presentation of MDEs recent corbicula study of Lower Beaverdam Creek. After giving a brief description of procedures and past data, Mr. George indicated that:

- *MDE’s preliminary results confirm Dr. Phelps results – an ongoing PCB source seems to be present near Landover Metro.*
- *According to all available data, a hotspot appears to be between AA4 & LMT.*
- *Potential sources near LMT include transportation infrastructure and industrial parks.*
- *According to the available MDE data, permitted point sources and already identified contaminated sites do not seem to be the source*

Mr. George concluded by saying his team had put together a grant for a detailed 2-year study of the area, and he felt it would go through.

Ms. Harriette Phelps (UDC) reviewed her previous finding in Lower Beaverdam Creek. Ms. Phelps said that new preliminary data from corbicula clams placed in a storm drain outfall by the

Landover Metro suggests that likely source of contamination was not from Metro. A “fingerprint” analysis also indicated that pollutants are from a new source, as opposed to a legacy source.

XI. Spring 2010 Anacostia Summit

Ms. Minerva explained that a spring 2010 summit is being planned in partnership with the Anacostia BID, and that it may possibly be held at National’s Stadium. Ms. Minerva met with Mr. Chuck Fox yesterday regarding this event, and it was indicated that Ms. Lisa. Jackson (EPA) will attend. The working title is “smart greening, clean water, revitalized communities.” This event will mark the public release of the ARP. The intention is also to get the Leadership Council to meet.