

**Anacostia Watershed Management Committee  
Meeting Summary**

**Thursday, June 18th, 2009  
10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.  
Board Room- Third Floor**

	<b>Name</b>		<b>Organization</b>
<b>Chair</b>	Ken	Yetman	Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources
<b>Ms.</b>	Sheila	Besse	DC DOE
<b>Mr.</b>	Ed	Carpenetti	WSSC
<b>Dr.</b>	Mow-Soung	Cheng	PG DER
<b>Ms.</b>	Meo	Curtis	MCDEP
<b>Ms.</b>	Mary	Dan	USACE
<b>Mr.</b>	Owais	Faraogi	Black & Veatch Coop.
<b>Mr.</b>	John	Galli	MWCOG
<b>Mr.</b>	Jim	George	MDE
<b>Dr.</b>	Ted	Graham	MWCOG
<b>Mr.</b>	Wood	Hudson	MWCOG
<b>Ms.</b>	Catherine	King	US EPA
<b>Ms.</b>	Dana	Minerva	Anacostia Restoration Partnership- Executive Director
<b>Dr.</b>	Harriette	Phelps	UDC
<b>Mr.</b>	David	Prevar	USDA
<b>Ms.</b>	Luisa	Robles	City of Greenbelt
<b>Mr.</b>	Rob	Shreve	MSHA
<b>Mr.</b>	Phong	Trieu	MWCOG
<b>Ms.</b>	Dottie	Yunger	Anacostia River Keeper

**I. Call to Order/Introductions**

Chair Ken Yetman (MDNR) called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

**II. Approval of November 17, 2008 Meeting Minutes**

The 3/5/09 meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

**III. AWCAC Chair Report**

In the absence of AWCAC Chair Mary Barber (DC), Mr. John Galli (COG) summarized the recent AWCAC “Anacostia Watershed Advocacy Workshop II.” Mr. Galli indicated the workshop was well attended (50-60 people) and included a panel discussion by County Council members, local activists, and was moderated by Jim Foster of AWS. Following the panel, facilitated breakout

sessions discussed jurisdictionally relevant topics such as participating in the MS4 renewal process and pushing for stronger stormwater enforcement. Ms. Dana Minerva (Anacostia Restoration Partnership- Executive Director) added details about the panel discussion, and suggested that Council Members Tom Elrich (Montgomery county), Tommy Wells (District of Columbia) and Tom Dernoga (Prince George's County) added much to the panel. Ms. Minerva noted during the breakout sessions it became apparent that the discussion of restoration topics needs to be connected back to basic necessities and to connect with the average Anacostia watershed citizen, and to avoid use of technical concepts, jargon and acronyms.

#### **IV. USACE Anacostia Watershed Restoration Plan Update**

Ms. Mary Dan (USACE) updated the committee on the progress of the ARP. Ms. Dan indicated that the team is doing field visits of proposed projects in 10 out of 14 subwatersheds, and that three subwatershed inventories had been completed (Indian Creek, Upper Beaverdam Creek, and Watts Branch). She explained that she is working with Ms. Minerva to bring in the programmatic approaches. The draft report is still slated to be ready by November, although the programmatic section may require an extension. The Team hopes to have a complete draft by February, including meetings with subwatershed groups this July. A brief discussion followed:

- Mr. Dave Prevar (USDA) indicated that BARC has provided the Team with its priorities for projects on BARC property.
- Ms. Sheila Besse (DC DOE) asked what it would take to meet the existing TMDL requirements.
- Chair Yetman replied that the Plan was never intended to address the TMDL, and in many cases it is likely to be impossible to meet TMDL requirements (e.g., 99% reduction in bacteria).
- Jim George (MDE) added that there is no legal requirement for the Plan to be a TMDL implementation plan or to meeting CWA standards. It is more to provide feedback to those make standards and regulations. Mr. George suggested the AWMC discuss with the AWSC the idea of pursuing a TMDL plan in the future.

A discussion related to 319 A-I criteria followed:

- Dr. Mow-Sung Cheng (PGDER) explained that he had proposed a project in Sligo Creek including lots of back up documentation, but it has not yet been accepted because he cannot show it will meet 100% of the TMDL load reduction goals. He wondered how this issue could be remedied .
- Ms. Catherine King (USEPA) concurred that 319 grants must meet TMDL, or include a long-term water quality control plan to meet TMDL if sections A through I are not reached.

- Ms. Meo Curtis (MCDEP) inquired as to whether MCDEP could apply for 319 funding if they move forward with an approved implementation plan. Mr. George responded that it would likely not help.
- Ms. Besse indicated that current 319 project in DC will not meet TMDL, but is working to reduce TMDL pollutants. She suggested the conversation related to 319 be continued after the meeting.

**\*Action/Outcome: Mr. George will work with EPA representatives to identify an A-I criteria agreement.**

## **V. District of Columbia Anacostia Bag Bill Report**

Ms. Minerva briefly updated the committee on the DC Anacostia Bag Bill. She explained that Council Member Tommy Wells received unanimous support from the Council, and fees will generate 3-4 million dollars every year to help address the trash problem. The bill also created an Anacostia license plate.

## **VI. Montgomery County RainScapes Report**

Ms. Curtis gave a PowerPoint based presentation on MCDEP's RainScapes program, refer to PowerPoint for further details. Ms. Curtis explained that the program elements include workshops (training programs), RainScapes rewards, a targeted neighborhood approach, and property owner agreements for project upkeep. She also noted that the program was now open to commercial, multi-family and institutional landowners, but have not had any applicants from these groups yet. Participation in the program has increased, with five Anacostia rebates processed in FY 08 (30 countywide) to 28 (95 countywide) in FY09. Included were 50-dollar urban tree canopy rebates.

Key elements in the program include:

- Targeting neighborhoods, including Upper Sligo Creek with the Friends of Sligo Creek, and the Breewood tributary
- Contractors install practices in targeted neighborhoods.
- Landowners are required to maintain after installation, although no there is no easement.
- Repair is sometimes needed if heavy rainfall occurs shortly after installation.
- Inspection requirement is included in landowner agreement.

A brief discussion followed:

- Dr. Cheng inquired if homeowners cost share the project.
- Ms. Curtis responded that homeowners provide either some funding or manpower, she also added that MCDEP was considering working with Montgomery College on a training program.
- Ms. Besse inquired if of the program dealt with liability issues. Ms. Curtis indicated that in targeted neighborhoods contractors must have liability insurance.

- Ms. Minerva asked if there is a ROW inventory underway to look for right-of-way opportunities. Ms. Curtis said that there was, but lots of issues putting projects in right-of-way (e.g., maintenance, parking, etc).

## **VII. District of Columbia RiverSmart Report**

Mr. Steve Saari (DDOE) gave a PowerPoint presentation on DDOE's RiverSmart program, which is now moving citywide. The program targets private homeowners, and had previously included only eight demonstration sites (although they had over 300 people apply to host these sites). Installation is done by DC, with Casey Trees installing trees, and includes a follow-up audit determined by GIS. A few lessons learned through work completed so far.

- Simplify interaction
- Government works slowly, plan accordingly
- Homeowner follow-up service is crucial
- Make the public want what you want them to
- Need more trained installers
- Spring landscaping is bad time for contractors

## **VIII. PGDER Chillum Manor Road Green Street Project Update**

Dr. Cheng provided a brief status report on progress related to the Chillum Manor Road LID Green Street retrofit project located in lower Sligo Creek. He also summarized various proposed projects, including Lower Takoma Branch (planter boxes, bioretention, tree box, regenerative stormwater conveyance system), and routes 301 and 4.

## **IX. SHA ICC Report.**

Mr. Rob Shreve (SHA) updated the management committee on ICC related activities through a detailed PowerPoint. In summary, he stated that each portion of the ICC contract have been progressing: Contract 'A' is 44% complete, contract 'B' is 10% complete, and contract 'C' is 32% complete. The environmental stewardship program has reduced wetland impacts by 40%, stream impacts by 3% and forest impacts by 9%. Mr. Shreve also indicated that all contractors hold mandatory weekly environmental 'tool box' meetings. Overall, there has been good erosion control, and he noted that no orders to stop work due to poor control have been given. 1.5 million dollars have been paid so far as incentives for additional controls.

Monitoring continues at all perennial streams, upstream and down stream of construction sites, for turbidity, temperature, pH and conductivity. Additionally, Towson University is carrying out a turtle study in the construction area.

Mr. Shreve highlighted new technology being used by SHA. Several 'Rain for Rent' filtration systems (typically used to draw down sediment traps in anticipation of next day rain event) pump water into a settling tank then through a filtration system. This device can filter up to 100gal/min

and remove everything down to clay-sized particles. A flocculent can be added to further reduce turbidity to 30 NTU.

## **X. Information Item-COG Recommended FY10 ARF Work Program and Budget**

Dr. Graham and Mr. Galli provided a brief overview of the COG recommended FY10 ARF work program and budget to be submitted for SC review and approval. In short, Mr. Galli stated that member FY 10 contributions will be the same amount as it was in FY 09.

## **XI. Maryland Anacostia Trash Monitoring Update**

Ms. Dottie Younger (Anacostia River Keeper) explained results to date of a two-year study, funded by DDOE, of trash control and maintenance efforts in the Anacostia River. Ms. Younger indicated that three approaches are being studied, including storm drain inserts, trash basin screens, and Bandalong traps. The Bandalong Litter Trap has been installed, at a cost of \$55,000, and is being maintained (weekly) by ECC. Inlet screens (one and two inch diameter) were installed in Fort Dupont, and street sweeping is being coordinated to test these inserts.

## **XII. Maryland Anacostia Trash Monitoring Update**

Ms. Curtis described the results of the White Oak storm drain inlet-screen pilot project. Inserts were placed in 12 inlets, the streets swept, and storm drains monitored. Results show that two months after the first cleaning grates performed fairly well if there were no organic materials present. Unfortunately, leaves and other organic materials make inserts only marginally effective. Eighty-six percent of the grates required cleaning (after the 2 months) with 54% clogged to the point of frequent bypass (even with street sweeping twice a month), and no pre-post reduction in trash levels were seen. Overall, costs were approximately \$295/acre 'controlled' plus cleaning costs of \$100 per inlet per cleaning likely.

Mr. Trieu (COG) gave an update on COG's Trash baseline monitoring efforts for the Maryland portion of the Anacostia watershed. He informed the committee that the stream baseline surveys had been completed by ICPRB (subcontractor) and that the data includes four seasons. In addition, for the other portion of the baseline trash monitoring survey, there have been seven completed storm drain outfall and eight for associated the land-based/roadway monitoring dates. He briefly summarized survey findings indicating that the storm drain trash totaled 2,408 items counted, with total weights of 116 lbs for trash items and 1,950 lbs for the organic mass. The top three trash items counted were; 1) Styrofoam, 2) plastic bags, and 3) food packaging.

Mr. Trieu also updated the Committee on the condition of the Freshcreek™ Trash netting system at Ray Road/Takoma Branch location. It appears that a series of intense thunderstorms in the first week of June severely damaged the system and currently the system is off-line. Prince George's County DER is currently deciding the next best step for the Ray Road Freshcreek™ Trash netting system.

## **XIII. Maryland Anacostia TMDL Trash Modeling Report**

Ms. Anna Kasko (MDE) provided an update on the efforts to develop a trash TMDL for the Anacostia. MDE and the University of Maryland (UMCP) are working together using the Montgomery and Prince George's County baseline survey trash data to develop a method for estimating trash loads in the Anacostia watershed. She informed the committee that they have successfully regressed the stream monitoring data with parameters such as land use, and stream meanders. UMCP will be evaluating the storm drain trash data in an effort to estimate trash loads from storm drain areas. She indicated that there are still a number of obstacles that needs to be addressed in the model, including accuracy of trash weights, zero and less than zero estimated values and deposition versus generation of trash.

Chair Yetman asked about appropriate TMDL reduction goals as well as what would be an expected acceptable loading rate. Ms. Kasko replied that the workgroup is still addressing that issue and that refinement of the model will help answer the acceptable loading rates.

#### **XIV. Anacostia Monitoring Strategy**

Mr. Galli gave a brief overview of the Anacostia Restoration Potential Workgroup's (ARPW) Anacostia Monitoring Strategy document. He highlighted the eight "Core Monitoring" activities. He stated that for FY10 the estimated cost is approximately \$306 K for the core monitoring with and additional \$100 K for tidal river gamefish tissue analysis and companion fish consumption survey. For FY11-14, the ARPW anticipated that MS4 and TMDL-related monitoring would initiate watershed-wide and that the total cost is approximately \$1,858.2 K

#### **XV. MDE Lower Beaverdam Creek PCB Monitoring Update**

MDE sampled the Lower Beaverdam site previously identified as probable source of PCBs, however the Jack Stone Company site had high levels of mercury but not PCBs. Chair Yetman and Mr. George would discuss follow up actions.

**ACTION/OUTCOME: Chair Yetman will communicate with Mr. George regarding follow-up actions to locate the source of PCBs in Lower Beaverdam Creek.**

#### **XVI. Fall 2009 Anacostia 'Eco-Summit'**

Ms. Minerva indicated that she is working with Mr. Eric Segal (AWSC Green Business representative) on an event next spring at the convention center. The event is business sponsored and will be a good opportunity to advertize and highlight the partnership.