

## **FY 2010 Anacostia Restoration Fund**

### **COG Final Progress Report (Period: July 1, 2009– June 30, 2010)**

#### **Task 1. Anacostia Coordination and Reporting Activities**

##### **Subtask 1A. Anacostia Committee Support**

###### **1. Anacostia Watershed Management and Steering Committees**

- Seven SC meetings (August 27, 2009, September 24, 2009, October 22, 2009, December 17, 2009, February 25, 2010, April 22, 2010 and June 24, 2010);
- Four regular MC meetings (September 17, 2009, December 10, 2009, February 18, 2010 and May 19, 2010);
- Eight regular USACE/AWMC Anacostia Watershed Restoration Plan Development Team (PDT) meetings (July 20, 2009, August 17, 2009, September 21, 2009, October 19, 2009, November 16, 2009, December 21, 2009, January 21, 2010, and February 22, 2010);
- Assisted the Partnership’s ED and communications consultant (Reingold) complete the ARP’s companion restoration summary document (February-April 2010);
- Wrote Summit Fund grant proposal for support of Partnership and ED position, April 2010, (Note: Summit Fund fully funded);
- Planned and coordinated the COG November 5, 2009 “Green Streets” workshop. This highly successful one-day workshop drew over 90 participants from the COG region (including several Anacostia agency and NGO representatives). Note: all respondents to the workshop evaluation found it useful or very useful;
- Participated in the Partnership’s Anacostia River canoe trip (April 16, 2010);

- Provided logistical and technical support for the Partnership's/Corps Anacostia Restoration Plan (ARP) release event at the Bladensburg Waterfront Park facility (April 19, 2010). It should be noted that the event included all four congressional representatives, as well as several local elected officials. The event received positive media coverage and marked the official public distribution of the ARP;
- Near monthly MDE/EPA Anacostia Trash TMDL conference calls (July 2009- December 2009). Provided logistical support to EPA and MDE for the Anacostia Trash TMDL public meeting held at COG (May 6, 2010);
- Participated in the Anacostia River Business Summit (May 18, 2010). COG staff manned the Anacostia Watershed Partnership informational booth.
- Submitted Anacostia reforestation scope of work to MDDNR (September 2009). MOU approved in January 2010;
- In partnership with M-NCPPC, prepared a joint Upper Sligo Creek/Flora Lane Tributary American Eel Restoration-related grant proposal to NOAA (November 2009). Grant funding received March 2010; and
- In partnership with PGDER, prepared a \$6.6 million Chesapeake Bay 2012 Trust Fund "Lower Northwest Branch: Urban Watershed Nutrient and Sediment Reduction" proposal (April-May 2010).

## **2. Special Workgroups**

- Participated in one Anacostia Watershed Toxics Alliance meeting (October 5, 2009);
- Participated in four Prince George's County/M-NCPPC, Lower Paint Branch Workgroup meetings (February 10, 2010, March 10, 2010, May 26, 2010, and June 11, 2010); and
- Participated in one MSHA Upper Paint Branch Brown trout Workgroup meeting.

### **3. Progress and Status Reporting in the Anacostia**

- Prepared FY10 COG ARF final progress report (June 2010).

#### **Subtask 1B. Environmental Conditions Restoration Progress Reporting**

- Working with the MC's Anacostia Restoration Potential Workgroup (ARPW) members, updated the calendar year 2001-2008 Key Indicators progress summary report (December 2009-April 2010).

#### **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 (March 16, 2010);
- 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 2009-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, and MDDNR efforts to gauge and monitor the extent of the 2010 Anacostia anadromous fish spring migration (March-May 2010).

#### **Subtask 1D. Watershed Restoration Networking**

- Continued to upgrade the Anacostia Restoration Web site by: 1) adding additional materials to both the data and publications archive sections, 2) updating both the restoration progress and subwatershed information sections, 3) adding a new ARP-dedicated page with downloadable reports and project inventories, 4) adding a new page showing all Anacostia-related news articles, and 5) adding new photographs and downloadable files (July 2009-June 2010);
- Continued to periodically update and maintain the Anacostia Watershed Environmental Directory;
- Represented the Partnership at the April 24, 2010 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 fishes;
- Represented the Partnership at the BARC centennial ‘Field Day’ event. Along with maps and ARP-related information and handouts, the display table featured two live tanks of representative Upper Beaverdam Creek resident fishes (June 5, 2010);
- 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 (February-April 2010);
- Provided coordination assistance and support for the bi-monthly meetings of the Chillum-Ray Environment Committee (September 2009 – April 2010);
- 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; 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 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;
- Participated in the annual Potomac Trash Free Potomac Summit, wherein COG staff manned the Partnership booth (October 28, 2009);
- Continued to assist PGDER staff in identifying potential vernal pool amphibian monitoring sites and developing associated monitoring protocols (fall 2009);
- Prepared "Keeping Prince George's County Streams Clean" report for PGDER (October 2009);
- As part of the Anacostia trash TMDL development effort, prepared the "Anacostia Trash TMDL-Related Baseline Conditions Monitoring" report for MCDEP and PGDER (October 2009);
- As part of the Anacostia Restoration Plan (ARP) development effort, finalized 15 Anacostia subwatershed baseline reports, one "Anacostia Watershed Environmental baseline Conditions and Restoration Report," and provided regular technical assistance to the Corps and Partnership members (July 2009-present);
- Provided Anacostia-related recreational usage data, per Executive Director request, for approximate miles of hiker/biker trail and number of crew teams rowing on the Anacostia River (April 2010);
- Prepared Anacostia River toxic "Hot Spots" location map for the Executive Director (May 2010);

- Provided a draft list, for the Executive Director, of the wetland-related conceptual projects by subwatershed distilled from the Anacostia Restoration Plan project inventory (May 2010); and
- Querying the Anacostia Restoration Plan project inventory to further separate projects located on public land and identify the respective specific local, state and federal property ownership (June 2010). This project is on-going.

### **Subtask 1F. Watershed Resource Monitoring, Inventorying and Tracking**

- Retrieved thermograph thermometers to help characterize the 2009 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 2009);
- Deployed recording thermograph thermometers to help characterize the 2010 summer water temperature regimes of the Indian Creek, Upper Beaverdam Creek and an unnamed tributary to Takoma Branch (all Prince George's County) May 2010;
- Performed five days of anadromous fish haul seine and electrofishing surveys for Northwest and Northeast Branches, and Upper Beaverdam Creek (March-May 2010);
- Performed streambank sediment chemistry sampling in both upper and lower Sligo Creek (October 2009); and
- Continued to add to the Anacostia natural and cultural resources photograph library.

## **Task 2. Targeted Outreach**

### **Subtask 2A. Briefings**

- Multiple briefings for individual members of the Anacostia Management and Steering Committees (August 2009-present);

- Briefed League of Women Voters (Armenian guest visitors) on Anacostia restoration-related efforts (October 1, 2009);
- Briefed AWCAC Chair (Mike Smith) on Anacostia restoration outreach and reporting efforts and implementation status of Anacostia Forest Management and Protection Strategy (February 4, 2010);
- Briefed Friends of Sligo Creek on the genesis and implementation status of Anacostia Forest Management and Protection Strategy (April 20, 2010);
- Briefed AWS staff and the Anacostia River Keeper on Anacostia-related monitoring and reporting efforts (May 25, 2010); and
- Continued to participate in regular briefings with Anacostia Executive Director, Ms. Dana Minerva, on various Anacostia restoration-related topics (July 2009-present).

#### **Subtask 2B. Anacostia Watershed Citizens Advisory Committee**

- Provided staff and secretarial support for six regular AWCAC meetings (July 14, 2009, September 8, 2009, November 10, 2009, January 12, 2010, March 9, 2010 and May 7, 2010);
- Provided AWCAC members with Anacostia maps and other restoration-related materials (July 2009 – June 2010);
- Prepared and distributed for AWCAC the ‘Anacostia Citizens Stormwater Management Guide’ AWCAC (summer-fall 2009);
- Assisted AWCAC in the distribution of various position letters sent to local, state and federal officials; and
- Assisted AWCAC member Dr. Phelps by updating her Toxics Map (June 2010).

### **Subtask 2C. Small Habitat Improvement Program (SHIP)**

- Performed Anacostia riparian buffer plant survivability surveys for MDDNR (June 2010);
- Fall 2009 – Began negotiating right- of- entry agreement with M-NCPPC (PGCO). Note: Agreement finalized in April 2010.
- In partnership with M-NCPPC, performed invasives plant management work (mowing/brush hogging) within an approximately 0.3 acre riparian area along the Takoma Branch tributary of Sligo Creek (December 2009-May 2010). Note this work will allow the site to be reforested in fall 2010.
- Constructed one vernal pool for amphibian habitat creation/restoration in M-NCPPC’s Takoma Branch stream valley park (April 2010);
- Spring 2010- Erected deer exclusion fencing and augured a total of 40 holes at Sligo Creek Park/Forest Glen Road (April 6, 2010) and augured 200 holes at Northeast Branch/Anacostia Park (May 15, 2010) for riparian reforestation-related work. The two projects combined (240 trees total) resulted in the reforestation of approximately 0.5 acres, and were closely coordinated with M-NCPPC, NNWB, and local residents. It should be noted that the two projects involved a total of approximately 25 volunteers;
- In partnership with the Chillum-Ray Citizens Association and PGDER, completed two BayScaping projects on private property in lower Sligo Creek (June 2010); and
- Coordinated MDDNR ‘Plant Communities and Climate Change’ Workshop (to be held June 25, 2010 at COG).