

**Anacostia Watershed Citizens Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary
Tuesday, July 9th, 2009**

- DRAFT -

Meeting Attendance:

Members and Associates

Brent Bolin (Prince George's County)
Bill Duncan (Prince George's County)
Jim Fary (Montgomery County)
Andy Fellows (Clean Water Action)
Dale Manty (Prince George's County)
Bill Matuszeski (District of Columbia)
Harriette Phelps (Prince George's County)
Mike Smith (Montgomery County)
Irv Sheffey (District of Columbia)

Guests/Interested Parties

Dana Minerva (Executive Director, Anacostia Watershed Restoration Partnership)
Jim Foster (Anacostia Watershed Society)
Tyler Pearce (Clean Water Action)

COG Support Staff:

John Galli
Aubin Maynard
Ted Graham

Absent Members and Associates

Elizabeth Arnold (Prince George's County)
Mary Barber (District of Columbia)
Susan Barnett (Prince George's County)
Luther Bruner, Jr (District of Columbia)
Brenda Bruner-Crumley (District of Columbia)
David Dunmire (Montgomery County)
Elissa Feldman (District of Columbia)
Bob Ferraro (Montgomery County)
Elaine Friehele (Prince George's County)
Mi Ae Kim (Prince George's County)
John Garner (District of Columbia)
Christopher Pohlhaus (Prince George's County)
Lutz Rastaetter (Prince George's County)
Carl Reeverts (District of Columbia)
Bruce Sidwell (Montgomery County)
Larry Silverman (Montgomery County)
Dan Smith (Prince George's County)

I. Welcome and Introductions

Vice-Chair Mike Smith (Montgomery County) began the meeting at 7:30 pm following a social hour that began at 7:00 pm. All present were asked to introduce themselves to the group.

II. Approval of 5/12/09 Meeting Summary

Action/Outcome: The 5/12/09 meeting summary was approved unanimously.

III. Elections

Mr. Andy Fellows (Clean Water Action) requested the group consider Vice-Chair Mike Smith for the next AWCAC Chair. After a short discussion of the bylaws, Vice-Chair Mike Smith was elected as the new Chair by unanimous vote of those present. Mr. Brent Bolin (Prince George's County) was selected as the next Vice-Chair of Prince George's County.

IV. Advocacy II Workshop Outcomes.

Mr. Fellows led the discussion on the Anacostia Watershed Advocacy II workshop. He indicated that the workshop occurred on June 13th at the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, was well attended and included a panel discussion and a breakout sessions focused on each of the three Anacostia jurisdictions. Mr. Fellows then requested all those who had participated to give a few comments on the workshop.

- Mr. Irv Sheffey (District of Columbia) felt that among the panelist (including the elected officials) there was a "community of purpose," indicating elected officials and Anacostia activists are on the same page. Mr. Sheffey added that Mr. Dennis Chestnut (District of Columbia) said he was impressed by the turnout from the District of Columbia (17 people in the District's breakout session), and that discussions started the ball rolling for future stormwater advocacy in the District of Columbia.

Mr. Sheffey explained that several members of the District of Columbia breakout session met two weeks after the workshop to discuss next steps, and will do so again. Mr. Sheffey identified one-on-one contact as critical to keep people involved.

- Ms. Harriett Phelps (Prince George's County) was very impressed with the quality of the workshop and how involved everyone is in the stormwater debate.
- Vice-Chair Bolin agreed with all the comments relating to quality of the workshop and added a lesson he came away with is the need to "get out ahead of the backlash" before publicly proposing a new agenda. He also indicated that

there had yet to be any follow-up in Prince George's County, but that he will at least get a follow-up email sent to workshop participants.

Vice-Chair Bolin wondered if the stormwater and greening focus could set up a social justice issue with the focus being on higher income development and redevelopment areas, and that AWCAC needs to strive to increase its diversity and address these issues before they become problems.

- Mr. Dale Manty (District of Columbia) believed the workshop a) identified the next steps needed to push strong stormwater regulations, b) highlighted the need for more education of stream group member on the basics of stormwater regulations, and c) the need for a clear common agenda. One lesson he took away from the workshop is the importance of clear graphical representations (photographs, maps, etc.) of stormwater issues when doing outreach.
- Mr. Jim Foster (AWS) also thought the workshop was a success, but pointed out that following up would be the most difficult. He indicated that AWS could help by providing their boat as a gathering place to encourage people to meet. Mr. Foster added that AWS is considering assembling a stormwater 'primer' to explain policy issues and set out talking points. He also added that AWS has hired Mr. Brice Gilmore (American Rivers) to work specifically on MS4 issues.
- Chair Smith explained that members in the Montgomery County breakout session identified an agenda similar to that of the Stormwater Partners' (stronger erosion/sediment controls, stormwater implementation and enforcement).
- Mr. Bill Duncan (Prince George's County) thought the workshop was very good, well attended, and provided a lot of useful information. However, discussions revealed that many are behind in terms of advocacy and stormwater knowledge. He also said that some participants were confused by the jargon used at the workshop.
- Mr. John Galli (COG) indicated that, as AWCAC members had discussed before, workshop participants suggested the "adopt a representative" approach. Having each stream group focus on one member of the county council before such decisions as the MS4 come up for a vote. Mr. Galli thought this would be an effective approach, and encourage AWCAC members to follow up on it.

Mr. Galli handed out a draft Citizen Stormwater Guide, explaining that it was created with funds provided by the Summit Fund of Washington (specifically the grant received by AWCAC). Mr. Galli requested that comments be given by the end of August, and COG staff would try to bring the updated version to the September meeting.

- Ms. Dana Minerva (Executive Director, Anacostia Watershed Restoration Partnership) was pleased with the first efforts to bring members together to press

the county for strong standards; however she reminded the group needs messages for two timeframes, immediate and long-term. In Prince George's County the MS4 will be finalized by November 11th, with comments accepted until September 29th. The group needs to really focus and win over the majority of the council and not get too caught up in only forming long term relationships.

Action/Outcomes:

- **Chair Bolin will start the discussion of Prince George's County stormwater campaign by emailing advocacy workshop participants and possibly arranging future meetings.**
- **Mr. Sheffey will arrange a second meeting of DC residents to strategize on forcing a strong MS4 permit.**
- **Mr. Foster volunteered the AWS boat as a meeting place for the juristically specific meetings.**
- **AWCAC members will send Mr. Aubin Maynard (COG) comments on the Citizen's stormwater guide by the end of August. COG staff will attempt to bring an updated version to the September AWCAC meeting.**

V. Executive Director Report

Ms. Minerva explained that Mr. Jim Connelly (AWS), Vice-Chair Bolin and herself have been meeting with Prince George's County councilmember about stronger stormwater requirements. Ms. Minerva reiterated her request that members do more to get subwatershed members to contact their council members, because a critical mass is needed to sway these representatives.

- Mr. Fellows added that council members generally seemed supportive of stronger stormwater standards, but are worried of driving away developers.
- Mr. Manty pointed out the need to identify possible opposition to stronger standards.

VI. Plan update

Mr. Galli gave a brief update on the ARP and the summer schedule. He said that the contractor will complete their work within a few weeks. July 22nd there will be a meeting to get subwatershed group input, then a second public meeting, possibly September 22nd. Additional time has been added for inclusion and review of programmatic elements, with the final report to be finished around February.

Ms. Harriette Phelps (Prince George's County) inquired if toxics will actually be addressed by the plan, stating a new study in Sligo Creek has found high levels of several chemicals. Mr. Galli responded that toxics are addressed in the plan.

VII. Old/New Business

Strom Drain Marker update.

Mr. Galli indicated that the order for storm drain makers was placed 2 weeks prior by COG. Prince George's County ordered 615 markers and 600 hangers, Montgomery County ordered 135 generic makers (65 anacostia specific makers) and 200 door hangers, and the District of Columbia ordered 570 markers and 3,000 door hangers. Overall AWCAC members were disappointed with the order sizes. Mr. Galli responded that to get more, groups would have to quickly organize and request the markers, only interest would get County representative to order more. To request the markers contact:

- District of Columbia; Steve Saari, Steve.Saari@dc.gov,
- Montgomery County: Tom Pogue Tom.Pogue@montgomerycountymd.gov
- Prince George's County: Jerry Maldonado, jgmaldonado@co.pg.md.us

FY10 goals

A very short discussion of the FY10 goals occurred. Suggestions included,

- Outreach and membership expansion
- Supporting the Plan
- Nurturing subwatershed groups