

DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY
STEERING COMMITTEE
OF THE
ANACOSTIA WATERSHED RESTORATION PARTNERSHIP
Thursday, December 17, 2009

The 22nd meeting of the Anacostia Watershed Restoration Partnership Steering Committee was held on Thursday, December 17, 2009 in the Board Room on the 3rd floor at COG. The attendees, in alphabetical order, were:

	Name		Organization
Mr.	Dan	Bierly	US Army Corps of Engineers
Mr.	Brent	Bolin	(Guest) Anacostia Watershed Society
Mr.	John	Capacasa	US Environmental Protection Agency
Mr.	Jim	Connolly	(Guest) Anacostia Watershed Society
Ms.	Bicky	Corman	District of Columbia DOE
Mr.	Frank	Dawson	MD-Department of Natural Resources
Dr.	Rich	Eskin	Maryland Department of the Environment
Mr.	Calvin	Farr	(Guest) WSSC
Mr.	Andy	Fellows	Clean Water Action
Mr.	Stuart	Freudberg	MWCOG
Mr.	John	Galli	MWCOG
Mr.	Dan	Harper	Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection
Mr.	Pete	Hill	District of Columbia Department of the Environment
Ms.	Catherine	King	US Environmental Protection Agency
Mr.	Aubin	Maynard	MWCOG
Ms.	Dana	Minerva	Anacostia Watershed Restoration Partnership
Dr.	Sam	Moki	Prince George's County Department of Environmental Resources
Dr.	Harriette	Phelps	(Guest) University of DC
Mr.	Eric	Siegel	The Cohen Companies; Riverfront BID
Mr.	Mike	Smith	AWCAC
Ms.	Nancy	Stoner	Natural Resources Defense Council
Mr.	Stephen	Syphax	National Park Service
Mr.	Phong	Trieu	MWCOG
Mr.	David	Tuchman	Akridge Corporation
Mr.	Ken	Yetman	MD-Department of Natural Resources
Ms.	Lori	Williams	(Guest) National Invasive Species Council

The Summit Fund, NOAA and the City of Hyattsville were not represented.

Follow Up to the Anacostia Steering Committee Meeting of December 17, 2009			
(Updated: 2/17)			
Item	Action	Lead	Status
SC Meeting	1. Distribute draft December 2009 meeting summary 2. Prepare agenda for February SC meeting;	1. Graham 2. Graham	1. Pending 2. Pending
Capital Riverfront BID Environmental Summit	1. Finalize Proposed Date and Location of Capitol Riverfront BID Environmental Summit; May 18, 55 M St SE, a LEED Gold rated building directly over Navy Yard metro by Nationals Ballpark 2. Ms. Minerva will contact Steering Committee members to solicit input and to ask for sponsorships of the event	1. Siegel 2. AWSC members	1. Done 2. Ongoing
Anacostia Restoration Plan	1. Draft Final Plan 2/20/10 sent to AWSC for review. 2. Information sent to AWSC members on work being done by Communications Subgroup as it progresses and when decisions are being made	1. Guise 2. Minerva	1. Pending 2. Ongoing
Report on Interagency Communication	1. Draft report on federal interagency communication (end of February)	1. Lori Williams	1. Pending
ICC Letter	1. A letter requesting additional information on projects and costs be shared with jurisdictional members will be sent to SHA and copied to regulating agencies	1. Minerva	1. Pending
Trash TMDL	1. Draft trash TMDL comment period beginning the end of January 2010 2. Public Meeting in March.	1. Anyone interested in commenting 2. Anyone interested in attending	1. Pending 2. Pending
Toxics	1. <i>Anacostia Toxics Update at February AWSC meeting</i> 2. <i>Results of Lower Beaverdam Creek track down study</i>	1. <i>Capacasa</i> 2. <i>Eskin</i>	1. Pending 2. Pending
USACE Green MOU	1. Information provided on the ,Corps/Conservation Fund MOU signing event	1. Bierly	1. Done

I. Call to Order

Mr. Dawson called the meeting to order at approximately 10:10 am.

II. Executive Director's Report

Ms. Minerva, with input from others as appropriate, provided updates on a series of topics:

Progress Report on the ARP: Rollout; Communication; Funding - Mr. Bierly provided a brief update on the status of the ARP. The project inventories and baseline reports are complete. These documents, including the Small Watershed Action Plans (SWAPs), will be sent out for review by December 25th, with all comments due by the end of January. Lewis Berger will be contracted to finalize the report by 2/20. Following Mr. Bierly's update, a lengthy discussion

on the relationship between the ARP and TMDLs occurred. Several question and ideas were posed:

- How does the ARP fit into the TMDL implementation plans?
- The ARP is not a TMDL, but it will identify gaps between the TMDL target and what is achievable. The Plan may also be better suited for use in phase II of the TMDL process.
- While the Plan is not a TMDL, it may be used as part of the District's TMDL implementation plan.
- Plan related messaging should connect to the Chesapeake Bay, and even highlight milestones we can commit to.

Ms. Minerva indicated 16 firms responded to the RFP for an ARP communication plan and all but four have been eliminated. Interviews will be held on 12/23/09 to select the final firm. RFP deliverables include a refined executive summary, tag line/slogan, brochure and logo, and a communication plan. A schedule for remaining activities to finalize the ARP, developed by the MC, was included in the handout materials.

Ms. Minerva indicated that Governor O'Malley proposed a \$50 million WRDA request, supported by Congressmen Hoyer and Van Hollen, who will introduce the authorization request. Including these, and other officials, at the March ARP release event will help spotlight the Plan. Key questions and suggestion raised included:

- The WRDA funding would cover the entire Anacostia Watershed, not just Maryland.
- Jurisdictional representatives expressed concern about the funding being offered through matching grants, as they might not be able to take advantage of such grants in this economic environment.
- North Woods High school would be an ideal location for the ARP release, as politicians like events including students.

Lori Williams, Director of National Invasive Species Council – Ms. Williams was tasked by Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar, who lives in the Anacostia watershed, to develop a detailed plan for interagency coordination of federal agencies including NPS, USGS and FWS on Anacostia related Issues. Ms. Williams indicated she had nothing currently to share, but a document would be released at the end of February 2010. She went on to thank AWS staff for their assistance. It was noted that the USGS gauging monitoring stations are critical to restoration efforts, but are always vulnerable to cuts. Committee members from DC, Montgomery County, and AWCAC requested that the topic of long term monitoring funding be included in the report.

Capitol Riverfront BID Environmental Summit – Ms. Minerva reported that Mr. Siegel was making a pitch at the annual Capital Riverfront BID meeting today for the May 18th summit. The event is to be held at the Nationals Stadium (this was subsequently changed) and should attract vendors and other businesses, which will help offset event costs. A brochure is being developed to attract businesses, in which ad space may generate additional funding. Ms. Minerva noted

that she will be soliciting AWSC members to sponsor the event and would also solicit their input as the agenda is put together. .

Stormwater Ordinances & MS4 Permits – Ms. Minerva note her gratitude that Prince George's County had recently announced at the Trash Summit that they will be adopting an MS4 permit that is equally as strong as Montgomery County's MS4 permit, and includes specific goals for stormwater retrofit of uncontrolled impervious surfaces and TMDL implementation plans. She also noted that Montgomery County, in response to the Maryland Stormwater Act of 2007, had proposed to MDE one of the strongest stormwater regulations in the Country, including a requirement for development and redevelopment to retain one inch onsite using ESD, and for development and redevelopment to detain 2.6 inches onsite to mitigate peak flows in the streams. Ms. Minerva congratulated the County members on their move to have these very strong stormwater proposals.

Announcements- Ms. Minerva summarized several other restoration related announcements:

- ICC project reductions have caused some concern in Prince George's County. Councilmember Tom Dernoga requested the partnership send a letter on behalf of Prince George's county. This item generated a lengthy discussion, of which the key themes are highlighted below:
 - Mr. Rob Shreeve (SHA) briefed the Management Committee on this topic and indicated contractors had fewer impacts on streams and wetlands than expected (due to incentives for reducing impacts) so were required to mitigate less. Some mitigation projects were moved to the stewardship project program, some were increased in size, and other questionable projects were dropped.
 - While some projects had been changed and others dropped, no projects had been moved from Prince George's County to Montgomery County.
 - While the presentation given to the MC was excellent and detailed about specific projects, how the costs of the various projects changed was still unclear. If expensive projects had been replaced by projects of lower costs, Prince George's County may still be losing out.

The committee felt a letter requesting additional information on projects and costs be shared with jurisdictional members shall be sent to SHA and copied to regulating agencies.

- Ms. Minerva will speak at a regional meeting of Engineers Without Borders, as they have expressed interest in doing more LID type work in the watershed. Howard University, Catholic University, George Washington University and the University of Maryland have all expressed interest in taking part in future projects like the one done in Edmonston.
- Administrator of the EPA, Lisa Jackson, was in Edmonston for their greenstreets groundbreaking. The event received lots of good press and there seems to be more federal interests in doing greenstreets type projects.

III. Membership Committee Report:

After a brief explanation of membership changes, Mr. Fellows moved, and Mr. Moki seconded, approval of all recommended changes to membership. See attachment 1 for membership changes.

IV. Trash TMDL

Mr. Eskin indicated the draft TMDL is a couple of weeks behind, but should be released in January. The full workgroup will receive the draft January 8th for review, and then there will be a public comment period sometime between January 25th and February 23rd and a public meeting in March. When approved, Maryland will require compliance in MS4 permits. The permits will require reasonable assurance for point and non-point sources (load allocation of large bulky items associated with illegal dumping).

V. Update on the Bag Bill

Mr. Hill provided a brief update of the Anacostia Cleanup and Restoration Act of 2009. The bill requires a five cent fee for each bag at business that sell food or liquor. Businesses get to keep 1 cent (2 cents if they have a recycling program). DC has been giving out reusable bags to Anacostia residents and low income communities. There have also been radio and TV ads, as well as 311 messages to alert the public of the new fee set to begin January first. Mr. Hill explained that DDOE will be in charge of enforcement and will have use of the funds, but they hoped and expect revenue to go down over time, indicating that bag use is declining. Questions led to a brief discussion of the acceptance of the bill, several of the more noteworthy comments and question included:

- DDOE has received lots of calls about the law from businesses with questions such as what to do with bags already bought and if it applies to internet businesses.
- AWS is working with Giant supermarkets in DC, all their stores in DC will be giving free reusable bags away for 1 week.
- The 'bag bill' also creates an Anacostia License Plate that may generate additional funds.
- More education needs to be done towards office workers (i.e. will lunch counters have bags), and exemptions clarified (e.g. delis?). Mr. Tuchmann specifically requested any outreach materials for Akridge Corporation building tenants.
- There may be a Styrofoam ban next, with a bottle bill following (based on trash found throughout the river).

VI. Anacostia Watershed Management Committee Meeting

Mr. Yetman indicated that the previous AWMC meeting concentrated on the Plan and schedule of completion. The AWMC feels the funding strategy and messaging plan must be in synergy, and the ARP could even include a basic funding plan. Updates on the Trash TMDL and Paint Branch Trout fishery were also given. This year only 1 adult and one young of year were caught during a stream survey, the

lowest level since the survey began in 1979 (the stream survey includes permanent 300 foot stream survey sections). In the same presentation, Maryland DNR recommended additional stormwater retrofits in the upper paint branch to help maintain the trout population. A brief discussion followed of possible causes of fish population decline.

VII. WSSC

Mr. Farr provided a detailed update on the WSSC Consent Decree. The three phases of the consent decree are 1) investigation, 2) implementation and 3) success analysis. 2009 was the fourth year of the program (the program will be 12 years total) and WSSC is finishing up with the investigation phase. In the Anacostia watershed 125 miles of trunk sewer lines have been inspected, with 450 miles of inspection or cleaning have been completed overall. Basin surveys have been completed (requiring walking streams) for 8-9 basins including Beaverdam creek, Northeast Branch and Sligo Creek. Overall water quality monitoring has shown improvement, but there has been high bacteria found in several basins. Much effort has been focused on partnering and coordinating with groups and local jurisdictions to share information and coordinate repairs. Mr. Farr then updated the committee on the number Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs) in the anacostia over the last few years:

Year	# of SSOs*	Volume (gallons)
2006	71	5,400,000
2007	51	40,000
2008	44	1,600,000
2009	47	317,000

*SSO in the Anacostia watershed only

The presentation generated many questions and comments, some of which are outlined below:

- While the total cost of damage to piping infrastructure from stormwater is still unclear, it is likely over 50 million dollars. It costs \$500,000 to \$750,000 to deal with emergency situations. Repair costs are higher for non-emergency situation due to the additional planning and permits required.
- Sometimes regulatory agencies require all projects in a basin to be designed before issuing a permit, effectively shelving some projects because they are out of date by the time the permit is finally received.
- WSSC pays the salary for a person at M-NCPPC to deal strictly with permits. Overall, staffing levels at various agencies is low which slows the permitting process.
- Lots of SSO caused by grease. Increased inspections have taken place at 6900 FFCs, resulting in 200 citations (\$250-\$1000 each).
- Construction of the Anacostia pumping station will begin in 2010.
- Pace of combine sewer replacement is slower than hoped because there are few experienced firms (even nationally) available to do the work (only 8-10 contractors bidding on contracts).
- WASA should consider working with jurisdictions to facilitate education of local contractors.

VIII. Anacostia Watershed Citizens Advisory Committee

Mr. Smith indicated that AWCAC has sent letters relating to stormwater regulations in Montgomery County and the 2005 Anacostia Watershed Forest Management and Protection Strategy to state and local elected officials, and to the USACE relating to Debris limiting rowing opportunities above the CSX bridge. In response, the USACE will now be clearing the channel once a month. Additional activities include possible event collaboration with Leisure World.

Mr. Smith underscored AWCAC's frustration with the state of Maryland refusal to follow the 2005 Forest Management agreement. He is considering trying to pressure DC to take a larger role legally or politically in the issue, and how to get the leadership council together to address the problem.

IX. Toxics

Mr. Capacasa briefly indicated that at the next meeting he would give a larger update. However EPA is currently focusing on four areas in the Anacostia, including source controls, compliance, hazard cleanup on land, and sediment contamination cleanup in the river. This led to a lively discussion of the high toxin levels in Lower Beaverdam Creek. Mr. Eskin indicated that results of track down studies will be released soon.

X. Items from Members

- Ms. Minerva indicated that the December Meeting is the last meeting that Jim Connolly will be attending as Executive Director of the Anacostia Watershed Society. She then thanked him for his efforts over the last 15 years. Brent Bolin will take over as Director of Advocacy.
- Dan Bierly explained that the USACE Assistant Secretary (Jo-Ellen Darcy) will hold a nationwide MOU to be green signing event somewhere in the Anacostia watershed.

Attachment 1- AWRP Steering Committee 2010 Membership: Status Update

CORE MEMBERS:	CURRENT	ALTERNATE	NEW	ALTERNATE	ACTION:
District of Columbia	None	Hamid Karimi	<i>Bicky Cormen</i>	Hamid Karimi	✓
Montgomery	Bob Hoyt	Steve Shofar	Bob Hoyt	Steve Shofar	✓
Prince George's	Charlie Wilson	Sam Moki	Charlie Wilson	Sam Moki	✓
Maryland-MDE	None	None	Rich Eskin		In progress
Maryland-DNR	Frank Dawson	Ken Yetman	Frank Dawson	Ken Yetman	✓
EPA Region III	Jon Capacasa	Diana Esher	Jon Capacasa	Diana Esher	✓
USACOE	Robert Pace	Amy Guise	Amy Guise	Robert Gore	✓
NOAA	Pat Montanio	Tom Brosnan			In progress
National Park Service	Sue Bennett	None	TBD	TBD	In progress
OTHER MEMBERS:	CURRENT	ALTERNATE	NEW	ALTERNATE	
AWCAC	Mike Smith	Mary Barber	Mike Smith	Mary Barber	✓
Municipality	Bill Gardiner	None	Andy Fellows	Adam Ortiz	Fellows confirmed, Ortiz in progress
University	Frank Brewer	None			In progress
Private Funder	Linda Howard	None	Linda Howard	Verna Harrison	✓
NGO Community	Nancy Stoner	Andy Fellows	Nancy Stoner	Jim Foster	✓
Developer	Chip Akridge	David Tuchmann	Chip Akridge	David Tuchmann	✓
Business	Eric Siegel	None	Eric Siegel	Michael Stevens	✓