



ANACOSTIA WATERSHED CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Dedicated to the protection and restoration of the Anacostia River and its tributaries

Frank W. Dawson
Assistant Secretary for Aquatic Resources
Department of Natural Resources
Tawes State Office Building C4
580 Taylor Avenue
Annapolis, MD 21401-2397

January 12, 2011

Dear Chairman Dawson:

We recognize and laud the Partnership's main focus as water quality and restoration. Additionally, we believe that by improving access via seamless recreational trails, and consistent promotion we can encourage average citizens to care about water quality. Based on communications from some of the trail owners/managers, such as NPS and M-NCPPC, now is the time for the Partnership to bring stakeholders together to discuss a unified trail system which creates a recognized Anacostia trails brand. AWCAC's vision is a unified trail system that:

- highlights the ecology of the Anacostia Watershed.
- highlights the history of the Anacostia Watershed.
- is physically marked in a unified manner, across jurisdictional boundaries.
- is promoted in a unified manner across jurisdictional boundaries.

The Anacostia Watershed Citizens Advisory Committee further asks that an Anacostia Watershed Steering Committee member convene a first discussion in the spring of 2012 and coordinate subsequent efforts to develop a unified Anacostia Trail System. There are several candidates who might serve this effort well. A non-exhaustive list includes Eric Siegel of The Cohen Companies, Diane Cameron of Audubon Naturalist Society, George Hawkins of DC Water, Ken Yetman of Maryland Dept. of Nat. Resources, Bob Hoyt of Montgomery Dep. of Environmental Protection, or Christophe Tulou of DC Dept. of the Environment.

A properly identified and promoted unified trail system supports the Partnership goal of Anacostia restoration by building a more widespread awareness across the watershed—a necessary step towards increasing citizen participation. The willingness of the three park systems to participate makes this a particularly good opportunity for the Partnership.

Sincerely,

Cary Coppock
Chair, Anacostia Watershed Citizens Advisory Committee

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