

Draft

**Anacostia Watershed Citizens Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary
March 11th, 2008**

Meeting Attendance:

Members and Associates

Mary Barber (District of Columbia)
Dennis Chestnut (District of Columbia)
Jim Collier (District of Columbia)
Dale Manty (Prince George's County)
Bill Matuszeski (District of Columbia)
Dan Smith (Prince George's County)
Gabe Horchler (Prince George's County)
Harriette Phelps (Prince George's County)
Mike Smith (Montgomery County)
Lother Bruner, JR
Brenda Bruner-Crumley

Absent Members and Associates

Lauren Alexander Augustine (Prince George's County)
Elizabeth Arnold (Prince George's County)
Tom Arrasmith (District of Columbia)
Susan Barnett (Prince George's County)
Brent Bolin (Montgomery County)
David Dunmire (Montgomery County)
Jim Fary (Montgomery County)
Elaine Friehele (Prince George's County)
Adam Griggs (ICPRB)
Elissa Feldman (District of Columbia)
Bob Ferraro (Montgomery County)
Bill Howard (Montgomery County)
Christopher Pohlhaus (Prince George's County)
Larry Silverman (Montgomery County)
Irv Sheffey (District of Columbia)
Abby Friedman (Prince George's County)
John Garner (District of Columbia)
Mi Ae Kim (Prince George's County)
David Novello (District of Columbia)
Lutz Rastaetter (Prince George's County)
Carl Reeverts (District of Columbia)
Steve Wellner (District of Columbia)

Guests/Interested Parties

Dana Minerva (Anacostia Watershed Restoration Partnership)

COG Support Staff

John Galli

Aubin Maynard

I. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Barber (District of Columbia) began the meeting at approximately 7:35 pm. All present were asked to introduce themselves to the group.

II. Reading and Approval of 11/13/2007 Meeting Summary

1) The minutes were approved unanimously.

III. Executive Director's Report

Ms. Dana Minerva (AWRP) said that proposals for the WRDA restoration projects were submitted with a total of \$9.9 million in appropriations requested. The projects included many with an emphasis on stream restoration and some on LID; however, local environmental groups had wanted more LID projects. The earmarks will be affected by this fall's election. Actual funding levels will not be known until possibly late fall. Two other projects that have received funding were 800k for the Army Corps of Engineers' Anacostia Watershed Restoration Plan and \$2.2 million for the Hickey Run oil/trash reduction system. Ms. Minerva concluded her report by praising DC's emphasis on LID projects.

IV. MDE Stormwater Focus Group Report

Chair Barber began by explaining that the letter to MDE Secretary Sheri Wilson, regarding both stormwater redevelopment and request for a separate Anacostia Focus Group Meeting, was sent. The result was an additional Focus Group meeting held on 2/27 at the Fairland Regional Park Stormwater Pavillion site. She then thanked Mr. Mike Smith (Vice Chair-Montgomery County) for representing AWCAC, in her absence, at the 3/11 Management Committee (MC) meeting.

Mr. Smith gave a brief highlight of the MC meeting: Ms. Minerva described updates to the Action Agenda, but said more changes were in the process. She requested additional input from AWCAC. She reported that the SC had a lengthy discussion regarding membership expansion. The SC decided to add a representative of the NGO community (likely to be Ms. Nancy Stoner from NRDC), a green builder, and a federal facility (both to be named). Chair Barber added the SC was still looking for a 'Spring Event' (designed to bring members of the Leadership Council together) to be held in May or early June.

Chair Barber reported good news on monitoring-related issues. The USGS has, through additional funding support from all three jurisdictions, restarted water quality monitoring at their NE/NWB stations. In addition, both Prince George's and Montgomery Counties have come up with the funding needed for trash TMDL baseline monitoring, which will start this spring. Unfortunately, the EPA is having difficulties finishing their toxics remediation "White Paper" due to lack of funding for the toxic issue.

- Mr. Dale Manty (Prince George's County) suggested a letter of thanks be sent to the three jurisdictions for their monitoring funding support.
- Ms. Minerva added that it would take strong lobbying efforts to get the toxics issue better funded.

***Action: AWCAC will give comments to Ms. Minerva regarding the Action Agenda. In addition, AWCAC will send a letter of thanks to each jurisdiction for supplying funding to the various monitoring projects.**

V. AWCAC 2008 Anacostia Workshops

Chair Barber described the February 23rd Stormwater Workshop. She said the Workshop was well-attended and provided a good base for the stormwater Focus Group meeting held a few days later. She noted that a summary of the event was posted on the Anacostia.net and sent out via the AWCAC list serve. A brief discussion followed:

- Ms. Minerva stated that AWCAC's hard work is paying off and that AWCAC is having a real effect. She reported that MDE has stated that they will finish all parts of the draft stormwater management manual by May 31st. Ms. Minerva felt that the group must still push for redefining 'redevelopment' and light fees in lieu of compliance. The letter from state Senator Rosepepe to MDE was very influential. In addition, Senators Pinsky and Healey will be targeted as potentially influential allies.
- Mr. Bill Matuszeski (District of Columbia) asked about the timeframe for issuance of the MS4 permits for the counties. Ms. Minerva responded that they were to be finished by January 2008.
- Chair Barber reminded they group that Ms. Diane Cameron (from the Stormwater Partners) has tremendous expertise for the group to call on.
- Mr. Matuszeski added that he was working with Washington Post reporter, David Farenhold, on an Anacostia-related article.
- Ms. Minerva commented that the MS4 permit requires 5% retrofitting per year. She also indicated that the District is looking at forming a stormwater taskforce and considering stormwater utility fees based on imperviousness, and incentives.

Chair Barber then briefed the group on the upcoming March 22nd Stormwater Summit, which would have a stronger educational focus than the previous meeting. She noted that Mr. Tom Schuler (Chesapeake Stormwater Consortium), who recently gave an excellent presentation to the SC on watershed restoration, would be a presenter. She added that she was still working to line up either Mr. Ben Grumbles (EPA) or Senator Rosapepe to provide opening remarks.

VI. Watershed Stewardship Initiative Reports

Mr. Smith gave an update of the connect/support committee. Webmasters will soon meet to connect and share ideas. Ms. Terra Nova (Friends of Little Paint Branch) has developed a form, which we will need to publicize, but could make a great tool. There is also a general interest in having a workshop on how to be a watershed 'Steward.' Potential related topics include: a weekend of training on various monitoring techniques, invasive plant management, trash reduction, stormwater management, etc.

Mr. Matuszeski responded by stating that AWCAC's 'Grow/Refresh' subcommittee is looking at a 'circuit rider' person to go in and help subwatershed groups (i.e., develop a resource/asset book., Spanish signage, etc). They would also like to see a workshop focused on technical and operational support, by either refocusing this year's workshops or applying for grant funding for next year.

***Action: Subwatershed group webmasters will hold a meeting with COG staff to discuss possible website updates and ways of increasing public communication.**

VII. New Business

Mr. Dale Manty reported that the Anacostia was passed up this year for getting a Wild and Scenic Rivers Nomination.

VIII. Old Business

- USACE Restoration Plan Update

Mr. John Galli reported that the Restoration Plan was slowly moving forward, a baseline report which summarizes existing conditions is being prepared, and the Team was in the midst of discussing modeling options. The Plan will be outlined in more detail in a public meeting to be held in mid-May. Chair Barber requested that Ms. Mary Dan (USACE) come to the next AWCAC meeting.

- Anacostia Trash TMDL Report

Mr. Jim Collier (District of Columbia) gave an update on the Maryland trash TMDL, stating that baseline monitoring is expected to begin in April or May, with a final TMDL by the end of calendar year 2009. He noted that AWS had done some land-based monitoring and results were presented at a recent NOAA conference. They found that 70% of the trash in streams is plastic bags, plastic bottles and aluminum cans; whereas, on land it is 50% paper. Chair Barber recommended that this information be put together and used to push for a bottle bill (might higher a student to do such work).

Mr. Dennis Chestnut (District of Columbia) reported that the District is one of six finalist cities for the Groundwork USA grant. There will be site visits to Watts Branch on March 19 and 20th, with a planned celebratory event scheduled for March 20th (5:30-7:30pm at community development headquarters).