

**Anacostia Watershed Citizens Advisory Committee**  
**Meeting Summary**  
**Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2009**  
**- DRAFT -**

**Meeting Attendance:**

***Members and Associates***

Mary Barber (District of Columbia)  
Brent Bolin (Prince George's County)  
Jim Fary (Montgomery County)  
Andy Fellows (Clean Water Action)  
Gabe Horchler (Prince George's County)  
Dale Manty (Prince George's County)  
Harriette Phelps (Prince George's County)  
Dan Smith (Prince George's County)  
Mike Smith (Montgomery County)

**Guests/Interested Parties**

Diane Cameron (Montgomery County Stormwater Partners)  
Vicky Hageman (CCRIC)  
Lara Moore (Prince George's County, Councilmember Dernoga's Staff)  
Ed Murtagh (Friends of Sligo Creek, Neighbors of Northwest Branch)

**COG Support Staff:**

John Galli  
Aubin Maynard

**Absent Members and Associates**

Elizabeth Arnold (Prince George's County)  
Susan Barnett (Prince George's County)  
Bill Duncan (Prince George's County)  
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)  
Bill Matuszeski (District of Columbia)  
Christopher Pohlhaus (Prince George's County)  
Lutz Rastaetter (Prince George's County)  
Carl Reeverts (District of Columbia)  
Irv Sheffey (District of Columbia)  
Bruce Sidwell (Montgomery County)  
Larry Silverman (Montgomery County)

*Note: Due to unforeseen circumstances the meeting was moved to a nearby location, and began late.*

## **I. Welcome and Introductions**

Chair Mike Smith (Montgomery County) called the meeting to order and asked those present to introduce themselves.

## **II. Approval of the 9-09 Meeting Summary**

Approval of the September meeting summary was postponed until the next meeting.

## **III. AWSC Update**

Chair Smith briefly described the last Steering Committee meeting. He indicated the committee discussed promoting the Anacostia Restoration Plan (ARP), and voted to hire a communications firm to advertize the plan. Chuck Fox also gave a presentation on his work on the Chesapeake Bay and the Anacostia River. Chair smith indicated he brought up the topic of signs, but the topic was not discussed by the SC.

A brief discussion followed:

- Dan Smith (Prince George's County) inquired as to whether the USACE admitted that even with doing everything in the plan the TMDL could not be reached. Chair Smith replied that was what he understood.
- Ms. Diane Cameron suggested that a distinction be made between green (LID) and not "green" (ponds that require removing trees and digging holes) approaches.

## **III. Stormwater Outreach Updates**

Various topics were covered during this time:

- Chair Smith began by explaining that he sent a letter on behalf of the Stormwater Partners to state and local representatives, which indicated that the committee was opposed to a net loss of trees due to the ICC. He added that he contacted leisure world about a project proposed in the ARP, representative were interested in collaboration, but would not meeting until spring. Mr. John Galli (COG) suggested AWCAC work with Mr. Dave Robbins (USACE) about specifics of the project.
- Ms. Laura Moore (Prince George's County), Councilmember Dernoga's staff person, indicated that Councilmember Dernoga sent a letter to DOT and the Governor asking that no mitigation projects be cut during the ICC building process, and to address the

fact that there is a disproportionate number of projects in Montgomery County. Ms. Moore requested that AWCAC send a similar letter.

- Ms. Cameron explained that a meeting was held with Rick Brush (Montgomery County Water Resources Plan Manager) regarding the draft stormwater ordinances, which Montgomery County was not releasing to the public. Mr. Brush assured that redevelopment would have to meet the same standards as new development.
- Vice-Chair Brent Bolin (Prince George's County) indicated that Prince George's County was basically waiting on Montgomery County to finish, and they would likely base their ordinances on Montgomery County's.
- Vice-Chair Mary Barber will review the 7 Chesapeake Bay plans and put a document together explaining how they relate to the Anacostia.

**ACTION/OUTCOME: Vice-Chair Mary Barber will review the 7 Chesapeake Bay plans and put a document together explaining how they relate to the Anacostia.**

#### **IV. CCRIC Update**

Ms. Vicky Hageman (Prince George's County), a member of CCRIC, gave a brief update on that group's activities and standing. Ms. Hageman indicated the group has had a very difficult time expanding outside of Greenbelt, where all the current members live. The group could use suggestions on how to expand. A lively discussion about a proposed recycling plant near Greenbelt followed.

#### **V. Raingardens and Outreach**

Due to the shortened meeting length Mr. Ed Murtagh (Montgomery County) and Diane Cameron (Montgomery County) gave a condensed version of their PowerPoint. Chair Smith requested that they present at the January Meeting.

Ms. Cameron explained that The Friends of Sligo Creek had received a grant from CBF to work with the Stormwater Partners, MCDEP, and Casa De Maryland to retrofit 20-30 raingardens. Landscapers were trained to retrofit yards to install the raingardens. Many difficulties were encountered, including drainage issues, presence of tree roots, clay, and determining how to dispose of the excavated clay and soil.

Responding to questions, Mr. Murtagh said raingarden locations were determined first by site assessment. He indicated that two-thirds of the sites examined were not viable locations due to environmental reasons. The second criterion for site selection was if the owner would keep up the garden, and how well they would conduct outreach using the raingarden. Outreach is a key part of the grant. Applicants could get the installation done by either paying Casa Del Maryland or agreeing to do additional outreach.

**ACTION/OUTCOME: Chair Smith will invite Mr. Murtagh and Ms. Cameron to the January meeting.**

## **VI. Anacostia Restoration Plan Update**

Mr. Galli gave a brief update on the ARP schedule, and then, responding to questions, Mr. Galli explained that 70% of the projects in the Plan were LID related with few new detention ponds. A brief discussion followed:

- Ms. Cameron inquired if there was a funding portion of the Plan, to which Mr. Galli replied that while missing from the Plan, but both funding and monitoring strategies exist.