



ANACOSTIA WATERSHED CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

July 15, 2010

Mr. Ken Yetman, Chair
AWRP Management Committee
c/o Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
777 North Capitol Street, NE, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20002-4329

Dear Ken,

The Citizens Advisory Committee notes that since the establishment of 2001 Anacostia restoration goals (http://www.summitfund.org/fund/pdfs/restoration_agreement.pdf) there has been difficulty in achieving Goal 5, *Protect and expand forest cover throughout the watershed and create a continuous riparian forest buffer adjacent to its stream, wetlands, and river.* We also note the importance of Goal Four of the draft Communication Plan

http://www.anacostia.net/Archives/AWSC/documents/AWRP_Communications_Plan2010.pdf) created by Reingold Associates and circulated at the June Steering Committee meeting, *Greater collective sense of ownership and pride in the Anacostia Watershed and its natural resources and greater feeling of empowerment to take action.* As a tool to help in both of these efforts we advise that the Management Committee direct Partnership agencies to take the following steps:

- 1). Conduct a detailed land cover assessment of the Anacostia watershed using hi-resolution satellite data to determine exactly what the current tree cover is, and the potential for significantly increasing it.
- 2). Work towards the creation of an explicit, publically recognized and prominently labeled **Anacostia GreenWeb** (or some other suitable name) to serve as a forest and open space preserve for the Anacostia Watershed. In Montgomery County, the creation of an Agriculture Reserve has helped maintain farmlands even while the County has grown and thrived. The Agriculture Reserve might serve as a model for the *Anacostia GreenWeb*, which would be expected to include but not be limited to Greenbelt National Park, the Beltsville Agriculture Research Center, Wheaton Regional Park, Fairland Regional Park, the National Arboretum, the Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, and all stream valley parks in the Anacostia Watershed.
- 3). Convene a meeting of appropriate leaders such as representatives of the United States Department of the Interior, the United States Department of Agriculture, and the Anacostia Watershed Restoration Partnership Leadership Council, which we note has never met, to endorse and ratify the creation of an *Anacostia GreenWeb* as described above that is officially recognized by all Partnership jurisdictions, including the Federal Government.

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These steps, we believe, would create momentum towards the restoration of the Anacostia River by both preserving valuable forested areas and building awareness of the Anacostia Watershed in Maryland. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike R. Smith".

Mike Smith, Chair