
Anacostia Watershed Management Committee
Meeting Summary: November 28, 2017

AWMC MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Amy Stevens, Montgomery County Department of Environmental Programs (MCDEP)
Sheila Besse, District of Columbia Department of Energy and the Environment (DOEE)
Dawn Hawkins-Nixon, Prince George's County Department of Environments (PGDoE)
Greg Sandi, Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE)
Catherine King, US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Gretchen Mikeska, DOEE
Charles Walker, US Geological Service (USGS)
Marian Dombroski, Anacostia Watershed Citizen Advisory Committee (AWCAC)
Steve Reid, University of Maryland – College Park (UMD)
Robert Mocko, National Park Service (NPS)

ALTERNATE ATTENDEES:

Matt Robinson, DOEE
Lesli Wilcox, MCDEP
Tiaa Rutherford, PGDoE
Russell Clark GSA/NCR
Trey Sherard, Anacostia Riverkeeper (ARK)
Curtis Dalpra, Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin (ICPRB)
Matt Gallagher, Anacostia Watershed Society (AWS)
Masaya Maeda, AWS
Hannah Seligmann, Alice Ferguson Foundation (AFF)
Erin Gammas-Holmes, Anacostia Trust
Harriette Phelps, UDC

COG STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

Steve Bieber
Phong Trieu
Aubin Maynard
Steve Shofar, Watershed Manager

1. CALL TO ORDER, INTRODUCTIONS, APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Amy Stevens, Montgomery County DEP (MCDEP)

2. ANACOSTIA TRASH MONITORING UPDATE

Lorena Kowalewski and Phong Trieu, COG Staff

Ms. Kowalewski presented the findings and observations from the instream trash monitoring for the Anacostia Watershed. This is the second year that COG has a completed trash monitoring for all three Anacostia Watershed jurisdictions. A total of 36 Anacostia sites were surveyed, two times in 2017. The presentation included expected trash rating levels, a summary of the plastic bag and

Styrofoam trash levels. She also presented the top five trash items by count since 2011 (post-TMDL issuance in 2010).

3. ANACOSTIA PARTNERSHIP TRASH REDUCTION UPDATES

Leslie Wilcox, Montgomery County DEP (MCDEP)

Ms. Wilcox provided an update on the County's Community Based Social Marketing Campaign in the White Oak Community. The project broadly consists of collecting historical, demographic, and geographic data, and using that information to organize focus groups to then develop a social marketing campaign. The campaign has been developed. The tagline is "Pick up Litter, Lift up White Oak". The visual shows children picking up litter. A playbook of future actions is presently being reviewed and post implementation monitoring will be completed by COG in 2018.

Dawn Hawkins-Nixon, Prince George's County Department of Environment (PGDoE)

Ms. Hawkins-Nixon provided an update on the County's trash reduction-related initiatives and project activities. The objectives of the County's program is to remove litter, capture trash before it becomes litter and prevent litter. The County achieves these objectives through a number of programs.

- 1) The County hires contractors to collect litter.
- 2) The County's Clean Sweep Initiative is a community focused program that includes cleanups and participation by Police, DPWT and Inspections. It is a popular program and communities requests the program repeatedly.
- 3) The Adopt-A-Stream program has 27 stream segments in the County adopted by communities who regularly maintain the streams and remove trash.
- 4) The County is in the process of installing or preparing to install three Band a Long trash traps in Guilford Run, Arundel Canal, and Cabin Branch.
- 5) The County provides receptacles for trash and recycling at athletic fields if the schools take responsibility for maintenance
- 6) The Adopt-A-Can program provides trash receptacles in areas of high liter if the Community/property owners agrees to empty and maintain the receptacle.
- 7) The County has submitted a grant for a skimmer boat that would be managed by MNCPPC to remove floating trash.
- 8) The County developed a mobile app called LitterTRAK where citizens and government entities can input how much litter they collect during cleanups. They also report illegal dumping.
- 9) The County has an anti-liter campaign that provides litter free zone signs to communities.

10) The County is also doing a study with the University of Maryland regarding to facilitate community discussions on trash and evaluate the measures taken regarding litter.

One member asked about education regarding single use containers. Ms. Hawkins-Nixon replied that avoiding the use of single use containers was part of the outreach and engagement message. One member asked how many clean sweep community events have occurred. Ms. Hawkins-Nixon replied that the County is in the third round. One member asked how the stream segments were selected for adoption. Ms. Hawkins-Nixon explained all the streams in the County were eligible for adoption and the neighborhood or community group selected the segment they wanted to adopt. One member asked who empties the receptacles that are adopted. Ms. Hawkins-Nixon explained that the community group or property owner that adopts the receptacle empties and maintains it.

Matt Robinson, District of Columbia Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE)

Mr. Robinson provided an update on the District's trash reduction-related initiatives and project activities. The District is implementing a number of different programs related to trash including trash traps, stream cleanups, Clean Team Program, education and outreach, the bag fee, foam ban and DumpBusters. The clean team program is a grant program where non-profits are funded to hire under or unemployed residents to work on clean up teams. In FY 17 teams captured over 9 million pounds of trash and recyclables. DumpBusters is a cross department enforcement program to reduce illegal dumping. Since the summer of 2016 over 30 arrests have been made. The District is also doing a study to quantify microplastics in the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers. Overall, the district is meeting its waste load allocation under the trash TMDL.

4. 11TH ANNAUL TRASH SUMMIT REVIEW

Hanah Seligman, Alice Ferguson Foundation (AFF)

Ms. Seligman provided an overview of the 2017 Trash Summit. The key note speaker was Rachael Z. Miller, of the Rozalia Project who spoke about the worldwide problem of microplastic pollution from synthetic fleece clothing products. There were a number of topical roundtables, an innovative solutions panel discussion, and an update to the Anacostia Accord provided by the two County Executives. It also featured the major Potomac Champion awards, geographic roundtables, followed by an optional boat tour of the Anacostia River. The summit provided a place for networking, where diverse groups can come together, and an opportunity to ask about a vision for the future.

5. MEMBER UPDATES

AWCAC Report

Marian Dombroski (AWCAC Chair) provided an overview of the recent AWCAC activities.

Aubin Maynard (COG) will provide an overview of the October 14th Anacostia “Festival del Rio”.

AWRP Report

Phong Trieu (COG) reported out on the recent Trash Workgroup activities. The Workgroup held a teleconferencing call to discuss how to determine the percent of trash inside the hopper of a street sweeping machine. The workgroup decided that COG would investigate the possibility of contracting the service. COG will review existing outreach and education reduction calculation used locally and nationally.

6. NEW INITIATIVES

Charles Walker (USGS) mentioned that USGS is evaluating *the tidal amplitude Anacostia station*.

Erin Gamaas-Holmes discussed the Year of the Anacostia and the associated website (www.yearoftheanacostia.com) and asked everyone to post events on the website.

7. ADJOURN AND LUNCH

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 22, 2018.

2017/2018 Meeting Schedule

Month	Steering Committee**	Management Committee**	AWCAC***
January	18 (Thursday)		9 (Tuesday)
February		22 (Thursday)	
March	29 (Thursday)		13 (Tuesday)
April			
May			8 (Tuesday)
June	21 (Thursday)	7 (Thursday)	
July			10 (Tuesday)
August			
September	27 (Thursday)*	13 (Thursday)*	11 (Tuesday)
October			
November		28 (Thursday)*	14 (Tuesday)
December	6 (Thursday)*		

* Dates and times subject to change.

**Meetings held at MWCOG (777 North Capitol St, NE. Washington DC, 20002)

*** Meetings will move around the watershed