



## Anacostia Watershed Management Committee Meeting Summary: June 1, 2017

### **AWMC MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Amy Stevens, Montgomery County Department of Environmental Programs (MC DEP)  
Sheila Besse, District of Columbia Department of Energy and the Environment (DOEE)  
Gabe Cohee, Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MDNR)  
Jeffrey DeHan, Prince George's Department of the Environment (PG DoE)  
Paul Emmart (MDE)-by Phone  
Dana Jackson, US Department of Agriculture (USDA)  
Catherine King, US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)  
Gretchen Mikeska, DOEE  
Steve Reid, University of Maryland – College Park (UMD)  
Greg Sandi, Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE)  
Charles Walker, US Geological Service (USGS)

### **ALTERNATE ATTENDEES:**

Marian Dombroski (AWCAC)  
Jerry Maldonado (PG DoE)  
Trey Sherard ( Anacostia RiverKeeper)  
Brenda Majedi (USGS)

### **GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Curtis Dalpra, Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin (ICPRB)  
Jim Foster, Anacostia Watershed Society (AWS)  
Maria Garcia (EPA)-by Phone  
Dev Morali (DOEE)  
Laura Catell Noll, Alice Ferguson Foundation (AFF)  
Peter Von Loewe (Tetrattech)  
Harriette Phelps (UDC)

### **COG STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:**

Steve Bieber, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG)  
Phong Trieu, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG)  
Aubin Maynard, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG)

### 1. CALL TO ORDER, INTRODUCTIONS, APPROVAL OF MINUTES

*Amy Stevens, Management Committee Chair*

Chair Stevens called the meeting to order and requested that everyone present introduce themselves.



**Action/Outcome: The 2/23/17 meeting summary was approved unanimously.**

## **2. APPROVAL OF FY'2018 WORK PROGRAM AND BUDGET**

*Steve Bieber and Phong Trieu, COG staff*

- Mr. Trieu (COG) stated that the draft work program and budget were sent out to the core Management Committee (MC) members. He then provided a summary of the FY18 Work Program and Budget (WP&B). The focus of the FY18 WP&B will be to target the following action items developed from the April 13 retreat. Those items are: Reframe the message, Draft a status Anacostia watershed restoration report, Continue to provide technical service support, and coordinate the Anacostia Trash Reduction Workgroup (ATRW). It should be noted that there will be no increase in member contributions and that the WP&B will support a Watershed Manager position.
- Mr. DeHan (PGDoE) asked about the strategies of engagement for the business and private communities for restoration support and opportunities. In PGDoE experience, this has been a challenging effort to engage this portion of the community. COG staff stated that at the June 22<sup>nd</sup> Steering Committee (SC) meeting, we have brought in Skeo to facilitate this discussion and that your experience will greatly add to this conversation.
- The Chair suggested that the core members review the WP&B and provide comments, electronically by June 12. With support of the MC members, we will look to approve the WP&B and move it forward to the Steering Committee for their approval.

## **3. ANACOSTIA PARTNERSHIP UPDATE**

*Phong Trieu, COG Technical Manager*

Mr. Trieu summarized the Partnership activities that included the following:

- The spring anadromous adult fish migration was a good return year. This is the first time in many years that we saw herring in the Lower Beaverdam Creek subwatershed.
- Two volunteer tree planting events we completed; Broadmore and a UMCP partnership event at the University House.
- COG hosted the AWRP Strategic Planning April 13 Retreat.
- The development of the volunteer tree planting desktop and smart phone data entry application. This application will include acreage and number of trees planted. There is also a survivability data entry to determine if the planting area meets the equivalent impervious acre.
- The ATRW meeting was held on May 26 to talk about standardizing the Street Sweeping calculation methodology and
- COG updated the blog site <https://ontheanacostia.wordpress.com/> to include the BUBBA award.

## **4. AWCAC REPORT**

*Aubin Maynard, COG Environmental Planner*

Mr. Maynard explained at the May AWCAC meeting members heard:

- an update on the Anacostia River Sediment Project and associated public comment periods.



- Through the Prince George's County Storm Water Stewards Grant Program, Port Towns CDC is partnering with the Low Impact Design Center to produce a Master Plan and Inventory of Storm Water Stormwater Retrofit Projects. This project is part of the efforts of the Port Towns - Bladensburg, Cottage City, Colmar Manor, and Edmonston - to create an Eco-District.

## 5. ANACOSTIA RIVER SEDIMENT PROJECT UPDATE

*Dev Murali, DOEE staff (Project Manager)*

Mr. Murali (DOEE) briefed the group about the ongoing River Sediment project. He stated that the information we are about to receive is preliminary. The monitoring work for the tributaries is nearing completion. The modeling work is separated in two parts and that the hydrodynamic portion is nearing completion and that the fate and transport is waiting for data input. DOEE will have an internal review of the information and reports when all contractual services are completed. DOEE expects the release of the reports later in the summer of 2018 for external review and comments. He asserted again that all information that is shared in today's presentation are preliminary findings.

### A. Sediment and Contaminant Monitoring from Small Tributaries to the Anacostia River *Tim Wilson, Ph.D., USGS*

Dr. Wilson (USGS) presented an overview of the monitoring objectives and preliminary findings from the Northwest and Northeast Branches, Lower Beaverdam Creek, Watts Branch and Hickey Run. The objectives are to measure suspended sediment, organic contaminant and metal loadings in both low and storm flow events. Gage station information is being collected. Lower Beaverdam Creek gage station has been installed and is being calibrated. For all sites, low flow water samples have been collected. Stormflow samples have been collected and will continue through 2017. Samples are sent to Test America Laboratory services. Preliminary data observed at each sampling site have fallen into the expected ranges. This project is in conjunction with passive air sampling, and US Fish and Wildlife instream Anacostia tributary mussel deployments. USGS will continue to sample for metals and pesticides. There will also be sampling conducted at four smaller Anacostia tributaries (e.g., Nash Run, Fort Dupont Tributary, Pope Branch and Fort Stanton Creek). As previously noted, this sampling will be concluded by December 2017.

- Dr. Harriett Phelps (UDC) requested that this information be provided to the professors at UDC. Dr. Wilson stated that he or USGS would be happy to provide this or project related presentations to UDC.

### B. Anacostia River Sediment Project, Summary of the Updated Hydrologic Model *Peter Von Loewe., Tetra Tech staff*

Mr. Von Loewe (TetraTech) presented an update of the Anacostia River Hydrodynamic Model. There are two parts to this linked model system. This first part (Watershed Model) of which is to simulate flow and pollutant loads from the entire Anacostia watershed and provide boundary conditions for the receiving water model of the tidal Anacostia. The second part (Receiving Water Model) of the model is to simulate the fate and transport of the pollutant loads in the tidal Anacostia River. The model has captured the most recent, higher resolution and locally derived dataset available. Calibration of the Watershed Model looks very good as modeled results are similar to the observed results. The sediment transport



calibration is ongoing to further evaluate the prediction of the sediment deposition areas. Model calibration toxics will continue more water quality monitoring data becomes available from other existing studies and investigation. As part of the next steps, the model will also incorporate remedial alternatives recommended in the Feasibility Studies (FS). It is anticipated that the fate and transport results will presented in a separate water quality presentation. Mr. Von Loewe stated that the partnership should maintain corresponding with DOEE as to the timeframe for the next model updates.

Member discussion ensued:

- Mr. Foster (AWS) asked if the model is capable of evaluating various channel dredging scenarios. Mr. Murali responded that it can and that DOEE will engage with USACE regarding the navigation channel. He noted that the FS will look at multiple remedial options and their combinations.
- Mr. Trey Sherard (ARK) asked about the model ability to predict remedial options response to extreme climate conditions. Mr. Murali stated that we will at least consider extreme weather conditions (e.g., model the impact of a 100-year storm).
- Mr. Walz (COG) stated that it DOEE may want to consider sea level rise. There is a USACE-led modeling study looking at the impact of sea level rise on the region. If there is a need COG could facilitate that conversation.
- Chair Stevens asked if DOEE could provide the timeline of this portion of the project. Mr. Murali responded that all this information will feed into the Remedial Investigation report. It is expected that DOEE will have a draft report by the end of this year and move for a record of decision by June 2018.
- Mr. Murali also stated that this new information should not sit idle. There is a possibility to use this information to reevaluate the list of impairments in the Anacostia watershed and update existing TMDLs. DOEE will be consulting with local, state and federal government staff and seek individual to participate in this technical workgroup.

## 6. MEMBER UPDATES

- There are text three meetings relating to the river sediment study: on June 8<sup>th</sup> the Leadership Council will meet to talk about the Risk Assessments; on June 19<sup>th</sup>, there will be another roundtable to talk about the Risk Assessments among project partners and interested parties; and on June 21<sup>st</sup> DOEE will hold an environmental civic stakeholder group meeting to discuss about the Risk Assessments.
- Ms. Stevens mentioned that the week of June 4<sup>th</sup> starts the Chesapeake Bay awareness week. Expect to see activities programs designed to raise awareness and importance of the Bay.
- Mr. Walz stated that many of the local elected officials are expected to provide public statements in support of continuing Chesapeake Bay program support in the federal budget.