

Anacostia Watershed Management Committee

-DRAFT-

Thursday, November 3rd, 2016

10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

1st Floor Training Center

MEETING ATTENDEES:

- Amy Stevens (Chair), MCDEP
- Cristina Amoruso, DCDSLBD
- Laura Cattell Noll, AFF
- Jai Cole, M-NCPPC
- Henry Coppola, M-NCPPC
- Curtis Dalpra, ICPRB
- Jeff Dehan, PGDOE
- Saba Fassil, DCDSLBD
- Emily Franc, ARK
- Dana Jackson, USDA
- Gretchen Mikeska, DOEE
- Matt Robinson, DOEE
- Julia Saintz, AFF
- Greg Sandi, MDE
- Trey Sherard, ARK
- Charles Walker, USGS
- Derek Winogradoff, PGDOE

COG Staff :

- Lorena Kowalewski
- Matt Gallagher
- Michelle Kokolis
- Noah Lee
- Aubin Maynard
- Phong Trieu
- Steve Walz

1. Call to Order/Introductions

Amy Stevens (MCDEP) briefly introduced herself as the Management Committee Chair. Ms. Stevens called the meeting to order and requested that everyone present introduce themselves.

Action/Outcome: The 9/8/16 meeting summary was approved unanimously.

2. Anacostia Partnership Update

Ms. Michelle Kokolis (COG) provided an update on Partnership activities that have occurred since the last meeting. She announced the launch of *On the Anacostia*, a blog that is written by the Watershed Manager, and reported that she and Mr. Matt Gallagher (COG) had presented the findings of the Anacostia Trash Reduction Workgroup at the Chesapeake Watershed Forum. Ms. Kokolis also provided an update on COG's on-going sampling and monitoring activities, indicating that the following activities had been completed: MBSS fish monitoring at Nash Run, a resident fish survey at BARC, tree surveys for stem density at several reforestation sites, and on-going storm monitoring at the SISMS project sites.

3. AWCAC Report

Mr. Aubin Maynard (COG) provided a brief update on recent AWCAC activities. During the September meeting, AWCAC hosted a member potluck, discussed future goals and elected Chairs. Doug Stephens will stay on as Chair and Marian Dombroski will continue as Vice-Chair for Prince George's County. The Vice-Chair for the District of Columbia is still under consideration.

The first Festival Del Rio Anacostia was held at Bladensburg Waterfront Park on October 15th. With a very small budget, a collaboration of groups hosted about three hundred participants. There were a variety of activities and informational tables (boat trips, fishing, COG hosted fish tank, and tables hosted by all the Anacostia Jurisdictions). Volunteers from several local high schools volunteered as translators at those booths and activities where the hosts were not bilingual.

Ms. Kokolis added that the group has already received funding through a Prince George's County Stormwater Stewardship Grant (\$11,791) to fund next year's festival.

4. Dumpbusters

Mr. Matt Robinson (DOEE) presented "Dumpbusters," the District Department of Energy and Environment's (DOEE) enforcement program against illegal dumping in the Anacostia watershed. DOEE estimates approximately 20,000 pounds of trash enter the Anacostia River through illegal dumping. The District has tried to prevent the trash from entering the river through dump site cleanups; however, cleanups have not been successful, and the District is now undertaking an enforcement approach. DOEE is working with the Department of Public Works (DPW) and the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) to determine the locations of enforcement areas. The program has three main components: elimination of 10 hotspots in the 6th District, enhanced enforcement, and enhanced communications. The team identified 10 hotspot areas in MPD's 6th District. This includes Ward 7 and a small part of Ward 8. The goal is to address all 10 within the next year and to eliminate them. DOEE plans to expand the program city-wide in the future. The program highlights communication with the community to prevent people from dumping in other areas. DPW and MPD will install new "No Dumping" signage and camouflaged cameras to catch individuals that are illegally dumping. The cameras will take photos of any movement in the area. So far the program has removed over 10,000 pounds of material; 8,000 pounds were cleaned from a Fort DuPont site in one day. Currently,

there have been 9 enforcement actions. The police have arrested and successfully prosecuted 30 cases of illegal dumping.

Discussion

- The hotspots are historical dumpsites because they are hidden from sight, and citizens might not know they exist.
- Volunteer groups, DPW, and MPD have cleaned and removed 10,000 pounds of trash from the hotspot sites.
- The camera is triggered by movement. If the camera does not capture a license plate number, the police will use traffic cameras to try and identify the car. The police will question suspects to identify a dumper.
- All enforcement actions have taken place during the day. The police have arrested someone as far away as Manassas.
- Each offense warrants a \$40,000 fine, and the potential to lose a license or a business license. In the past there have been shops and businesses that improperly disposed of trash.
- MPD and DPW already had statutory enforcement and DOEE did not have to pass regulation to start this program. This is the first time DOEE has worked with both departments. DOEE hopes to expand the program into other areas of the city.
- MPD has been very cooperative and the police approached DOEE about starting the program.
- There are no plans for preventative dumping infrastructure, but Watts Branch has some structures that could deter future dumpers.

5. Montgomery Parks Volunteer Stream & Park Cleanup Program Overview

Mr. Henry Coppola (M-NCPPC) presented Montgomery County's cleanup program.

Montgomery County has 418 parks and about 450 miles of streams. Sligo Creek, Northwest Branch, Paint Branch and Little Paint Branch watersheds are all Anacostia sub-watersheds located in Montgomery County. Throughout the whole county there are approximately 243 cleanups, resulting in an average of 145,320 pounds of trash, recyclables and tires being removed annually. The Anacostia cleanups are responsible for about a third of that weight. Montgomery County Parks usually finds floatables, general litter from party spots and athletic fields, and trash from historic dump sites. The dumping sites are usually older agricultural areas that have tires and car parts. Typical trash cleanup volunteers include general citizen groups, students, corporate groups and religious groups. Friends of Sligo Creek and watershed and neighborhood groups help clean up athletic fields that typically get overlooked from trash pick-

up. M-NPPC provides volunteers with an instruction packet, data sheets, gloves, grabbers, and trash bags. The amount of trash collected has stayed consistent for the past three years.

Discussion

- Volunteer data reports how many bags are collected and identifies bulk items collected. There are columns for trash and recyclables. The data sheet is based on the data sheet Alice Ferguson Foundation uses.
- The estimated weight of a tire is 22 pounds.
- There is not a high percentage of trash that is bulk trash. Sometimes M-NPPC reports a spike, however bulk trash is typically about 10 percent of the trash collected.
- M-NPPC does not have a plan to add more recycling bins to athletic fields. Adding more trash cans creates problems in servicing and results in trash overflow. The main areas that see more litter are neighborhood parks where people play unscheduled games. However, M-NPPC works with neighborhood groups to clean up neighborhood fields as a smaller scale cleanup. These groups do not report data. M-NPPC tells them which parks to focus on.
- FY16 trash data showed a decrease in trash levels. This is likely weather related. Rain can prevent a cleanup from happening, and decrease the overall number of trash collected. M-NPPC has also noticed an increased interest level in cleanups, allowing hotspots to be cleaned quickly and frequently. Historical trash has been removed, which prevents strainers from collecting trash.
- The volunteer database allows some data to track new trash sites and continuous monitoring of old trash sites. This data is also available through professional knowledge.
- M-NPPC works with Bridgestone to pick up tires. Anacostia Watershed Society suggested using them. M-NPPC collects all the tires collected from the cleanups and leaves them at one location for pick up in one tractor trailer. M-NPPC has also worked with Lincoln Tire and contracted them to pick up the tires at a central location as well.

6. Anacostia Trash Monitoring Update

Mr. Matt Gallagher (COG) presented results from COG's 2016 instream trash monitoring for the Anacostia watershed. Mr. Gallagher first summarized field protocol for stream trash surveys, defined and provided examples of trash strainers, and announced COG was awarded a grant from DOEE to conduct stream trash monitoring in the District using the same protocols COG has been employing in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties. Mr. Gallagher showed maps that show the locations of the new stream trash monitoring sites in the District; 5 are in the Rock Creek Watershed, 2 are in the Potomac Watershed, and 6 are in the Anacostia watershed. Mr. Gallagher then provided some brief results highlighting the top 5 item counts, top 5 item

weights, and the distribution of carry out plastic bags and plastic bags (other) at each site for each jurisdiction.

Discussion

- COG has no data from before the bag ban was implemented however, there is some data available in the 2008 Anacostia Watershed Trash Report.
- Alice Ferguson Foundation has volunteer cleanup data from the past 30 years.

7. Anacostia Trash Reduction Workgroup (ATRW) Update

Ms. Kokolis provided a summary of the work completed by the ATRW. Before discussing the revised metrics, she provided a brief overview of the Trash TMDL and how it differs from traditional TMDLs, the baseline load and each jurisdiction's reduction requirements, the difference between wasteload and load allocation items, and the content of the petition that was filed against the Trash TMDL in fall 2015. Ms. Kokolis then stated that the ATRW has been focusing on standardizing the method used to calculate trash reductions from volunteer cleanups. She explained that the group looked at four factors for volunteer cleanups: weight of a typical bag, percent of the watershed that is in the jurisdiction, MS4 allocation, and wet weight of plastic bottles, glass bottles, and aluminum cans.

She stated that all three jurisdictions were already using 25 pounds as the weight of a bag and that the group agreed with COG's recommendation to eliminate the reduction factor for the percent of the watershed in the jurisdiction. This recommendation was made because there is no way to know where the trash originated so whatever jurisdiction is picking it up should take credit for the reduction.

Ms. Kokolis then stated that Montgomery County was not using a MS4 reduction factor, and that Prince George's and the District were. She elaborated to say that Prince George's was based on the wasteload (WLA) and load (LA) allocations, while the District's was based on the actual percent of the watershed that lies in the MS4 area. Ms. Kokolis then indicated that the ATRW decided that all three jurisdictions would adopt the equation used by Prince George's County and showed the new MS4 reduction factors.

Lastly, Ms. Kokolis addressed the wet weight reduction factor. She stated that not all jurisdictions were applying a reduction factor to account for the liquid trapped in plastic bottles, glass bottles and aluminum cans, and that the reduction factors that were in place were extremely conservative. Ms. Kokolis explained that the proposed reduction factor is derived from COG's annual stream monitoring data and additional surveys completed to assess the average bottle volume (size) and amount of liquid present in bottles collected by volunteers.

Ms. Kokolis presented a summary of the proposed reduction factor for volunteer cleanups and how much trash can be counted out of a 25lb bag. She then went on to explain that Prince

George's County is currently re-evaluating when to apply the MS4 reduction factor based on the different types of volunteer cleanups they hold.

The final item Ms. Kokolis discussed was the next steps the group will be taking. She indicated that the ATRW would be reconvening with the regulatory agencies and petitioners early in the new year to discuss the volunteer cleanup metrics, and that they would also be starting the evaluation of additional reduction factors including street sweeping and trash traps.

8. Department of Small and Local Business Development Clean Teams

Ms. Saba Fassil and Cristina Amoruso (DCDSLBD) provided an overview of the Clean Team program in the District. In 2006, the Shaw Main Streets program started a pilot clean team, where members walked the streets in uniform, picking up trash and providing general assistance to passersby. This 2-year project was such a success that eventually legislation was passed by the City Council to permanently put Clean Team programs in the DC budget. There are currently 25 Clean Teams located throughout the District, with the 26th currently soliciting applications. The teams employ previously incarcerated people, and the program provides the employees an opportunity to learn skills, earn a steady paycheck, and participate in a rewarding job. There are three metrics by which the program is evaluated: the number of posters collected, the weight of litter collected, and the number of graffiti abated. For example, in FY14, 1.3 million pounds of trash were collected (litter and bags in cans) and 3,100 graffiti were removed. The teams only operate in commercial areas.

Discussion

- A point was made regarding the value of having people on the streets versus vacuum machines. Ms. Amoruso highlighted that the Clean Team members don't just pick up trash; they help elderly people cross streets, offer directions to people, educate other residents about littering and graffiti, and simply provide a *presence* in areas that may otherwise seem unsafe.
- It was also stated that they would like to see the Department of Public Works sweep all streets, instead of only sweeping certain streets, which allows leaf litter and other debris to accumulate and clog storm drains on the other streets.

9. Sense, Report, Act, Refine: A Smart Waste Solution

Mr. Scott Pomeroy (DC BID) gave an overview of the Smart City Collaboration project. The goal of the project is to identify ways to use DowntownDC Business Improvement Districts (BID) personnel and equipment more efficiently as they perform the daily operation of emptying the waste and recycling bins in the BID's service area. Data from the latest sensor technologies in individual cans and recycling receptacles will be combined with information shared through trash apps. The aggregated data will be analyzed by software, in real-time, to document baseline conditions, optimize timing and frequency of daily service routes, and anticipate the impacts that major events and activities have upon the daily service routes. Currently the DowntownDC EcoDistrict oversees 1,200 bins every day; while only a portion of the bins have sensors, it is expected that the program will expand. In fact, the sensors will be piloted in other

areas of the city, including the Anacostia BID and will be integrated in the Chinatown rebranding. Early results have been positive, but more baseline data need to be acquired.

Discussion

- While sensor data, in coordination with nearby video surveillance, could be used to identify illegal dumping within the cans, the program is not currently focused on enforcement.
- As the technology is relatively new, the cost is low if it can be integrated into an existing sensor network.

10. Member Updates

Anacostia Riverkeeper

- Festival del Rio organizers have met to start planning next year's festival, brainstorming how to improve and grow the festival. They are looking to involve more groups at the festival.

USDA

- Construction has started on the 23 acre wetlands project. USDA has partnered with the University of Maryland – College Park to conduct research on macro and microscopic biological progression in wetlands. The research will look at how wetlands function and how to restore a first order ecological system.