

Anacostia Watershed Management Committee

-DRAFT-

Thursday, December 4th, 2014

10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

COG Training Room 1

Meeting Attendance:

First Name	Last Name	Organization
Chris	Adriance	MWCOG
Albert	Arevalo	AFF
Ana	Arriaza	MCDEP
Sheila	Besse	DDOE – Chair
Heidi	Bonnaffon	MWCOG
Cary	Coppock	AWCAC
Meo	Curtis	MC DEP – Vice Chair
Curtis	Dalpra	ICPRB
Paul	Emmart	MDE (by phone)
Jim	Foster	AWS
Matt	Gallagher	MWCOG
Chris	Kibler	DDOE
Julie	Lawson	AWS
Masaya	Maeda	AWS
Bill	Matuszeski	AWCAC
Aubin	Maynard	MWCOG
Cherie	Miller	USGS
Dev	Murali	DDOE
Apurva	Patil	DDOE
Harriette	Phelps	UDC
David	Prevar	USDA
Stephen	Reid	UMD
Matt	Robinson	DDOE
Trey	Sherard	ARK
Dan	Smith	AWS
Steven	Stein	ER Planning
Phong	Trieu	MWCOG

I. Call to Order/Introductions

Chair Sheila Besse (DDOE) called the meeting to order and requested that everyone present introduce themselves. Mr. Phong Trieu (COG) proceeded with an update on the Watershed Manager Position. There were twelve applications reviewed, with interviews scheduled for finalists in mid-December. The plan is for an official offer to be made in January.

Dev Murali (DDOE) provided a brief update on the Anacostia River Sediment project. Phase I is now complete and laboratory analyses are ongoing. It has been difficult getting benthic macroinvertebrates for the toxicity exposure portion of the study, so 55 more samples will be needed in Phase II (particularly at outfalls). Field work will begin in January or February 2015.

- Mr. Bill Matuszeski (AWCAC) asked to what extent additional sampling is due to the RIFS being behind schedule. Mr. Murali replied that is the case, and they are doing the additional sampling to be proactive on that issue.
- Mr. Trieu asked if all sediment sampling occurs in the District, and Mr. Murali indicated that they are within the District's borders.
- Ms. Harriette Phelps (UDC) requested an estimated total cost to the project. It was replied that since the remediation plan has not been selected, it is difficult to predict total cost.
- Ms. Besse requested an update on the "Leadership Council for a Cleaner Anacostia". Mr. Murali explained there was a kickoff meeting on September 22nd to initiate processes to move forward. Mr. Trieu asked what the role for the Partnership is in the Leadership Council, and Mr. Murali replied that's unclear at the moment.

Mr. Trey Sherard (Anacostia RiverKeeper) informed members that Anacostia Riverkeeper (ARK) received a grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust to combat cigarette butt pollution. They will be holding focus groups in winter with a wider implementation program in the spring. ARK hopes to bring this topic back the Committee for wider discussion in spring 2015.

II. Approval of the September 11th, 2014 Meeting Summary

Action/Outcome: The 9/11/14 meeting summary was approved unanimously.

III. AWCAC Chair Report

Mr. Matuszeski reported on discussions at AWCAC's November 18th meeting. Mr. David Dunmire described recent proposed zoning changes in the Paint Branch Special Protection Area (SPA) of Montgomery County. The Islamic Society of the Washington Area, located within the SPA, has applied to develop additional parking in an unpaved portion of their property. The County Council has rejected 2 bills that would have allowed the Islamic Society to pave the property, and a newer bill is suggesting the use of permeable pavers. AWCAC is also still working with NPS and DDOT on a general agreement regarding signage/branding of the Anacostia River trail system. AWCAC will also be sending a letter to NPS regarding bicycling on their paths and trails at night, since many commuters use those trails. In addition, Ms. Jolene Ivey (speaking on behalf of Lerner's Enterprise) provided a brief update on the FBI Landover site option. Ms. Ivey believes the Landover option gives the biggest "bang for the buck", as the Landover area has struggled with investment. Additionally, since the site is currently a large parking lot, development of the FBI headquarters there would result in a decrease of impervious surfaces and 1,000 trees would be planted. Lastly, the Steering Committee gave approval for

AWCAC to move forward with planning their citizen award. A planning committee has been formed and will iron out details concerning the award (qualifications, the selection process, physical award, etc.).

IV. ER Planning LLC's Trash Survey

Mr. Steven Stein from Environmental Resources Planning, LLC presented information about their recent trash survey that was conducted in the Anacostia Watershed. ER Planning started conducting statewide litter surveys in New Jersey in 2004 and have since surveyed over 21 million square feet across the country for litter. After the District of Columbia (DC) was considering polystyrene ban legislation, ER Planning conducted a litter survey in the Anacostia watershed along roadways (84 sites) and non-roadways such as creeks or stormwater outfalls (12 sites) in the fall of 2014. Funding for this survey was provided by private industry. Roadway sites were chosen by a stratified random approach. Sixty-six sites were located within DC, nine were in Montgomery County, and nine were in Prince George's County. Non-roadway sites were based upon Anacostia Watershed Society (AWS) recommendations and were representative of various conditions within the watershed. Six non-roadway sites were in DC while three each were in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties. Non-roadway sites consisted of a track 18 feet wide and 300 feet long. For the trash sorting field component, tallies of litter pieces were broken down into large litter (greater than four inches) and small litter (less than or equal to four inches). They used 94 categories of large and 19 categories of small litter. The top three categories for roadway large litter were snack wrappers (12.1%), beverage containers (10.2%), and paper napkins (6.9%) and roadway small litter were glass (28.7%), cigarette butts (23.8%), and paper (15.0%). The top three categories for non-roadway large litter were beverage containers (25.8%), snack wrappers (8.5%), and fast food packaging (5.8%), while non-roadway small litter's top categories were glass (23.4%), paper (15.6%), and hard plastic (11.0%). ER Planning will break down the analysis by jurisdiction and will have all raw data in their report appendix (completed by the end of December 2014). They will also document correlations to site conditions, such as proximity to convenience stores, fast food restaurants, landscaped areas, and trash receptacles.

- Ms. Heidi Bonnaffon (MWCOG) asked if they documented or tracked different brands during their surveys. Mr. Stein replied they do not track brands explicitly, but the brands seen tend to almost always mimic market share. Ms. Bonnaffon also wondered if they had a baseline of plastic bag litter to compare to, since the District instituted the plastic bag tax in 2010. Mr. Stein responded that no baseline was collected for the District prior to the bag tax, but this data could be used for future comparisons.
- Mr. Sherard inquired if these surveys were completed multiple times. Mr. Stein indicated each site was only sampled once. However, photos were taken at each site and ER Planning will relate their data to rainfall data taken from NOAA. Mr. Sherard also inquired if surveyors looked under leaves and debris for litter, which they did.

- Ms. Julie Lawson (AWS) asked if ER Planning will be relating their results to street sweeping or mechanical removal events. Mr. Stein replied that they could, but since they use a large number of sites across the watershed, it allows for statistical analysis to account for cleanups that otherwise could interfere with results.
- Mr. Stein added that he personally feels a big improvement to litter management would be investing in collection vehicles that properly keep trash in the waste collection bins.
- Mr. Chris Kibler (DDOE) inquired if there was a minimum size for a piece of litter to be documented. Mr. Stein replied that pieces less than 0.25” were not counted because it is difficult to identify the proper category.
- Mr. Masaya Maeda (AWS) recommends additional volume studies, as his surveys have indicated a discrepancy between weight/volume litter surveys and tally surveys.
- Mr. Matuszeski asked if ER Planning noted a difference in bottle litter between states/jurisdictions that have bottle deposit programs versus those who do not. Mr. Stein answered that those place with bottle deposit places do have less bottle litter.
- Mr. Jim Foster (AWS) asked if ER Planning would do anything different in their surveys if they were not paid by industry, but rather by government or non-profit partners. Mr. Stein replied they would not, as the data is what the data is. They do this to start objective discussions for litter reduction programs.

V. Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement Diversity Action Team Workgroups

Ms. Kristen Fleming (MDDNR) was unable to join the meeting, however Ms. Meo Curtis (MCDEP) informed members that a kickoff meeting was held at COG and the workgroups recommendations were due by April 2015. Ms. Curtis indicated there are three separate goals that need to be addressed: diversity, leadership, and stewardship.

IV. MDE’s Diversity Internship Program Development

Ms. Heather Woods Barthel (MDE) was unable to join the meeting to brief members on MDE’s Diversity Internship Program development. However, Ms. Curtis introduced Ms. Ana Arriaza (MCDEP) who just read a recent study of diversity in the environmental fields. Ms. Arriaza noted that there has been an increase of female participation, but not people of color. She recommended that the members review the “[The State of Diversity in Environmental Organizations](#)” report which can be downloaded from [www. Diversegreen.org](http://www.Diversegreen.org). Mr. Arevalo (AFF) added that it would be worth contacting someone from the organization Green Latinos to increase diversity participation.

V. National Capital Parks – East, Project Updates

Ms. Tanya Gossett (NPS) did not make it to the meeting to brief members on the Anacostia Park Trail. Ms. Heidi Bonnaffon summarized the Langston Golf Course Bioretention Project, which is being funded by NFWF. Langston was established in 1939 and became the second desegregated

golf course in DC. The grant objectives are to control stormwater from the parking lot and to educate the public about stormwater and the Anacostia watershed. Construction will begin in mid-December to treat approximately 1.44 impervious acres and 0.4 pervious acres. The project is designed to treat a 1.7” rain event. Educational signage will be installed near the bioretention facility.

VI. Smart Integrated Stormwater Management System (SISMS) Pilot Project

Mr. Trieu provided an update on the status of the SISMS project. Under this NFWF grant, three stormwater retrofits will be installed to improve sediment and nutrient reduction. The project will include the use of a computer desktop or mobile device controller to remotely communicate to a bioretention, wet or dry pond facilities. This active communication can feed real-time environmental data to optimize facility performance. Monitoring data will be provided from in-situ probes and water quality grab samples.

- Mr. Murali inquired if this type of technology has been used elsewhere. Mr. Trieu replied that this has been used in Portland, OR at an HOA, as well as in at two DC firehouse facilities equipped with cisterns.
- Mr. Matuszeski asked if these projects will be eligible for stormwater credits. Mr. Trieu responded that they would have to be vetted through the Chesapeake Bay Expert Panel.

VII. Anacostia Service Recognition for Dave Prevar

Ms. Besse provided a plaque to Mr. Dave Prevar in recognition for his many years of dedicated service to the Anacostia Watershed Partnership. Mr. Prevar is retiring from the United States Department of Agriculture’s Agricultural Research Service.