

Anacostia Watershed Steering Committee (AWSC)
Meeting Summary: March 29th, 2018

AWSC Members in Attendance:

- Adam Ortiz, Prince George's Co DoE (PGDoE)
- Amy Stevens, Montgomery Co DEP (MCDEP)
- Hamid Karimi, Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE)
- Dan Bierly, USACE
- Tara Morrison, National Park Services (NPS)
- Michelle Price-Fay, US EPA Region III (USEPA)
- Katherine Bennett, MCDEP
- Gretchen Mikeska, DOEE
- Marian Dombroski, AWCAC Chair
- Doug Siglin, Anacostia Watershed Trust
- Emily Franc, Anacostia Riverkeeper (ARK)
- Trey Sherard, ARK
- Maureen McGowan Holman, DCWater

AWSC GUESTS:

- Linda Lowe, PGDoE
- Pya Langley, NPS
- Gretchen Mikeska, DOEE
- Steve Reid, University of Maryland (UMD)

COG STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

- Steve Walz
- Steve Bieber
- Phong Trieu
- Steve Shofar
- Lisa Regain

1. CALL TO ORDER, WELCOME, AND INTRODUCTIONS

Adam Ortiz, Steering Committee Chairman

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Adam Ortiz, Steering Committee Chairman

Meeting summary approved with no comments.

3. ANACOSTIA MESSAGING WORKGROUP

Linda Lowe, PG County DoE, Lisa Ragain COG, Aubin Maynard COG

Ms. Lowe presented the icons and video that PG DoE created and are the first work product from the Messaging Campaign. Ms. Ragain reviewed the current media marketing plan, and Mr. Maynard reviewed the final indicator dashboard and map along with the draft recreational map developed by COG.

Actions/Outcomes: The committee received the briefing

4. SWIMMING IN THE ANACOSTIA, WHAT'S NEXT?

Gretchen Mikeska, DOEE, Emily Franc, Anacostia Riverkeeper

Ms. Mikeska reviewed the current regulatory framework for swimming and the pro bono feasibility study being conducted by Smith group JJR. She also discussed DOEE's planned monitoring and the volunteer water quality monitoring project, which is a \$150,000 grant program to collect and analyze water samples along the Anacostia and Potomac Rivers. Ms. Franc discussed the history of swimming in the Anacostia and tidal basin, their volunteer monitoring program, and the use of the Swim Guide App to alert swimmers of the status of the water quality.

Actions/Outcomes: COG staff will continue to work with the jurisdictions and partners.

5. ANACOSTIA PEDAL, PADDLE, PALOOZA

Steve Shofar, COG, Ursula Sandstrom, WABA

Mr. Shofar and Ms. Sandstrom laid out the initial plans for a multijurisdictional bike ride and boat ride throughout the watershed sponsored by the partnership and WABA. There will be a total of six nodes that participants can visit. Two nodes will be the starting points in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties. The other four nodes will be Bladensburg Waterfront Park, Kenilworth Park, and Kingman Island. Kingman Island will also serve as a destination point for the bike ride with some additional activities (to be determined).

Action/Outcome: Committee members received the presentation

6. STEERING COMMITTEE BUSINESS

- a. USDA, Beltsville Agricultural Research Center

Dana Jackson, Environmental Management Coordinator

Mr. Jackson briefed the committee on the Maryland Department of Transportation proposed plan to construct the Superconducting Maglev (SCMaglev) train between Baltimore, MD and Washington, DC. The proposed (SCMaglev) track alignment and maintenance yard would eliminate 200 acres of mature hardwood forest area, 50 acres of non-tidal wetland, severely impact the Beaverdam Creek

mainstem and eliminate two functioning large BMPs. Mr. Jackson stated that he would provide the Partnership any updates at future meetings.

b. AWCAC Update,

Marion Dombroski, AWCAC Chair

Ms. Dombroski discussed the new bridge being built across the river at the Arboretum and that the community wants to be more involved in the decision regarding the design of the bridge.

Mr. Karimi informed the group of the RFA for the volunteer monitoring program mentioned previously.

Mr. Siglin wanted to know the progress of the Anacostia Restoration Plan (ARP) prepared by the Army Corps of Engineers in 2010. What projects were completed and what projects were not completed and why? Mr. Siegel said that he thought it was important to provide the information. Mr. Shofar stated that the ARP was a list of potential projects and not “the list” or “the plan” to restore the river, and that the resources it would take to track all the projects could be better spent on actual restoration activities. Mr. Ortiz stated that we will have a report out on the ARP on a future agenda.

Ms. Mikeska let the group know about the April 24th public meeting for the Remedial Investigation for the Anacostia Sediment Project. She also asked folks to complete the River Use Survey if they haven't already done so. (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ANACOSTIA-RIVER-USE>)

c. Management/Partnership Committee Update

Phong Trieu, COG

Mr. Trieu provided a brief update on the last Management Committee Meeting on February 22, 2018.

7. Adjourn

The Meeting was adjourned at 12:05 pm.



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 | 6 (Thursday) | 25 (Tuesday)* | 11 (Tuesday) |
| October | | | |
| November | | 29 (Thursday) | 14 (Tuesday) |
| December | 6 (Thursday) | | |

* Sept 25th Management Committee meeting held in Board Room

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

*** Meetings will move around the watershed