

**Anacostia Watershed Steering Committee (AWSC)**  
Meeting Summary: January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018

**AWSC Members in Attendance:**

- Adam Ortiz, Prince George's Co DoE (PGDoE)
- Tommy Wells, District of Columbia Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE)
- Amy Stevens, Montgomery Co DEP (MCEP)
- Hamid Karimi, Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE)
- Paul Emmart, MD Department of the Environment (MDE)
- Jeff DeHan, PGDoE
- 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
- Trey Sherard, Anacostia Riverkeeper (ARK)
- Maureen McGowan Holman, DCWater

**AWSC GUESTS:**

- Linda Lowe, PGDoE
- Gary Gumm, WSSC
- Pya Langley, NPS
- Erin Garnass-Holmes, Anacostia Watershed Trust
- Steve Reid, University of Maryland (UMD)

**COG STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:**

- Steve Walz
- Steve Bieber
- Phong Trieu
- Steve Shofar
- Lisa Regain
- Lorena Kowalewski
- Brian Mina

## **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. WSSC Sanitary sewer overflow Consent Decree**

Gary Gumm, Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission

Mr. Gumm provided an overview of the WSSC consent decree and the Sewer Repair, Replacement, and Rehabilitation (SR3) Program. The SR3 program is the portion of the Consent Decree that specifies what remedial actions will be performed in each of the sewersheds (subwatersheds). He provided the current schedule and explained the reasons for the delays from the original schedule. He provided slides which located the work in each of the sewersheds. He stated that 95% of the design is completed and 90% of the construction is completed in the Anacostia Watershed. The total cost of the Consent Decree is estimated to be over 1.7 billion dollars with the total rehab costs in the Anacostia at approximately \$282 million, including over 100 miles of sewer main relining and 800 manholes. Some of the stream work completed by WSSC counted towards the MS4 restoration requirements for Prince George's and Montgomery Counties.

**Actions/Outcomes:** The committee received Mr. Gumm's presentation

## **4. Anacostia Messaging Workgroup**

*Lisa Ragain, COG*

Ms. Ragain went over the strategy of the workgroup and explained the two-phase approach. Phase I will focus on promoting recreation on the River will have a social media (video) target launch of March. Prince George's County has offered resources to assist in the developed of the recreational messages. Phase II will be a long-term sustained initiative that will include a logo and tagline that can be used across jurisdictions. Ms. Ragain presented a timeline for the work and discussed how the project will be assessed. All efforts will be coordinated with the Year of the Anacostia campaign.

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

**Discussion:** Mr. Siglin recommended doing a "wade-in" to breakdown the messages that the fish can't be eaten and the water is toxic.

Ms. Morrison said that Pya Langley of her office would assist in getting a list of citizen groups that should be involved in the development of the campaign.

## 5. Anacostia Dashboard and Map

*Phong Trieu, COG, Aubin Maynard, COG*

Mr. Trieu presented an updated version of the dashboard with the latest data updates. He presented the new features of the dashboard page to include goal definition, links to the maps and ability to scroll to a goal. He also highlighted the recently added sediment, nutrient, aquatic community health and wetland dashboards. Mr. Maynard presented an update of the Arcgis online map that included the following recent data: population, population density, race and mean household incomes. The goal is to finalize the dashboard and map along with the launch of the recreational messaging by March 1, 2018.

**Action/Outcome:** Committee members received the presentation and approved finalization of the dashboard and map.

Discussion:

One member asked if the name of the goal and definition can be added the side panel. COG staff replied that it is possible to move that information over there.

Mr. Ortiz discussed the importance of the map in enabling us to look at relationships between stressed areas and water quality with a focus on neighborhood equity.

Mr. Wells asked if there is a study regarding where removal of the sea walls for wetland restoration make sense. Mr. Trieu replied that there is nothing current but there may be an old study with some information.

Mr. Wells suggested developing a data layers to show historical/significant landmarks.

Mr. Steve Reid asked about security concerns with providing data about water infrastructure to the public.

## 6. Year of the Anacostia Campaign Toolkit

*Pya Langley, NPS; Tara Morrison NPS, Erin Garnass-Holmes AWT*

Ms. Langley and Mr. Garnass-Holmes presented a brief overview of the “Year of the Anacostia” campaign including the goals of celebrate and enjoy; honor the history; and envision an inspiring future. They explained that there are three working groups to help execute the goals: Marketing and Outreach, Youth Engagement, and Events and Programing. They then went into the details of the campaign toolkit which included a logo and the handles including #Make Waves. A Year of the Anacostia web page <https://www.yearoftheanacostia.com> has been developed and will be the clearinghouse for related activities.

**Action/Outcome:** The committee members were invited to participate on the workgroups, update events on the website, and assist with the engagement of more organizations.



## 7. STEERING COMMITTEE BUSINESS

### a. New Initiatives

Mr. Siglin made a motion that partnership officially recognize 2018 as the Year of the Anacostia. The motion was seconded and passed. Mr. Siglin also acknowledged Tara Morrison for her work as the NPS Superintendent for Anacostia Park and her support of the Year of the Anacostia

### b. AWCAC Update,

*Marion Dombroski, AWCAC Chair*

Ms. Dombroski stated that AWCAC is planning on changing its name from the Anacostia Watershed Citizens Advisory Committee to the Anacostia Watershed Community Advisory Committee based on discussions with Adam.

Ms. Dombroski also discussed the watershed survey being done by DOEE (Gretchen Mikeska) to get information on how the river is used; and the Langston Initiative, an effort of the Anacostia Waterfront Trust to restore and manage the Langston Golf Course and other area golf courses owned by NPS.

The construction of a new bridge across the Anacostia at the Arboretum was also mentioned with concerns regarding the view of the river.

### c. Management/Partnership Committee Update

*Phong Trieu, COG*

Mr. Trieu provided a summary of Management Committee 11/28/2018 meeting agenda. He noted that this was the Committees annual "Trash Reduction" topic meeting reporting out on the stream trash monitoring activities and highlighting the jurisdiction's trash reduction efforts. Mr. Trieu also stated that that the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant to funded the Smart Integrated Stormwater Management System has been completed and that the Management Committee should expect a report out at the next meeting. He also highlighted that the Chesapeake Bay Trust project to remove a pavement and plant trees was completed. Finally COG staff partnered with Beltsville Agriculture Research Center and the Anacostia Riverkeeper to hold a "what is in your stream". The event was well attended by potential Paint Branch subwatershed members.

## 8. Adjourn

The Meeting was adjourned at 12:05 pm.



**2017/2018 Meeting Schedule**

<b>Month</b>	<b>Steering Committee**</b>	<b>Management Committee**</b>	<b>AWCAC***</b>
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