



ANACOSTIA WATERSHED COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (AWCAC)

Date:

Tuesday, January 8, 2019
Networking: 7:00 P.M. to 7:30
Meeting: 7:30 P.M. – 9:30 P.M.

Meeting Location:

Bladensburg Waterfront Park
4601 Annapolis Road
Bladensburg, MD 20710
301-779-0371

MEETING SUMMARY

1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Marian Dombroski, AWCAC Chair

2. 2019 LITTER AND TRASH LEGISLATION

Ashley Van Stone, Trash Free Maryland

Ms. Van Stone provided a PowerPoint presentation addressing and preventing trash pollution in Maryland. With both plastic production and usage increasing there has also been a greater understanding of the problem of microplastics. After providing additional MD statistics, she indicated the major 2019 legislative advocacy would be related to a state-wide foam ban. It is helpful to have everyone (even in places with existing bans) a) to engage their representatives, b) engage your peers on the bill and recruit their support, c) sign and share online petitions and content, and/or d) vote with your dollar and discuss with stakeholders. A brief discussion followed, summarized below.

- COG will send out links to members to TFM's website, to access fact sheets and petitions (www.trashfreemaryland.org).
 - The main difference with the proposed ban and that of DC is that the MD ban would not require a recyclable alternative.
 - At least from the shore, Dueling Creek seems to have less Styrofoam.
 - The largest pushback against the ban is the Maryland restaurant association.
 - Illegal dumping is a huge issue for communities.

3. 2019 MARYLAND ENVIRONMENTAL-RELATED LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Ramon Palencia-Calvo, Maryland League of Conservation Voters (MLCV)

Mr. Palencia-Calvo provided a review of two MD environmentally-related 2019 legislative priorities, in addition to the foam ban. First, the is 2019 clean energy jobs act. A broad and diverse coalition of business leaders, public health officials, scientists, labor organizations, faith leaders, social justice advocates and environmentalists have come together to call on Maryland's elected officials to double the state's Renewable Portfolio Standard policy to 50% renewable Electricity by 2030. The focus of this shift should be through focus of funding on sustainable job creation in the renewables sector. This bill also specifically phases out subsidies for waste incineration, which previously counted toward renewable.

The second priority is the healthy green Maryland amendment. Rights embedded in our founding

documents - to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness - are threatened by a damaged environment. Development without consideration of human health is a danger to every Marylander's freedom to enjoy pure water, clean air, and healthy communities now and in the next generation. The Healthy Green Maryland Amendment explicitly protects your right to a healthy environment now and in the future by enshrining it in the state declaration of rights. Other states have enacted such amendments.

To learn more or to join the advocacy list serve, visit: <http://www.mdhcv.org/> .

4. 2019 DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA ENVIRONMENT-RELATED LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Brent Bolin, Clean Water Action

Mr. Bolin explained Clean Water Action's (CWA) background and that it is a grass roots organization that usually works door to door. He added that two additional areas that advocates are working on at the state level in Maryland are 1) fair farms and 2) better regulated septic systems. While not an issue in the Anacostia watershed, septic systems accounts for nine to ten percent of nutrients delivered from Maryland to the Chesapeake Bay.

The District of Columbia Council meets all year. CWA is focused on providing oversight at the budgetary and agency level. CWA approach focuses on providing assistance to agencies to offer advice on subjects such as outreach and coordination. CWA is working with Anacostia Park and Community Collaborative (APACC), a community-based coalition to improve Anacostia River parklands, increase access to parklands for local communities, and create a healthy river adjacent to thriving neighborhoods. A brief discussion followed, summarized below:

- Anticipating holes, for example with outreach approaches, in new agencies plan is needed, as it adds value for everyone. CWA will remain focused on mitigation of toxic soils at Kenilworth Park – formerly a dump, and at Buzzard Point, another toxic site.
- Outreach efforts and restoration plans seem to be disjointed and stop at jurisdictional lines. For example, APACC stops at DC's line and focus' only on NPS lands.

5. CAPITAL TRAILS COALITION UPDATE.

Ursula Sandstrom, WABA

Ms. Sandstrom provided an update on Capital Trails Coalition activities related to the Anacostia Watershed area. The CTC is working to create a world-class network of multi-use trails throughout the Washington D.C. metropolitan region. They have created an online map of anacostia Trails available at <http://capitaltrailscoalition.org/map/> . Encouraging the Transportation Planning Board to approve a trails network goals and working with Prince George's County to adopt their 2018 trail plan are currently two major efforts of the Coalition. This spring CTC will be organizing trail maintenance activities.

AWCAC would like to thank the CTC for promoting our Day of Service events as part of their effort to engage volunteers with stewardship of our trails.

6. AWCAC BUSINESS

Members

- ***Festival Del Rio Outcomes***

Mr. Maynard explained that the 2018 Festival Del Rio Anacostia was a success and pulled in many families for a fun and educational day. All AWCAC organizations are encouraged to

participate in the next Festival. AWCAC would like to thank the following organizations for their participation:

Alice Ferguson Foundation, Anacostia Riverkeeper, Asociación Guatemaltecos Sin Fronteras, Audubon Naturalist Society, AWS, CASA, Cheapeake Bay Foundation, Chesapeake Bay Program/Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, Chispa MD, City Kids Wilderness Project, City of Greenbelt -Public Works, COG/ AWRP, DC Water, DOEE, ecoLatinos, Forest Service International Programs, Friends of Sligo Creek, ICPRB, LAYC, M-NCPPC/PG Parks and Rec, Montgomery Co DOE, Neighbors of the Northwest Branch, NOAA - National Weather Service, Parents from Hyattsville, PG Co DoE, PG CO Master Gardener Program, Smithsonian Anacostia Community Museum, Town of Edmonston, Washington Rowing School, Watkins Nature Center, Birds of Prey, Wilderness Inquiry, WSSC, Year of the Anacostia

- **Partnership Update**

The January Steering Committee meeting was postponed due to the scheduling conflicts and the Federal government shutdown. The Partnership's Watershed Manager, Steve Shofar, has returned to Montgomery County, and the position's future is under consideration by the Steering Committee and COG.

- AWCAC By-law were approved unanimously by the membership. They will be passed to the Steering Committee for approval.
- Ms. Dolly Davis indicated that she has had numerous discussions at the recent trails symposium about possibly linking a trail from the abandoned CSX tracks at Pope Branch to the proposed Shepard trail. Chair Dombroski offered to draft a letter of support if requested.

7. MEMBER UPDATES

- Chair Dombroski indicated the National Capital Planning commission will meet January 10th and discuss the Mag Lev proposals. It is hoped that the commission will take comments on the proposed Arboretum bridge as well. Neither NPS, nor DDoT has requested a follow-up meeting to address the Rowing Community's concerns. Public Hearings, to be held the end of January have been postponed due to the government shutdown.
- Mr. Dennis Chestnut will be submitting a proposal for Flood Risk outreach in the District, and requested letters of support from AWCAC and CWA.
- Ms. Gretchen Mikeska congratulated Mr. Chestnut on his River Network's 2019 River Hero award. She then provided an updated schedule for the Anacostia River Sediment Project, PEPCO site, Kenilworth landfill, and Washington Gas Light (WGL), Navy Yard, and Poplar Point cleanups - see attached schedule. Ms. Mikeska also shared information about DC's straw ban and announced the Stormwater Solutions grant.
- Friends of Sligo Creek are celebrating, with heavy hearts, the retirement of Carol Bergman from Montgomery Parks. She has been an amazing stream advocate over the years.
- Ms. Davis invited members to join her for Pope Branch Park Restoration Alliance's annual MLK Day of Service clean-up event on January 21st. Ms. Dombroski invited members to the MLK Day of Service event to be held at Quincy Point along the Anacostia Riverwalk Trail. This event was co-sponsored by Friends of Quincy Run, the Town of Bladensburg, and the Washington Rowing School.

8. ADJOURN