



**Watershed Advisory Committee (CA-WAC) Meeting
CA Maintenance Facility
9450 Gerwig Lane
7:00 pm 15 November 2016**

Members in Attendance: Dan Kirk-Davidoff, Bob Moynihan, Deborah Wessner, Alan Pflugrad, Ann Coren, John McCoy

Guests: Bess Caplan, Elaine Pardoe

Call to Order at 7:05pm

Agenda was Approved, with modifications to the list of villages needing new representatives

September 2016 Meeting Minutes were Approved, with a correction to Alisa Lovera's name

RESIDENT SPEAK OUT

Elaine, who is no longer a CA resident but still in Howard County, indicates that she is attending the meetings to collect the best insight in how to treat issues she is witnessing near her new residence.

MANAGER'S REPORT

• **MAJOR PROJECTS:**

- The Harper's Glen bioretention facility will be planted this month.
- A water quality issue was reported at Homespun Pond: a significant blue-green algal bloom was discovered. Results of assay testing on samples removed from the pond were not alarming, but this was the first such bloom at Homespun.
- Large 3 lakes are now posted for NO SWIMMING ALLOWED and to note that after .25 inch of rain bacterial counts exceed the standards for the state.
- There is a bio-retention pond being planned for Wilde Lake at the end of Snowy Reach near the tot lot. The Center for Watershed Protection is doing the design.

• **RESIDENTIAL PROJECTS:**

- 46 rain gardens installed in 2016, for a total of 276 thus far.
- Rain garden building will be paused for the winter in the next week.
- The newly awarded grant of \$525K has been received that will allow another 120 rain gardens and 4 bio-retention facilities built. This grant covers both the Little and Middle Patuxent residential properties.

• **COMMUNITY OUTREACH:** During October

- CA took part of the first Earth Forum for this year,
- Rain Garden tour conducted for the Watershed Stewards Academy
- Staff supported Howard Sustainability Day at Howard Community College on Oct 17
- Staff addressed the recent EXCITE COLUMBIA program on Open Space and Watershed, October 10

- There was a weed pull conducted on Oct 9, in Wilde Lake.
- **BOARD/STAFF INTERACTION:**
 - Adding of goose eggs on CA property has been approved by the CA Board
 - Residents at Dannon Garth Pond have been told they may not mow to the edge of the pond since CA is introducing a vegetative buffer to protect the pond. The staff has determined not to use air compressor based circulation because the cost is considered too high.
 - An estimate was provided to the CA Board for 19 wet ponds regarding the maintenance for 378 NRCS compliance. The cost was \$5.8M over 10 years. Staff will be putting forward budget request each year for the funding.
 - CA staff is trying to get the County to re-open the Murray Hill material placement site. Unfortunately no residents attended the meeting held at Amherst House. The next meeting will be with the Planning or Zoning Board.
 - CA Staff are monitoring the scheduled deer hunts being conducted on CA (as well as Howard County) property.

BUSINESS

RECRUITING: It was noted that the CA WAC has open positions for River Hill, Harper's Choice, Dorseys Search and the Member-at-Large. Jeremy Scharfenberg is no longer permitted to be a rep from Harper's Choice due to possible conflict of interest with his position as a staff member of CA. Bess Caplan will be the rep from Wilde Lake after approval by the CA Board. Ann is still seeking a replacement for herself as the rep for Owen Brown.) John will contact Lauren, the RH WAC chair, about finding a rep from River Hill. Deborah will contact WSA about possible stewards who are members of the other communities.

NEXT MEETING: It was requested that Jane Dembner be invited to speak about the Open Space study

COMMITTEE ACTION:

- An approach to enact the following motion was discussed:

MOTION: The CA-WAC will consider developing a set of guidelines for the CA WAC representatives to take to their village boards to enlighten the community understanding of invasive species and provide recommendations for promoting native plants. The activity should be coordinated with the activities of the CA's Landscape Architect.

- John brought up the Reston approach to stop the planting of certain invasives.
 - Ann injected that Owen Brown board rejected her suggestions last year.
 - Dan suggested that we limit the suggestions we offer to a few sentences.
 - Alan offered that we not propose changes to specific guidelines but instead just offer suggested modifications to each RAC and let them make the specific modifications.
 - Dan will take the first approach to devising a set of suggested language we can use before the next meeting.
- An update was requested on CA plans for Forest Stewardship to determine any steps the CAWAC will take on the previous motion.

MOTION: The CA-WAC will consider ways in which we might promote open space stewardship based on the Forest Stewardship information and any CA plans to support it.

- John shared that staff is still working with the University of Maryland PALS (Partnership for Action Learning in Sustainability) program to address 5 acre plans, as well as approaches with community outreach for smaller plots. Thus far, CA staff is working with READY to plant new 1" trees to replace an equivalent volume of older trees that are cut down on CA property due to hazards they may cause. John will send the CA WAC members a copy of the material from the interaction with University of Maryland.
- **ELECTION OF A VICE CHAIR** was deferred until the next meeting.

VILLAGE REPORTS

- OWEN BROWN: Ann is determining if she will continue as rep and is looking for a replacement. She reported on successful interaction with the state health department who will come and advise about mosquito control on residential properties.
- KINGS CONTRIVANCE: The Village-wide watershed management seminar and stream cleanup were very successful activities engaging over 80 members of the community and resulting in significant amounts of debris being removed from the stream and adjacent areas. There are a number of requests from residents for watershed assessments which will be handled by the Watershed Stewards.
- TOWN CENTER: The Village manager and Covenant advisor are very happy that the CA WAC is going to be offering suggestions to improve RAC guidelines.
- OAKLAND MILLS: CA and County-sponsored planning absorbing a lot of board time. There has been one full year of watering the plants installed at OM Interfaith Center. This may need to continue next year.
- WILDE LAKE: RAC guidelines have recently been revised to account for including native plants and avoiding invasives. To honor the 50th anniversary the WL Village Board has purchased 50 trees to provide to WL residents to plant in the spring.

HICKORY RIDGE: Plans for the HRV WAC projects for the year have been provided and approved by the HR Village Board including: Storm Water Drain Stenciling, a native plant sale/giveaway in spring with plants being grown by the WAC from native seeds, a turf seminar for residents in late winter, a pull and plant in spring, a stream cleanup in spring in conjunction with the CA cleanup, and a rain garden walk/tour in early summer.

NEXT MEETING - will be on Tuesday evening January 10 2017

FUTURE MEETINGS – Tuesday, March 14, 2017

Tuesday May 9, 2017

Tuesday, July 11, 2017