



**Watershed Advisory Committee (CA-WAC) Meeting
CA Maintenance Facility
9450 Gerwig Lane
7:00 pm September 13 2016**

Members in Attendance: Dan Kirk-Davidoff, Bob Moynihan, Tim Titus, Deborah Wessner, Jeremy Scharfenberg, John McCoy

Guests: Jan Clark, Bess Caplan, Alisa Lovera, Elaine Pardoe

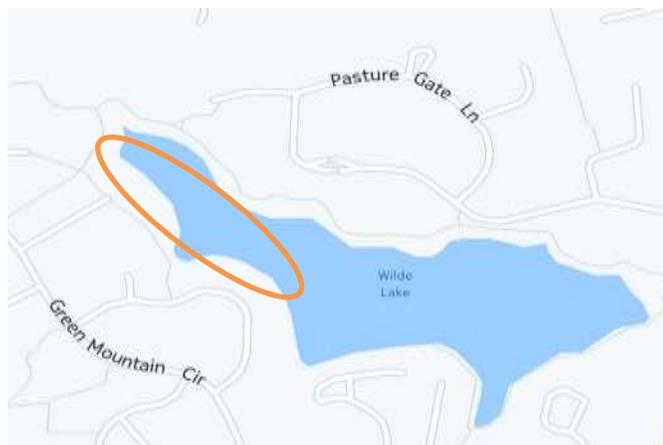
Call to Order at 7pm

Agenda Approved as Written

July 2016 Meeting Minutes Approved as Written

RESIDENT SPEAK OUT

1. Bess Caplan, on behalf of Wilde Lake's CARES committee, requested the CA-WAC to assist in determining the best approach to **address Wilde Lake residents' main environmental concern: the Lake, and particularly the significant erosion that is impacting the lake's shoreline** as well as trees falling into the lake. Resident Alisa Lovera confirmed she has seen a loss of about 1 foot of depth at the shoreline since she moved in a year ago.
 - John McCoy indicated that an environmental survey of the Lake was conducted 3 years ago. Based on what was discovered **a three phase approach was developed to address the erosion on the northwest corner of the lake** (Catterskill Ct and Waterfowl Terrace). John pointed out that some resident properties have lost as much as 12 feet depth at the shoreline while others have gained some shoreline. The erosion is due in part to storm water, especially following the most recent dredging that allowed heavy stream inflow, but also due to lake wave action (waves can get as high as 1 foot.)



- **Phase 1 will implement a living shoreline** (toe and bench) on one resident's property to address the existing erosion and any future effects from wave energy. **Unfortunately the phase is on hold until CA determines a new site to store the dredged material from CA lakes.**

- **Phases 2 and 3 will be done in the future to arrest the toeline erosion at several other properties**, however living shoreline is unlikely to be used due the significant dropoff from the property to the lakebed. John also believes that residents will need to adjust their approach to shoreline vegetation to help thwart future erosion.
 - John indicated that **the other side of the lake is unlikely to be remediated** as it is rocky and does not provide a shallow water habitat.
 - **The CA-WAC members suggested that a meeting be sponsored by CARES to let the community understand the plans for the area.** (John indicated that a previous meeting was held but it was 3 years ago.) This would also provide an opportunity for CARES to support the suggestion that appropriate vegetation be planted to preserve the shoreline, perhaps using a grant to develop a brochure for residents. Further the CARES website should incorporate some of the information shared at the meeting for residents to view.
 - Another CA-WAC member suggested that **additional WSA storm water assessments could be offered to homeowners to slow the flow of water from the top of their property** instead of letting it add to the erosion. John indicated that some of the projects done over the past two years had been very successful (rain gardens, downspout diversion).
 - Living shoreline examples were suggested for residents to look at: on Lake Kittamaquondi as well as at Herrington Harbor in Anne Arundel County
2. Previous Columbia resident Elaine Pardoe is now living at Miller's Grant in Howard County. Elaine suggested that there may be an opportunity in spring for the CA-WAC to visit and see the storm water mitigation efforts implemented by the builder on the Miller's Grant property.

GUEST REPORT

3. Jan Clark, CA Landscape Architect, provided insight into the new target that the Landscaping group of **CA is working on: a communication program to inform residents about invasive plants.** In discussion with John McCoy about the activities of contractors and Weed Warriors it was discovered that over \$50,000 per year is being spent on removing invasives ... money that could be used on other projects to support the Columbia villages. Jan shared a brochure from Reston that they are considering replicating for Columbia residents, showing photos and information on invasive plants.
- **CA-WAC members thought a brochure was a good idea, and suggested minor improvements** including: contrast each invasive with a native that could be used instead; assure the brochure was very close to the size of the Reston one, since the photos would truly help residents identify invasive plants; find a more impressive adjective for "native" plants since "invasive" is so dramatically descriptive.
 - John McCoy suggested that there is **a new study just completed by Maryland DNR that provides a set of maps about the vegetative content of the villages.** These would be helpful to alert each village about the type of invasive plants to be watchful for and to avoid adding to landscapes. Tim requested that the CA-WAC members receive copies of the maps so they could write articles for the village newsletters about the local issues.
 - It was noted that the **bamboo around Jackson Pond had been removed.**
 - It was requested that **CA could plant more examples of native gardens as part of open space properties**, to serve as examples to residents.
 - It was suggested that **CA erect signage on these type of gardens, as well as in areas where bamboo and other noticeable invasives were removed**, would be helpful to inform residents.

MANAGER'S REPORT

- **The Harper's Glen** construction has been completed, however planting of the site will wait until we get cooler weather. One half acre of bamboo was removed and the contractor will control that invasive for another 18 months.
- **The Fannon Court pathway edge withstood the large storm at the end of July.** Other facilities held up as well.
- **The Dannon Garth pond sustained a massive algae bloom** in mid-summer which was treated (under MDE permit) with Green Clean. The pond is now filled with duckweed (see photo).
- **CA is investigating the use of solar-powered compressors** which would aerate pond/lake water, but wants to ensure they are placed where they would not be subject to vandalism nor be an eyesore. Cost is high, but it may offset/prolong the maintenance cycle on the ponds.
- **Rain gardens continue to be built** with 30 more done this summer for a total of 260 gardens. A change in the approach to gardens will require homeowners to pay \$10/foot for connecting downspouts into the garden. Village Gardeners won the contract to continue providing the rain garden installation.
- **The pond assessment survey has been completed** with estimates on the costs to continue maintain the ponds, roughly \$5-6M. The CA Board now wants not only an estimate for maintaining a wet pond, but also an estimate for what it would take to let each pond revert to a dry pond.
- **CA is trying to get the County to re-open the Murray Hill dredge dump site.** A meeting scheduled for residents of the area has been postponed until October 17 at Amherst House.
- **The last of the concept plans (LERRI20), a stream restoration at Dobbin and Oakland Mills, has been re-designed** and it is now possible that the county will implement it, with CA providing a portion of the funding.
- **The county has agreed to implement three of their planned projects** for TMDL inclusion, stream restorations in Owen Brown, River Hill and Dorsey Search villages.
- **The goose-egg addling motion adopted at the previous meeting will be relayed to the CA Board in late winter**, before action would need to occur in early spring.

NEW BUSINESS

The following motions were adopted by consensus of the members present:

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.

Deborah will provide an outline for the next meeting.

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.

ELECTION OF A VICE CHAIR was deferred until the next meeting.

NEW CA-WAC MEMBERS for Dorsey Search and River Hill still need to be found. Deborah will contact Terry Matthews to see if any of the WSA members or candidates might be from the villages and would be interested to serve. Deborah is awaiting village board approval to replace Brian England as the Hickory Ridge representative. Bess will be taking action with the village board to provide a candidate from Wilde Lake.

GOAL SETTING was deferred to a future meeting

VILLAGE REPORTS

LONG REACH: Tim Titus indicated that staffing the new village WAC is proving difficult. He also said the village board has indicated they will simply monitor the activities of the new Open Space committee.

OAKLAND MILLS: Dan reported that the village open space committee had not met recently and asked that John provide anything they should be watching. John indicated that while funding for the dredging of the forebays for Pushcart and the Bowl had been approved, the work was on hold until after the pond assessment was completed and until after he presented the CA Board with any options to let the ponds be decommissioned.

HARPERS CHOICE: Jeremy reported to the village board on the Harper's Glen activities and was well-received by the board and a resident who was appreciative of the bamboo being removed.

TOWN CENTER: Bob asked if the board should be advised of any watershed activity there. John indicated that State Highways is considering mitigating storm water flows into the stream from Wilde Lake to Lake Kittamaqundi. Also the Howard Hughes Foundation is restoring the stream in the Crescent area near Merriweather, on property that will be deeded to CA when the Crescent is completed. The work is being done by Bio-Habitats.

NEXT MEETING - will be on Tuesday evening November 15 2016

NOTES: Members were reminded of the WIN (Watershed Improvement Network) semi-annual networking event on Sept 22 from 11am-1pm at the Miller Library. Jim Caldwell will be giving a talk on the Ellicott City flood event.