

**Watershed Advisory Committee Meeting  
CA Maintenance Facility at 9450 Gerwig Lane  
7:00 pm January 10 2017**

**Call to Order at 7:03**

**Attendees included:** Dan Kirk-Davidoff (Chair), Bess Caplan, John McCoy, Tim Titus, Bob Moynihan, Alan Pflugrad, Deborah Wessner

**Guest:** Elaine , Howard County resident, Former CLEER Chair

**The Agenda** was approved with minor modifications to the list of new members needed and the removal of the speaker for the meeting. Jane Dembner could not attend, and it was suggested that she might join us (in March?) following her compilation and assessment of current Open Space plans and her report to the Board.

**November 2016 Meeting Minutes** were approved by consensus.

**Resident Speakout**

Elaine Pardoe reports from Howard County, outside Columbia, that she is a volunteer on the newly formed Landscaping Committee at Miller's Grant. They have already installed some native plants on the property and will be looking at ways to control stormwater on the 50 acre property as it currently feeds downhill to Old Ellicott City where the flood occurred in July.

**Manager's Report - John McCoy**

**CAPITAL PROJECTS:**

- Long Look is scheduled to start construction this month.
- A bid has been accepted to begin work on the first wier at Jackson Pond.
- There is a bid out for the first phase of restoring Wilde Lake by installing a wetland bench to correct the shoreline erosion on the northwestern shore where a stream enters the lake.
- A number of projects on streams leading to the Little and Middle Patuxent are going to be on hold to allow for fish spawns to occur in the springtime.
- A design has been prepared for the bio-retention facility near the tot lot at Wilde Lake and Running Brook, but it needs to be adjusted to avoid the use of fencing.

**RESIDENTIAL PROJECTS:**

- John will be performing assessments for new requested Rain Gardens starting again in February, made possible due the influx of additional grant funding. John provided a summary of all the rain gardens that have been installed under the Cost Share Program. (below)

Cost Share Rain gardens installed by Year and Village

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	
DS	0	4	7	5	22	38
WL	11	11	11	12	2	47
HC	0	2	5	4	5	16
OM	1	6	6	5	2	20
TC	0	2	0	0	0	2
LR	3	14	11	16	4	48
HR	0	20	25	7	5	57
OB	9	10	5	7	8	39
KC	0	2	3	6	8	19
	24	71	73	62	56	<b>286</b>

COMMUNITY OUTREACH:

- John presented the draft Open Space brochure for a quick view by the members. It is still undergoing approvals within CA management and is intended to be produced in small book/brochure.
- Jan’s draft foldout brochure on invasives was passed among the members. It will be available to residents in the future and features a “plant this not that” format. There is no timeline for the printing of the brochure as it is still under review within CA staff.
- There is an application available for residents who want to remove invasives from CA Open Space. They need to have approval from CA and someone who is trained as a weed warrior to do any planting or plant removal work in Open Space. Alternatively, a group can request CA to lead the activity.
- The scheduled public meeting for the sediment retention facility location in King’s Contrivance was poorly attended. The facility has been used in the past to contain the sediment dredged from CA’s ponds and lakes. Currently the Howard County Planning Board has placed the development/use of the Murray Hill sediment site on their agenda for review and public comment.
- There are two Weed Warrior courses proposed for spring 2017. John will provide dates to the members as soon as they are established.

**Election of Vice Chair** – It was decided that we will forego having a named Vice Chair for now.

**Recruiting New Members (Dorsey Search, Owen Brown, Harper’s Choice, River Hill, Wilde Lake)** – We are still in need of members from these villages. Tim will ask at the invasive plant meeting at Belmont (Jan 23) for anyone who might be interested.

### **Committee Action - Improving RAC guidelines:**

Jan Clark provided a list of items in village guidelines mentioning landscaping or invasives. See attached spreadsheet.

Minor modifications were made by the members to the proposed guidelines. A motion was made, and agreed, to send the draft recommendations to Jan Clark for her review and to allow each of the members of the WAC to take these recommendations to their village manager in draft format and discuss how to best present/incorporate/publish them locally following any feedback from Jan.

### **Village Reports/Input**

- Deborah-Hickory Ridge- The Village WAC has a number of projects planned for spring and the current focus is on planting seeds to grow native plants to give away to residents at a spring event.
- Alan- Kings Contrivance – The Village WAC Annual report was provided to the Board in writing and little feedback was received. Unfortunately there is a low level of citizen interest being shown in the committee and there is a need for more and active volunteers to develop and carry out projects.
- Tim- Long Reach- There is still some difficulty getting citizen interest in the WAC. The Village Board may be open to more activity in this area now that the focus on the village center ownership and redevelopment has been moved under Howard County ownership.
- Dan- Oakland Mills – Next week is their first meeting of the year.
- Bob M - Town Center – The committee in this village is currently a committee of one. This is a different type of village, with few single family residences. The developers/owners of the large apartment and condominium properties get oversight from local, state and Federal environmental reviews. It was suggested that Bob focus on community education, perhaps by enlightening the community about the water and wildlife opportunities and concerns around Lake Kittamaqundi.
- Bess Caplan - Wilde Lake – The Wilde Lake CARES group is planning an event for Wilde Lake's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. They plan to give 50 residents native trees to plant on their properties. The group is looking for support to assist residents who may not know how or need help in planting the trees. A plant exchange is scheduled for April 29<sup>th</sup>. On April 24<sup>th</sup> a community meeting will be held to discuss/inform residents about Wilde Lake. Bess is looking for suggestions for speakers who have in-depth or historical knowledge of Wilde Lake.

**Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, March 14th, 2017**

## **Suggested Guidelines for Watershed-friendly Landscaping**

**Please use Maryland Native Plants for your landscapes** whenever possible. Once established these plants require little maintenance, establish deep root systems that hold soil in place, decrease the amount of water needed for landscape maintenance and provide food and habitat for native wildlife. Many Maryland native plants also produce beautiful foliage and flowers. A list of native plants for Maryland's Piedmont region, where Columbia is located, can be found at <https://www.nps.gov/plants/pubs/Chesapeake/pdf/chesapeakenatives.pdf>.

**Please avoid planting invasive species** including commonly seen Bradford Pear, Norway maple, Butterfly Bush, Japanese Barberry, Daylilies, English Ivy, Burning Bush, Bamboo and Periwinkle. Invasive plants are easily spread by wind, seed and root expansion, and often choke out native plants, kill trees and can damage buildings. For a complete list of Maryland invasive plants see [http://mdinvasivesp.org/list\\_terrestrial\\_plants.html](http://mdinvasivesp.org/list_terrestrial_plants.html).

**Please keep your grassy areas neatly trimmed**, but avoid giving them a "buzz cut." Just mow your grass to a 3" height. This height will allow your grass to grow a strong root system and control erosion of your soil. Consider replacing grassy areas with deeper-rooted native shrubs.

**Avoid over-fertilizing.** If possible let your grass clippings lie on the lawn, where they provide nutrients to the growing grass and can reduce fertilizer costs. Maryland provides guidance on fertilizing at [http://mda.maryland.gov/resource\\_conservation/Documents/fertilizerwebpage.pdf](http://mda.maryland.gov/resource_conservation/Documents/fertilizerwebpage.pdf).