

Watershed Advisory Committee
Minutes September 12, 2017

Attendees:

WAC Board: Deborah Wessner (HR), Bess Caplan (WL), Sheila Robinson (OM), Alan Pflugrad (KC), Bob Moynihan (TC), Tim Titus (LR), Bill Cain (OB), John McCoy(CA)
Residents: Elaine Pardoe (Emerita), Geoff Klopp (TC), Iris Mars (HR)

Board Chair, Deborah Wessner, convened the meeting at 7:04pm at the CA Maintenance Facility. A quorum was present. Tim Titus served as *ad hoc* secretary.

Approval of agenda: The agenda was approved.

The President welcomed new faces to the meeting: Bill Cain, the new WAC representative from Owen Brown, Geoff Klopp Town Center guest, and Iris Mars, Hickory Ridge guest.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes for the July 2017 meeting were tabled. Bob Moynihan will compile the inspection trip report from that meeting and submit it at the November meeting.

Speak Out: Geoff Klopp asked about the availability of CBT grants which generated a short discussion of the CBT granting process. He also expressed his concern about the large amount of trash and the presence of English Ivy vines in Town Center and what might be done about them. The group discussed community trash clean up events, and John talked about the Weed Warrior program inviting Geoff to come to the fall training. John will provide the WAC with the next date for Weed Warrior training as soon as it is decided.

Manager's Report:

- The Open Space Assessment Report dated April 2017 is available on the CA web site. <https://d2814gcejiq38s.cloudfront.net/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/OpenSpaceAssessmentReportFinal.pdf>
- The January 13, 2015 Water Quality Report and the Versar 2009 Columbia Watershed Management Plan are available at: <https://www.columbiaassociation.org/watershed-management/watershed-reports-plans/>
- Fifteen thousand copies of the CA brochure "Exploring Open Space" are available for distribution. WAC members are encouraged to hand out copies at events and alert their village boards about the brochure. Copies can be picked up at the CA maintenance facility on Gerwig Lane.
- CA Staff have prepared a spreadsheet inventory of 205 storm water facilities on CA property. The matrix includes location, type of facility, and who is

responsible for maintenance. John will sort the inventory by village and make it available to WAC members.

- **Wet and Dry Ponds:** John McCoy explained the concepts of wet and dry bio-retention facilities. The CA Board has been concerned about the amount of funds that need to be available for pond renovation. Considering the number of ponds that are required to be assessed and renovated each year, John indicated that when the design and reconstruction of a “wet pond” facility exceeds \$100,000, both that plan and a construction plan for a “dry pond” at the same location will be presented to the CA Board for decision.
- **CA Budget:** The budgets for operations and capital projects are prepared on a two-year timeframe. Watershed improvements for 2018 and 2019 are being prepared by CA staff for presentation to the CA Board for approval. WAC members are encouraged to familiarize themselves with both budgeted and needed projects in their village and to consult with their village boards about watershed projects that should be included and/or supported in the budget.
- **Ponds:** Below is a partial list of pond sedimentation projects being considered in the proposed two year budget:
 - Dam above Prophecy Place (LR) (aka Waiting Springs (?))
 - Patriot (LR)
 - Bowl (?)
 - Homespun (OB)
 - Proudfoot (HC)
 - Donnelly, across from Touche Touchet (KC)
 - Eaglebeak (LR)
 - Whetstone (WL)
 - Honey Laden (OB)
 - Elkhorn forebay (OB)
 - Elliot’s Oak (WL)
 - Footed Ridge (LR)
 - White Cord (HR)
 - Hickory Limb (OB)
- **TMDL RfP:** CA has agreed to provide an easement and has responded to a State Highway Administration (SHA) RfP to offset 100,000 feet (almost 19 miles) of stream sediment control. The RfP seeks to mediate SHA sediment requirements under the TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load).
- **CA Watershed Management Plan:** The plan is available on the web and the WAC will continue to monitor implementation of the plan.
- **Open Space:** To learn more about Weed Warriors, lawn soil testing, and the rain garden cost share program check out <https://www.columbiaassociation.org/watershed-management/> or send an email to OpenSpace.ResourceRequests@ColumbiaAssociation.org

New Opportunities for Watershed Improvements: Deborah outlined what WAC members can do to advance watershed management in Columbia.

- Keep your village board informed about Open Space projects and activities related to the watershed areas in/impacting your village
- Identify areas in your village that may need improvement/reconstruction and elevate to your village board if funding or prioritization of actions should be requested. (It was noted that discussion with John about the nature of the improvement may be required in advance of elevating the area to the village board.)
- Monitor the CA Website
- Recruit village members and activities and encourage participation.
Deborah will contact the village managers for River Hill, Harper's Choice and Dorsey's Search about posting an article to seek village representatives before the next meeting.

Village Reports:

- Wilde Lake (Bess)
 - The Wilde Lake meeting in August was well attended with over 100 guests and deemed a success. Bess moderated a panel that included John McCoy to talk about water issues in the WL area.
 - WL has partnered with Lori Lilly (Lori Lilly Solutions) in applying for a Chesapeake Bay Trust (CBT) community restoration grant. The application addresses conservation landscaping, rain gardens, and water mediation projects at four HOAs (Home Owner Associations) in WL.
 - WL has scheduled a fall clean up on October 21, 2017 at a location to be determined.
 - The WL budget request to CA includes a bio-retention project in Faulkner Ridge and floating wetlands on Wilde Lake.
- Kings Contrivance (Alan) Interest is waning on the village WAC, and there are only a few members still active. Several HOAs and individuals have received WSA assessments. Macroinvertebrate assessments in cooperation with Streamwatch and MD Waders are being indexed by MD DNR. CA paid for the lab analysis. KC team also worked outside of their village in OB, Deering Woods, and Swansfield.
- Town Center (Bob) Bob is working to generate interest as Town Center is involved in many new construction projects.
- Long Reach (Tim) Tim will lead a Weed Warrior event above Jackson Pond in October. The CA Tennis Center is 50% complete and the LR Village Center will undergo major reconstruction and renovation over the next two years. Tim will staff the Jackson Pond site during the CA BikeAbout and hand out Exploring Open Space brochures.
- Oakland Mills (Sheila) Sheila is thinking about a "Pull and Plant" event this fall.
- Owen Brown (Bill) OB will hold its Lake Fest in September.

- Hickory Ridge (Deborah) A village stream cleanup is scheduled in Clemens Crossing for October 14. HR received a CBT grant for storm drain signage. HR is continuing to perform WSA watershed assessments, scheduling a “Pull and Plant” event, and is providing signage for their demonstration garden at the village center office. The village WAC is performing street “walkabouts” to identify common themes for watershed improvement which can be explained in the village newsletter or even developed into informational door hang tags.

Meeting schedule: the WAC meets the second Tuesday of odd numbered months. So the next meeting will be on November 14, 2017. WAC will revisit the meeting day and time to accommodate individual schedules and minimize conflicts with other meetings. WAC members are asked to come prepared for this discussion in November.