

Watershed Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
CA Maintenance Facility 9450 Gerwig Lane
May 13 2019

The meeting was called to order at 7:06pm by Chair Deborah Wessner.

The proposed agenda was approved by consensus of those present.

In attendance: CA WAC representatives from every village* ; the CA Board Liaison, Shari Zaret; Susan Tucker was present on behalf of Wilde Lake Village (possible replacement for Bess who is leaving the CAWAC); and Elaine Pardoe(former CAWAC member)

Approval of the minutes from the March meeting was postponed since all members had not received/read the minutes.

During Resident Speak-out a comment was made about how lovely the yellow iris at Lake Elkhorn look this year. John McCoy indicated that the species is, unfortunately, an invasive plant and will be difficult to eradicate.

A presentation was made by Sara Via from the CA Climate Change and Sustainability Committee. The report was an abbreviated version of what she has provided to each village Board identifying the attitude of Howard County residents toward the concept of Climate Change and providing some statistics on how current practices are impacting the climate. The village boards have been very receptive to the presentation. Copies of the presentation will be mailed to each CAWAC representatives after the meeting. CAWAC members suggested that Sara and her colleagues

- provide the presentation to realtors in Howard County to assure that they understand the impacts of development on the climate;
- develop or circulate existing videos on measurable climate change impacts via the net and public TV

John McCoy presented the CA Watershed Manager's Report.

- The staff are participating in the series of walks Explore Columbia on Foot. CAWAC members were encouraged to attend these.
- Villages are hosting the staff talks on Bugs That Bite.
- The staff hosted a table at Greenfest that was well-attended.
- A tree planting was held at Wilde Lake, along with pulling a number of invasive species.
- CA is supporting the CEI grant-funded initiative to establish pollinator gardens.
- He noted that the budget for fiscal 2020 has been approved and will move forward with the following projects:
 - **Continued stabilization of Wilde Lake shoreline**
 - **Jackson Pond Weir construction**
 - **Proud Foot reconstruction as wetland stream (in conjunction with Howard County)**
 - **Grading and reconstruction of the sand pit at the CA maintenance facility**
 - **Dorsey Hall Pool bio-retention reconstruction for parking lot runoff**
 - **Building a bioswale at Deering Woods**
 - **Improving the bio-retention at the Lakeside dock at Lake Elkhorn**
- Responses to an RFP are being evaluated to allow private environmental companies to perform restoration on many CA storm streams in return for granting them the ability to sell TMDL credits to other Maryland areas (counties?) to meet their own requirements by the established Federal deadlines.
- CA Rain Garden funding is still in need of new grants money. Applications have already been made but

turned down to previous grantors (Chesapeake Trust Fund and Coastal Bays Trust), and a possible grant is being sought from National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

Shari Zaret encouraged CAWAC members to send her their ideas for Watershed actions that should be included in the CA Strategic Objectives. Ideas that surfaced at the meeting during discussion included reducing CA's Open Space turf mowing by planting meadows; encouraging villages to modify RAC guidelines to allow alternatives to turf lawns; investigating approaches to re-vegetate stream sides to stabilize them and thwart erosion that encroaches on resident properties.

Iris Mars from Hickory Ridge presented the results of a CA Rain Garden Survey and encouraged other village representatives to conduct similar surveys and assist residents with maintenance of their rain gardens. The maintenance guidelines developed in Hickory Ridge will be forwarded to all CAWAC members.

A discussion was held among the CAWAC members on the establishment of either watershed advisory committees or environment committees at each village. There have been mixed results, with strong committees at River Hill, Hickory Ridge and Wilde Lake but other village boards who have not warmed to the idea.

Tim Titus indicated he is still requesting ideas to be documented on projects/seminars and other outreach events being conducted in each village so we can compile a set of guidelines for all villages to use. Deborah provided a graphic of Maryland's Statewide Annual Precipitation since 1895 as a tool that might be used in outreach to residents.

Each village representative was requested to bring/send reports on the watershed events being conducted in their areas to share with others on the committee.

Next Meeting: Monday July 15

***CAWAC Representatives:**

At Large – John Klein
Columbia Town Center – Bob Moynihan
Dorsey Search – Janine Grossman
Harper's Choice – Norman LaSalle (missing)
Hickory Ridge -Deborah Wessner
Kings Contrivance – Gail Holm
Oakland Mills - OPEN
Owen Brown - Chris Price
River Hill – Cara Heilveil
Thunder Hill – Tim Titus
Wilde Lake – Bess Caplan