

Watershed Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
CA Maintenance Facility 9450 Gerwig Lane
Sep 9 2019

The meeting was called to order at 7:08pm by Chair Deborah Wessner.

The proposed agenda was approved by consensus of those present.

In attendance: CA WAC representatives and possible new representatives from villages listed below*.

Approval of the minutes from the July meeting was postponed since they had not been distributed to all members. They will be distributed before the next meeting.

The group welcomed new members (yet to be approved by CA Board) Mandy Elder and Bud Hunt.

No members of the public were in attendance for Resident Speakout.

The liaison from the CA WAC to the Climate and Sustainability Advisory Committee was not in attendance and did not submit a written report. The Chair will request he send a written report to this committee before the next meeting.

John McCoy presented the CA Watershed Manager's Report.

- John indicated that CA staff members are keeping a close watch on ponds to assure the blue-green algae (Mycrocystis) which has plagued other communities does not impact our pond water. Often there is algae and duck weed in the ponds but thus far it is not the deadly type of algae. (see related article at <https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Pressroom/Pages/545.aspx>)
- John showed a film clip about the live fresh water mussel that the CA staff found during underwater grass mowing. In the past the shells have been found but no one had found a live mussel. John and Danielle are maintaining the mussel in a tank in their office while seeking the state waivers to allow them to keep it and nurture it. They are discussing the possibility of cultivating these mussels in the CA ponds/lakes. Mussels are filter feeders that clarify the water as they eat (see a timelapse of mussels cleaning seawater at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vrEyHo3SuZI>) and an article on Mussel farming at https://e360.yale.edu/features/how_mussel_farming_help_to_clean_fouled_waters)
- John clarified the difference between the CA Capital Improvement and Operating budgets (two separate items) and noted that only the 2021-22 Capital Budget was being reviewed by the Board at present.
- John identified that the current items expected to be submitted for the 2021-22 Capital Budget Request include:
 - **Dredging for Lake Elkhorn**
 - **Dredging for Pushcart Pond**
 - **Dredging for Jackson Pond (out to the island)**
 - **Dredging and Repair of the Elkhorn Forebay (repair to the berm below is not included)**
 - **Dredging of Lake Kittamaquidi**
 - **Continued stabilization of Wilde Lake shoreline**
- Responses to the RFP (Mitigation Banking Program) are still being evaluated to allow private environmental companies to perform restoration on some CA storm streams in return for granting them the ability to sell TMDL credits to other Maryland areas (counties?). This would allow the other counties to meet their own requirements by the established Federal deadlines.

- John clarified that the 2020 project to clean and re-establish the stream that runs below White Cord Way in Hickory Ridge is still expected to be done by Howard County in exchange for an easement on the property. Discussion about who will be responsible for ongoing maintenance is still underway. No additional funds are being requested from CA Board other than those already included in the 2020 budget.
- John clarified that the Donleigh Pond (near Allview and below the Kings Contrivance community) was completed in 2018.
- 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.

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.

Each village representative present reported on activities in their village relevant to watershed education and outreach. River Hill announced a Pull and Plant to be held October 13 (10am til noon) and welcomed assistance. Oakland Mills announced Plant Exchange to be sponsored by CA on October 19 . Owen Brown Village Board is discussing additional tree planting and trash mitigation events. Owen Brown raised an issue to John to investigate the drainage off the dock at Lake Elkhorn since some of their residents believe that water is being captured on the dock creating a potential for slippery surface (especially if there is overnight freezing.) Another request raised was the possibility of CA planting additional trees along the edge of Hopewell Park since residents are parking there during swim season. Hickory Ridge announced a seminar on climate-friendly landscaping to be held on September 16 (7pm, Hawthorne Center) and a Recycling seminar to be held in October or November and a Pull and Plant (date TBD) being held with CA providing plants.

A discussion was held among members and a decision was reached that the **Next Meeting will be Monday Nov 11 (Veteran's Day)** since CA facility will be open.

***CAWAC Representatives (those who were present are in BOLD):**

At Large – John Klein

Columbia Town Center – Bob Moynihan

Dorsey Search – Janine Grossman

Harper's Choice – OPEN

Hickory Ridge -Deborah Wessner

Kings Contrivance – Gail Holm

Oakland Mills - OPEN

Owen Brown - Chris Price

River Hill – Cara Heilveil

Thunder Hill – Proposed Member(s) Mandy Elder and Bud Hunt

Wilde Lake – Susan Tucker