

**Minutes**  
**CA Watershed Advisory Committee**  
**March 3, 2009**  
**FINAL**

The regular meeting of the Watershed Advisory Committee (WAC) was called to order on Tuesday, March 3, 2009, at 7:05 pm in the Board Room at Columbia Association Headquarters. In attendance were Members Robert Schweinfurth (Chair), Mark Charles (Vice Chair), Jane Dembner, Monica Schmitt, Sylvia Huestis, Jeff Campbell, Brian England, Atal Eralp, Debbie Cappuccitti (arrived 7:15pm). Also in attendance for Columbia Association were Sean Harbaugh (Staff Liaison), Steve Sattler, Jan Clark and Antoinette Eckstrom.

**Watershed Advisory Committee Charter and Officer Elections**

Sattler had the WAC members review the WAC Charter, especially "Goals" and asked the committee if they understood the responsibilities. Not present at this time were Mateya, Cappuccitti and Gard.

**Officer Elections**

Harbaugh asked for nominations from the committee for WAC Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary. Dembner nominated Schweinfurth to continue as Chair and England seconded the nomination. The paper vote was 5-1-2 for Schweinfurth to continue as Chair of the WAC. Schweinfurth nominated Charles for Vice Chair, and Charles declined the nomination. Eralp nominated England for Vice Chair. Schweinfurth seconded the nomination. The paper vote was 8-0-1 for England to assume the Vice Chair position. Charles abstained.

Cappuccitti arrived at 7:15pm and in time for the vote.

There were no nominations for Secretary. That position will fall to CA Staff.

Eralp asked Sattler if there was a reason for the earlier review of the Charter. Sattler wanted to clarify the role of the WAC. England asked if the WAC could be kept in the loop with any issues.

**Approval of Agenda**

Harbaugh asked to add Lake Elkhorn stabilization project under Future Agenda Items. England asked to add the review of Brendon Donegan's book "Sediment and Little Patuxent" to Future Agenda Items. Campbell asked to have a minute under Other Business to discuss Maryland DNR Stream Survey.

Dembner moved to approve the amended agenda. England seconded. The motion passed 9-0-0.

**Approval of January 6, 2009 Minutes**

The minutes of January 6, 2009 were amended and approved by a vote of 7-1-1. Campbell against, Charles abstained. Amendment included the Village Board Presentation to be added to the Agenda.

**Approval of February 3, 2009 Minutes**

The minutes of February 3, 2009 were amended and approved by a vote of 7-0-2. Schmitt and Dembner abstained. Amendments included Schmitt and Gard to work on the Green Fest plan and the inclusion under Public Meeting Wrap-up was to add that as a result of receiving the public meeting handout at 5:30pm on Friday before the Monday evening meeting, Campbell and the other WAC members in attendance would like to have the WAC to have access

to information before it goes out to the public. Huestis, and Eralp as well as other WAC members would like to see more sensitivity by CA staff to the schedules of volunteers.

### **VERSAR Update**

Harbaugh reported he has received and handed out the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter report from VERSAR. The report will go to the ERC on Thursday evening. The report is scheduled to be presented to the Board of Directors the end of March.

The final draft watershed management plan will be coming in the next few weeks. The External Relations Committee will likely send the plan on to the CA Board after comments from WAC. Goals will be to have the CA Board make recommendations on the plan the end of April.

Campbell asked if CA had received the comments that were asked by community members at the January 26<sup>th</sup> watershed meeting. Harbaugh has them and will get them to the WAC.

### **Green Fest**

Huestis reviewed an information sheet created by Cappuccitti for a watershed walk to be offered at WAC's table at Green Fest. The WAC will provide tours of part of the grounds at Howard Community College, and explain storm water management as it pertains to the college and the pond on school grounds. Huestis reviewed what information those participating will need to know. Cappuccitti has agreed to set some time aside in the next few weeks to walk the tour with anyone who will be volunteering at the WAC table, so they have a clear understanding of what to present to interested community members. After reviewing the information sheet England questioned the effectiveness of the HCC pond in protecting the receiving stream. He would like Cappuccitti to clarify the language to describe the pond on the information sheet. Schweinfurth suggested the walk and presentation continue as an ongoing tour that could be held after Green Fest or information could be used in tours around other villages.

There was a brief discussion on who would be available. Cappuccitti and Schmitt will be available in the morning. Schmitt will assist in setting up the display. Clark offered to help set up in the morning. The afternoon will see Campbell, Dembner, and Schweinfurth will be available the entire time (10am-2pm). England will be manning another booth, but will stop by for support.

The following additional items were discussed concerning the Green Fest.

- Schmitt presented a basic model of a watershed. She is working to prepare it for Green Fest to supplement the written information that will be offered.
- Huestis has created a table top display to accompany the model. She has asked Sattler to have his staff work on the display to make it more distinguished and professional. His staff will have ready for her in a day or two.
- Campbell has worked on a web map for residents to plug in their address and zoom in on their neighborhood and see what watershed they fall into. Clark will work on getting a computer that will be available for his presentation. He will send out the updated version of the web map to the WAC.
- Clark presented a handout she has prepared for Green Fest. Campbell asked to reduce the amount of text on the front page of the sheet. Cappuccitti asked if the logo could be

incorporated on the top of the sheet. Clark will revise the handout and send to Harbaugh and the WAC.

### Early Action Projects

- Clark reported all is going well with the planning of the tree plantings scheduled for Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup>. There is no word on the grant money for the project as of this meeting. Schmitt asked who would be present from the WAC at the March 21<sup>st</sup> tree planting. Those present will be Schmitt, Dembner, Schweinfurth, Campbell and Cappuccitti.
- Huestis and Clark have met with the Village Managers about the rain barrel project. Some village staff have expressed concerns about barrel color and placement of the barrels. Clark stated that this concern will be met by offering barrels painted in another color. A rainbarrel distribution event is still on for April 25<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. An additional event is being planned for either May (2<sup>nd</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup>) at a location yet to be determined.
- Harbaugh reported the Columbia-wide stream cleanup is set and all the villages will participate. Sites have been chosen and volunteers will be needed to help and to act as supervisors in each of the villages. The date of the project is Saturday, April 18, 2009, from 10am-1pm. Harbaugh will send a copy of the sites that have been chosen.
- Campbell took this opportunity to briefly discuss CA partnering with the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay. They are sponsoring Project Clean Stream and he suggested CA partner and affiliate itself with the organization. Campbell moved for CA to partner with the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay on this initiative. England seconded the motion. The vote was 8-0-1 for CA to research the project. Eralp abstained.

### Village Board Updates

Schweinfurth asked the WAC to report on their meeting with their Village Boards.

Dembner stated she will be attending her meeting in 2 weeks

Eralp – His presentation took 45 minutes. His village board is very interested in helping with watershed projects.

Schweinfurth – He highlighted some of the issues his village discussed.

1. Snowden River Parkway will be widened starting in 2010. WAC suggested that CA consult with Howard County to see what storm water management designs are planned. England will reach out to Jim Irvin at Howard County.
2. Residents of Swan Point Homeowners Association are interested in helping with CWMP projects.
3. The parking lot at Owen Brown Community Center is scheduled for resurfacing. Can permeable pavement be installed or rain gardens be part of the project? Harbaugh said that is not possible since the project has already been bid out. But, Clark will be bidding the sidewalk at Owen Brown and will include that in her request for bids.
4. There is no new news on the Subwatershed Stenciling Project.
5. Owen Brown Village Board is supportive of promoting activities of the CWMP.

Schmitt – Her village is also concerned about the rain barrels maintenance issue.

Campbell – His village had concerns about rain barrels. Color was an issue. Also, trash in the storm drains is an issue.

Cappuccitti – Her village is very informed. They are on top of the issues within their village.

(Dembner left at 8:50 pm)

### **Sewer Line Information**

As requested, staff provided information where to find the most current information on Howard County's Little Patuxent Parallel Sewer Interceptor project.

### **Other Business**

- Members of CLEER-Committee for Lake Elkhorn's Environmental Restoration would like to help the watershed early action projects. They have asked that CA help identify areas of the lake shoreline that are in need of stabilization. Harbaugh would like input from WAC in reference to evaluating the issues and identifying a shoreline remedy. Huestis volunteered to work on a subcommittee related to this issue. Ms. Pardoe (resident) will work with CLEER and submit descriptions and pictures of some of the areas in question to staff.
- There will be a county meeting on the Upper Little Patuxent River Watershed Plan on March 24<sup>th</sup> at Burleigh Manor Middle School.
- Campbell shared that he attended Maryland Department of Natural Resources training for the Maryland Biological Stream Survey (MBSS) and Stream Waters. Volunteers are collecting macro-invertebrates in the Patuxent watershed this year. He encouraged participation in Columbia since this is an opportunity to get professional identification of invertebrates to assess water quality at no cost to Columbia.
- WAC discussed the need for a watershed policy for CA and consensus was that a draft policy be developed by the May 5<sup>th</sup> WAC meeting. Brian England volunteered to develop some ideas for the policy. Steve Sattler will check to see if WAC can submit comments on a draft policy by e-mail.

### **Future Agenda Items**

- Lake Elkhorn Shoreline Stabilization
- CWMP Draft Discussion
- CA Watershed Policy
- Sediment and the Little Patuxent River – a publication by Brendan Donegan. Consider this presentation for a future meeting.
- Early Action Projects

### **Adjournment At 9:30pm**

Motion –England

Seconded – Charles

Vote – Unanimous

### **Action Items**

- Harbaugh will send WAC the answers to the questions from residents who attended the January 26<sup>th</sup> meeting
- Harbaugh to send draft CWMP to WAC in a few weeks
- Harbaugh to send comments from the public meeting to WAC

- Cappuccitti will set up a time to walk the Green Fest tour with those scheduled to be there from the WAC
- Cappuccitti will clarify the effectiveness of the pond at HCC on the sheet that will be given out at Green Fest
- Sattler will have his staff work on the information board for Green Fest and have ready for Huestis in a day or two
- Campbell to send an updated web map to the WAC
- Clark will arrange for a computer to be available for Green Fest
- Clark will scale down her information sheet for Green Fest
- Clark will be sure to add the logo to the information sheet for Green Fest
- Clark will forward the information sheet to Harbaugh and WAC before Green Fest
- Harbaugh will forward a list of sites for Columbia-wide clean-up day
- England will speak with Jim Irvin about the design for the expansion of Snowden River Parkway
- Clark will get price for pervious pavement when she bids the sidewalks at Owen Brown
- Huestis will work on a subcommittee related to the Lake Elkhorn Environmental Restoration
- England to draft CA Watershed Policy ideas for WAC to review
- Campbell moved for CA to partner with the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay on this initiative.