

**Minutes**  
**CA Watershed Advisory Committee**  
**May 4, 2010**  
**Final**

The regular meeting of the Watershed Advisory Committee (WAC) was called to order on Tuesday, May 4, 2010 at 7:08pm in the Board Room at Columbia Association Headquarters. In attendance were Members Robert Schweinfurth (Chair), Brian England (Vice Chair), Jeff Campbell, Mark Charles (7:18pm), Jane Dembner, Tom Frederick, and Debbie Cappuccitti. Also in attendance for Columbia Association was Sean Harbaugh (Staff Liaison) and Steve Sattler.

**Approval of Agenda**

Added as Item 3A was an update on WAC membership. Added under Other Business was an update on Howard County MS4 Permit. Dembner motioned and England seconded. Agenda was approved by a unanimous vote (6-0-0).

**Approval of April 6, 2010 Minutes**

Dembner motioned and Frederick seconded. Minutes passed with no change by a unanimous vote of 6-0-0.

**Update on WAC Membership**

Schweinfurth reported there were two official resignations:

- A) Sylvia Huestis – Sattler read Huestis' letter. Resignation effective April 25, 2010 and was based on advice of physician.
- B) Ron Vance – Resignation effective April 30, 2010 and was based on increased travel requirements at work.

Schweinfurth also reported he had emailed Tom Mateya requesting written notification of his verbal resignation. A deadline of May 31 was given for Mateya's response.

**Watershed Manager/Coordinator Position**

Harbaugh reported CA was in the final stages of reviewing resumes which had been submitted, and that interviews would be scheduled to begin before June 1.

**CA Engagement Activities**

- a) Rainbarrel Workshop – It was reported the event at Oakland Mills had a very good turnout. There were a number of rainbarrel sales, however, the complete inventory was not sold.
- b) Environmental Summit - Information was shared on various CA sustainable initiatives, and that CA is starting a sustainability benchmarking program.
- c) Bikeabout – the May 8<sup>th</sup> event was discussed. There was going to be 14 miles of pathways with stops for reforestation education, a vegetation management plan presentation by BGE and dredging education. This was going to be the first year for a “walk and wag” with that “other family member”. Ken Ulman was going to provide opening remarks to kick off the event.

**WAC Engagement Activities**

- A) GreenFest 2010 - Four WAC members attended the April 17 event. There were three “tours” which took place, even though there had not been a listing in the program guide, nor were any public announcements made in the 2<sup>nd</sup> building. Traffic at the event was down from the previous year. The CA booth was partially

blocked. One recommendation from WAC members was to have something more “eye catchy” at the booth next year to attract a higher level of attention.

- B) Website Postings – It was reported the new article had been posted on the CA web site. Two articles were recommended for future posting: 1) Canada Thistle and 2) Middle Patuxent Environmental Area. It was agreed all Members who wanted to provide input on copy would do so no later than five days after it was sent out. It was also agreed Harbaugh would be responsible for sending out the articles for review and Schweinfurth would compile any comments and submit a final draft for posting.

### **WAC Community Engagement Group**

- A) Website Content – It was reported Howard County recently launched a new environmental web site, and it was agreed CA should not duplicate content. Sattler discussed a new program CA had recently announced with the County on Public Safety education, and Sattler recommended a similar alliance be formed on environmental efforts. The goal of such an alliance would be to combine “communication’s muscle” with the County. It was agreed Harbaugh and Sattler would approach the County on this initiative.
- Schweinfurth agreed to be the WAC point-of-contact for funneling all web site content updates to CA
  - WAC agreed watershed and environmental activities outside of Columbia should be posted on the events section of the CA Watershed web site
- B) Future Activities – The following ideas were mentioned:
- a. Blog
  - b. RSS Feed
  - c. Storm Drain Stenciling – Dembner agreed to do a write-up
  - d. Watershed Walks
- C) Engaging Community Volunteers – It was agreed that Volunteers who had recently signed up should be communicated to - and that one or more activities be planned for this group. Schweinfurth agreed to take ownership of the Volunteer program until further notice.

### **Village Board Communications**

Campbell reported doing a frog awareness event. No other updates were reported. It mentioned WAC members should attempt to update their Village Boards in June.

### **Process for Removal of Watershed Advisory Committee Member**

WAC members discussed the current draft, and both Schweinfurth and Campbell agreed to work on a revised draft which would be sent to all WAC members.

### **Other Business**

Howard County MS4 Permit – It was stated June 20 was the due date for permit expiration or renewal. WAC recommended CA attend a meeting which had been scheduled by Josh Feldmark and Fred Tutman

### **Future Agenda Items**

- Process for Removal of Watershed Advisory Committee Member
- Community Engagement Group
- Discussion on Frequency of WAC Meetings
- Watershed Manager Position
- Village Board Updates

## **Adjournment**

Schweinfurth motioned. Frederick seconded. Adjournment was at 8:55 pm and was approved by a unanimous vote (6-0-0).

## **Action Items**

Action – Harbaugh and Sattler would approach the County to discuss combining “communication’s muscle”.

Action – Dembner agreed to do a write-up on storm drain stenciling

Action - Campbell to draft a plan on a frog and turtle watch

Action – Schweinfurth agreed to contact Volunteers

Action - Schweinfurth and Campbell agreed to work on a revised draft on removing WAC members

Action – WAC members to attempt to get on agenda’s for Village board meetings in June