

Minutes
CA Watershed Advisory Committee
June 2, 2009
Final

The regular meeting of the Watershed Advisory Committee (WAC) was called to order on Tuesday, June 2, 2009, at 7:05 pm in the Board Room at Columbia Association Headquarters. In attendance were Members Robert Schweinfurth (Chair), Brian England (Vice Chair), Jane Dembner, Jeff Campbell, Mark Charles, Monica Schmitt, Atal Eralp, Sylvia Huestis, Tom Mateya. Also in attendance for Columbia Association were Sean Harbaugh (Staff Liaison) and Steve Sattler.

After the meeting was called to order, and before discussion on approval of the agenda, Atal Eralp requested time to make an announcement to the WAC. Eralp announced his resignation from WAC due to inability to commit the necessary time with his travel and family plans. Immediately after this announcement Eralp departed from the meeting.

Approval of Agenda

Dembner moved to approve the agenda with the following changes: Move "Discussion: Watershed Policy Workgroup" to #5, and add Social Media and Fish Kill status to "Other Business". Schmitt seconded. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

Approval of May 5 Minutes

Charles moved to delay approval of the May 5 Minutes until the July 2 meeting. Campbell seconded. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

Columbia Watershed Management Plan

Harbaugh updated WAC on the CA Board of Director's (BOD) decision and unanimous vote to "Accept and File" the Columbia Watershed Management Plan, which took place at the BOD meeting held on May 28, 2009.

Watershed Policy Workgroup

Charles presented the most recent version of "The Columbia Association Watershed Protection Framework". A motion was made by Charles and seconded by Campbell on the new #4 policy as follows:

"In implementing the Watershed Management Plan, and prior to initiating a watershed improvement project, the Association Staff will identify pollutant reduction expectations. Following project completion, the Staff will assess the project's actual performance and make the assessment publically available."

Motion failed 2-5-1 (Campbell and Schweinfurth For) (Schmitt abstained)

A motion was made by England and seconded by Huestis to approve sending "The Columbia Association Watershed Protection Framework" to the External Relations Committee, with changes (attached).

The motion passed 5-1-2 (Campbell voted against) (Schmitt and Charles abstained)

Early Action Projects

Results from the Save the Planet event were reported as follows:

Turnout was low

Various groups attended

Members of the CA BOD attended

Members of the Howard County Council attended

Lesson Learned – Increase promotion of event next year

There was a perceived lack of signage posted around Columbia

Harbaugh had communicated that re-forestation projects could move ahead as discussed this fall with two events; one in mid-October and one in early November. A suggestion to pick the same dates each year was made to better allow groups to plan for the event.

Brendan Donegan Little Patuxent (LP)

- Donegan spoke about sediment and the Little Patuxent

- Donegan stated Howard County was doing of monitoring of LP, and the upstream was doing better than the downstream

- The nature of LP changes during its 31 miles

Advice - More communication must take place with all neighbors: Surrounding counties, Howard and Anne Arundel counties

Village Board Communications

Sattler discussed the importance of Village resident engagement, and the need for WAC members to have more contact with their Boards and residents

Community Engagement Workgroup

Action: Huestis and Schweinfurth agreed to develop a mission statement and present to WAC for review

WAC Charter

On hold pending finalization of "The Columbia Association Watershed Protection Framework".

Committee Membership

Harbaugh reported there was one interested person for Ray Gard's replacement to represent Kings Contrivance.

Other Business

Social Media

Action – Sattler agreed to investigate adding RSS capability to Watershed web site

Sattler reported CA has begun investigation to deploy social media throughout CA

Fish Kill Wilde Lake Review

CA, Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), and Howard County agencies investigated this and there was good communication and notification during the process

CA cleaned up dead fish, and continued to monitor the situation.

MDE performed water quality tests and collected fish tissue for analysis

MDE Findings were the event was probably the result of extreme stresses associated with overcrowding (mainly bluegills) and heavy competition for spawning grounds.

Adjournment – 9:15pm

Charles motioned. Dembner seconded. Unanimous vote

Future Agenda Items

Early Action Projects

WAC August Recess

Action Items

Action – Vote on May 5 Minutes at July 7 meeting

Action – Sattler to present “The Columbia Association Watershed Protection Framework” at next ERC meeting

Action: Huestis and Schweinfurth will develop a mission statement for a “community engagement workgroup” and present to WAC for review

Action – WAC to delay discussion on revised Charter until ERC could provide comments on “The Columbia Association Watershed Protection Framework”

Action – Harbaugh to work with Town Center for Atal Eralp replacement

Action: Sattler to investigate adding RSS capability to Watershed web site