

Minutes of CA Watershed Advisory Committee May 8, 2008

The regular meeting of the Watershed Advisory Committee (WAC) was held on Thursday, May 8, 2008, at 7 p.m. at historic Oakland Manor. In attendance were Committee Members Robert Schweinfurth, Brian England, Sylvia Huestis, Mark Charles, Atal Eralp, Jeff Campbell, Monica Schmitt, Jane Debner, and Tom Mateya. Also attending from CA Open Space were Jan Clark, and Sean Harbaugh.

Agenda

The agenda was approved.

Minutes

Minutes from the April 10, 2008 meeting were approved with revisions.

Updates

Consultant for Watershed Management Plan – The consultant RFP is in the final stages of the procurement process with the highest rated proposal being from Versar.

Dredging of Lake Kittimaquandi and Lake Elkhorn - CA is planning on submitting documentation to the County for review on May 15th. Dredging updates will be on the CA website. Committee voted on a statement to CA that both lake dredging projects be held off until Watershed Plan has been completed.

Email list-serve and newly formed Yahoo Groups is up and working for committee communication. Rob Schweinfurth will send an invitation to all WAC members to join.

Discussion

Short Term Goal Development – Several short term goals for the WAC were discussed and focused on bringing the WAC up to speed on a number of water quality and community planning topics. Topics discussed were:

- Water Quality 101 Presentation – Mark Charles agreed to make this presentation.
- Proposed Dredging Plans for Lakes Elkhorn and Kittimaquandi – bring in CA person or consultant to discuss plans.

- General Growth Properties Development Plans – review plans on their website.
- Stormwater Presentation – Have Howard County make a presentation on their stormwater plans.
- Watershed Management Plan for Columbia – have the selected consultant discuss potential short term goal recommendations.
- Sustainability Office for Howard County – Jeff Campbell will contact the chair of Environmental Advisory Committee and report back at the next meeting concerning making a presentation to the WAC.

Early Action Projects

- It may be too early to develop environmental public awareness events for the following reasons: 1) There are a number of other organizations that already have ongoing established events, and 2) the WAC should work with the selected consultant for the watershed management plan before moving forward on ideas.
- The following groups with ongoing public environmental events were discussed: HoCoH₂O and Mastergardeners.
 - Brian England, a WAC member, is on the HoCoH₂O group and will explore the idea of the WAC co-sponsoring a future HoCoH₂O event.
 - WAC could also consider co-sponsoring talks presented by Mastergardeners on topics such as rain barrels, lawn care, rain gardens, and native and invasive species.
- CA could promote early action events..

Village Communications – The Committee discussed providing updates to the CA Villages. Over the next two months WAC members will provide an update village boards on WAC activities.

Website Development – The Committee agreed that the WAC website needs to be updated to include items such as names of members, the mission statement, a general e-mail address for comments and ideas (WAC@Columbiaassociation.com), open meeting announcements and agendas, and actions items. Rob Schweinfurth will work with Steve Sattler to create the website.

Other Business

A suggestion was made to encourage obtaining data about sediment.

A suggestion was made to provide agenda backup information to the committee members prior to meetings on discussions.

The Committee stated its appreciation for the extra steps CA staff took to allow the WAC to review portions of the RFP and provide input in the evaluation process.

The Committee would like to see what changes are made to the minutes if they are amended.

Rain barrel discussion – Approval for installation of rain barrels in various villages may require changes in policies or a review by the village. It was noted that Sue Lawer has information on this and Tom Mateya will discuss with Sue and send information to WAC.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Approved by the Watershed Advisory Committee on June 12, 2008