

Minutes of CA Watershed Advisory Committee June 12, 2008

The regular meeting of the Watershed Advisory Committee (WAC) was held on Thursday, June 12, 2008, at 7 p.m. at historic Oakland Manor. In attendance were Committee Members Robert Schweinfurth (Chair), Mark Charles (Vice Chair), Jeff Campbell, Brian England, Monica Schmitt, and Tom Mateya. Also attending from CA were Steve Sattler (Staff Liaison), Sean Harbaugh, Jan Clark and Shelia Green.

Agenda

The agenda was approved with the addition under Other Business of: 1) Update on Upper Little Patuxent Public Presentation and 2) List Serve Demonstration

Minutes

Minutes from the May 8, 2008 meeting were approved with no revisions by a 4-0-2 vote. Jeff Campbell and Mark Charles abstained. The April 11 meeting minutes will be voted on at the July meeting.

Updates

Steve Sattler was directed to communicate the WAC's concern on the CA dredging project of lakes Kittamaquandi and Elkhorn taking place prior to the development of a comprehensive watershed plan from Versar. The External Relations Committee will be updated at its next meeting.

Versar – Mark Sutherland (Versar) and Carrie Capuco (Capuco Consulting Services) made presentations to the WAC. Sutherland presented data from past research on:

- Existing Biological Assessments
- Biological Condition in Howard County
- Biological Condition in Columbia
- Green Infrastructure
- Other Watershed Plans in Columbia
 - o Subwatershed Analysis
 - Formula for Rating

Sutherland presented a "Draft Vision, Goals, Objectives and Indicators for the Columbia Watershed Management Program (CWMP)", and requested input from the WAC by June 27.

Sutherland indicated field research would begin July 1.

Sutherland offered three suggestions for the WAC to consider for Early Action Projects:

- 1) Riparian Plantings in Problem Areas
- 2) CA Property/Facilities – rain gardens and other stormwater/green infrastructure projects.
- 3) Public Activity such as Rain Garden Programs

Sutherland suggested CA attempt to get outside funding for these projects.

Capucco stated an 18 month messaging strategy had been requested by CA which would target businesses, residents and government.

Capucco stated she believed the WAC was a great Village conduit for communications and education. Topics such as the role of restoration and the use of demonstration strategies at schools and libraries will be important. Stakeholder involvement as early as possible will be the key to the Versar plan.

Rain Barrels – Tom Mateya gave a presentation indicating rain barrels do not play a significant role from a storm water management perspective as it would take 16 barrels to manage a 1” rain event from a typical single family home. They are useful for watering plants and yards, and there are a variety of rain barrels available that cost \$50 - \$100. The main purpose rain barrels may serve is in educating homeowners of watershed issues. Recommendation was made to begin educating Villages that rain barrel requests are coming! Also, it was recommended the WAC prepare language for Village covenants if it does not already exist.

HOCOH2O – Brian England gave a presentation on HOCOH2O (see attachment). England stated the group started a year ago and will be a great help to CA and the WAC in getting large groups of interested people together, and a great resource to help communicate information. England recommended CA co-sponsor events with groups like HOCOH2O, rather than going it alone all the time.

Village Communications – Rob Schweinfurth led a discussion and discovered a number of WAC members had already made presentations to their Villages, or were on a future agenda. Mark Charles volunteered sharing his presentation that was made to his Village with other WAC members.

Water Quality – This discussion was tabled and moved to the July agenda

Web Site Development – Sattler requested WAC members provide input on the type of content they desire for the CA Watershed web site that will be under development in the near future. The following ideas were discussed:

- WAC Membership Listing
- Email Contact Addresses
- Tips
- Events Calendar
- Interactive Map – Key in your address and locate your watershed
- Maps of the Watershed
- Link Section

Sattler stated he would do research on watershed sites already on the web, and present additional ideas at the next WAC meeting.

Other Business

Change Date of WAC Meeting – It was agreed that a change of meeting location back to CA headquarters would best to accommodate a larger resident audience. It was determined Tuesday and Wednesday would be better dates than Thursday. Sattler will research date availability of the CA Board Room and poll WAC members.

Upper Little Patuxent Public Presentation – Jeff Campbell presented two items with regards to this meeting that had taken place:

- 1) The point from the published communications consulting report that people should be given a limited number of action items at once was reflected by one participant asking “What do you want me to do?” after hearing many potential things to do.
- 2) Presenters used terms that many in the audience may not know. WAC members need to be aware of this when giving presentations.

Yahoo List Serve Demonstration – Schweinfurth gave a 10 minute demonstration of this communication web site.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVED BY WAC ON AUGUST 5, 2008