

# Minutes of CA Watershed Advisory Committee August 5, 2008

The regular meeting of the Watershed Advisory Committee (WAC) was held on Tuesday, August 5, 2008, at 7 p.m. at CA Headquarters. In attendance were Committee Members Robert Schweinfurth (Chair), Mark Charles (Vice Chair), Jeff Campbell, Brian England, Monica Schmitt, Tom Mateya, Jane Dembner, Atal Eralp, Ray Gard, Sylvia Huestis and Debbie Cappuccitti. Also attending from CA were Steve Sattler (Staff Liaison) and Sean Harbaugh.

## Agenda

The agenda was approved with the addition of:

- 1) #4.1.d – Update on CA Grant Submission
- 2) #10 Other Business – Date of Next WAC Meeting

## Minutes

Minutes from the April 10, 2008 meeting were approved with no revisions by a 9-0-2 vote. The two abstentions were Campbell and Cappuccitti.

The June 12, 2008 Minutes were approved by a vote of 9-0-2 with one revision. The two abstentions were Gard and Cappuccitti. The revision made was as follows:

Under: Other Business  
Upper Little Patuxent Public Presentation  
#1

Original verbiage:

People want guidance on what action to take to help the watershed.  
Their question is “What do you want me to do?”

Replaced with:

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.

## Versar Presentation

Mark Southerland from Versar updated the WAC with a PowerPoint a presentation which included:

- Introduction of the Versar Team in attendance

- Visions of the Columbia Watershed Management Plan
- Goals and objectives of the Columbia Watershed Management Plan
- Work Plan – Tasks 1 through 5.2
- Results of Task 1 which included:
  - Baseline conditions report
  - Subwatershed analysis
  - Phase 1 subwatershed list
- Progress on Tasks 3 and 4
- Next Steps

Schweinfurth recommended Versar include watershed partners outside of the Columbia area. Charles suggested projects outside of the six targeted Subwatershed be considered when prioritizing projects. He stated even though Howard County has targeted these projects for implementation, they may not have sufficient funds to execute the projects - and Versar and CA should consider these projects when prioritizing. Campbell questioned the percentage of Villages who will be impacted by initial projects in the six targeted watersheds.

Carrie Capucco from Capucco Consulting Services, Inc. updated the WAC on the Stakeholder Involvement Plan (SIP). Capucco stated stakeholder involvement methods should be used to identify, recruit, and structure the involvement of diverse stakeholders throughout the watershed planning process. This is intended to help align the resources of stakeholders toward common goals. Stakeholder involvement is also believed to be essential in adopting and implementing any watershed plan. It is believed that stakeholder involvement helps ensure that the watershed plan is realistic and scientifically sound, and that it reflects community values and desires.

Capucco said that a survey was being developed to be sent to residents of Columbia properties. The details of how the survey would be administered are not yet finalized; however, it will likely be a combination of a web based, telephone, and mailed survey. Capucco said a draft of the survey would be available in September 2008.

Capucco also surveyed the audience and WAC members with questions that will be useful in determining future strategies.

Gard suggested a site for the re-forestation Early Action Project (EAP). Cappuccitti suggested a community stream walk so residents could see first hand the impact of poor watershed management. Huestis suggested Capucco use health issues or financial considerations to better engage residents in watershed. Cappuccitti recommended using falling trees to wake people up to watershed issues. Schmitt suggested using children's health issues in watershed messaging.

Harbaugh updated the WAC on a \$25M grant that CA will apply for. It is a Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) grant, and CA has submitted as one of a multi-party. The other two co-submitters are Howard County and General Growth Properties

(GGP). The grant application is due August 29, and if awarded, CA could receive as much as \$5M. CA will be using the Wilde Lake Restoration Plan for its submission. An October award date is expected for DNR's decision. Going forward DNR anticipates having \$50M dollars available for grants of this type indefinitely.

**CLEER** – Elaine Pardoe discussed CLEER's history and goals. Pardoe expressed CLEER's desire to collaborate with CA and the WAC on education, hands on projects around Lake Elkhorn and other initiatives.

**CA Watershed Web Site** – Sattler reviewed recommended elements be on the CA web site. WAC members provided additional input which included FAQ's, Tips, Update Section, Kids and Watershed, Success Stories, Use Cases and Mapping. Expected launch date for the CA Watershed Web site is no later than September 30.

**Water Quality 101** – Postponed to the September 2 WAC meeting due to lack of time.

**Rain Barrel** – Sattler presented language that could be submitted to Village Boards for their review and approval. WAC members made additional suggestions and recommended this topic be discussed at the WAC September meeting. It was also suggested Sattler investigate if any Village currently has language that could be considered.

**Stakeholder Involvement Plan** – This subject was presented by Capucco during the Versar presentation.

#### **Other Business**

**Date of Next WAC Meeting** – Schweinfurth polled WAC members on whether the next meeting date of Tuesday, September 2 would work for everyone, given it was one day after the Labor Day holiday. All members, with the exception of one, stated they would be able to attend. No change was made to the September 2 date.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

**Approved by the Watershed Advisory Committee on September 2, 2008**