

Minutes
CA Watershed Advisory Committee
December 2, 2008
Final

The regular meeting of the Watershed Advisory Committee (WAC) was held on Tuesday, December 2, 2008, at 7pm, in the Board Room at the Columbia Association Headquarters. In attendance were Committee Members Robert Schweinfurth (chair), Mark Charles (Vice Chair), Monica Schmitt, Tom Mateya (arrived 7:10pm), Ray Gard, Sylvia Huestis, Atal Eralp, and Debbie Cappuccitti (arrived 7:20pm). In attendance for Columbia Association were Sean Harbaugh, Steve Sattler (Staff Liaison) Jan Clark, and Antoinette Eckstrom.

Agenda

The agenda was approved by a unanimous vote:

Motion – Gard

Seconded – Huestis

Minutes of November 5, 2008 and November 19, 2008

The minutes from the November 5, 2008 were unanimously approved. The minutes from the November 19, 2008 meeting were approved by a vote of 4-0-2. Abstaining were Gard and Charles.

WAC RRI (Retrofit Reconnaissance Investigation) Recommendations

Harbaugh took back the recommendations made by the WAC committee at the November 19, 2008 meeting to key members of the Open Space Team. The members of the team concur with the recommendations made by the WAC committee.

Harbaugh said negotiations are on going with VERSAR. There are more field investigations that will be taking place. Rob asked if all 18 will be done. Harbaugh said they are currently looking at going down the list. Atal asked what direction CA can take if there are still questions or concerns after April when the contract with VERSAR is over. Is there a plan in place for CA to contract with VERSAR or another contractor in the future?

Charles shared that there may be federal money available for the green infrastructure initiative that is part of an economic stimulus package and he suggested that if CA is interested in this grant possibility they need to be prepared to submit a proposal by having project ideas ready.

Public Meeting Date

There was a brief discussion on the date for the public meeting. Harbaugh offered a suggestion that came from Mark Southerland in which the meeting could include content of the project to date. It was suggested to take place Monday, January 26, 2009. The committee discussed what other content would be included in the meeting and the website, and early action items would be key components. If necessary, the 27th would be a back-up date.

Sattler will propose to the ERC that the Board of Directors be brought up to date on the progress the committee has made before the public meeting on the 26th.

Sattler and Harbaugh will work on the agenda for the public meeting and it will be ready before the end of the year, preferably before the holidays.

Communications with Village Boards

The WAC discussed how best to communicate and disseminate information to the villages and their respective boards.

Sattler shared that he meets regularly with the village managers and the managers are asking when the WAC members will be in contact with them with information about the progress of the committee.

Charles suggested that the information that will be available for the public meeting on the 26th of January also go to the villages before the meeting. The villages can then promote the meeting through their newsletters and other forms of communication with people living in their villages. Sattler suggested the committee standardize their communication with the villages, quarterly. Sattler suggested members of the committee attend their respective villages to present a report, or at least present a written report to the village boards.

Sattler will have his team put out a Press Release on the public meeting for January 26th.

Ray requested a copy of the covenant verbiage pertaining to rain barrels and suggested sending this information to all the villages.

After discussion, the WAC members agreed to shoot for attending the February village board meeting in their village. The January agenda will include information in the report to the villages.

Early Action Projects

Clark presented the WAC with a proposed plan for Early Action Projects. The projects were suggested for implementation in 2009, with the exception of one.

1. Columbia Athletic Club Storm Water Control Demonstration – this project was suggested by VERSAR.
2. Residential Rain Garden Program – modeled after a project already in place in the Corsica River watershed. This project is suggested for 2010.
3. Reforestation Planting
4. Rain Barrel Distribution Events – Huestis is concerned that all the villages should get some sort of early action project. Charles would like the village reports to include mention of the early action projects to be performed in each village.
5. Maintenance Facility Rain Garden & Rainwater Collection
6. Rain Gardens at CA Facilities – Clark has a few spots in mind
7. Green Fest – Charles suggested one or more committee members man a table at Green Fest to share what the committee is working on.
8. Nature Camp Watershed Education Program – Schmitt suggested getting information into local schools to educate students and faculty. Huestis supported the suggestion. Clark suggested that education efforts begin with CA Nature Camp and that education efforts at schools be considered as a future possibility.
9. Door Hanger Development & Distribution – Schweinfurth shared that his place of employment offers publications which may be suitable for this project.
10. Storm Drain Inlet Stenciling – Charles suggested not using “Chesapeake” but rather “Patuxent” be stenciled on storm drains to focus on local waters.

Other suggestions included stream clean-ups (Schmitt) and a Columbia-wide stream clean-up day (Charles). It was also stressed that CA should look for opportunities to engage stakeholders such as General Growth Properties, Howard Community College, local watershed groups and Howard County government.

Resident Elaine Pardoe suggested since each village has public spaces, that a project could be done in each of the villages. She suggested including groups that would provide volunteers, such as the Boy Scouts and church groups.

CA Watershed Website

Sattler reviewed the CA Watershed Web Site with the WAC. Some suggestions included using everyday language (Charles). Sattler shared that Carrie Capuco suggested keeping the front page for 90 days. The committee is pleased with the content and the web site is a go.

WAC letter to the Owen Brown Village Board

The WAC reviewed the letter prepared by Schweinfurth in response to the Owen Brown letter on the dredging of Lake Elkhorn. The committee asked for a copy to go to the ERC and the Owen Brown Village Manager. **Charles moved to send the letter as sent to the Owen Brown Village Board. Atal seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0.**

Other Business

Harbaugh prepared the VERSAR deliverables and had copies for the WAC to review at their leisure.

Wrap-Up: Action Items, Next Meeting Agenda

- News from VERSAR – a standard item in the monthly agenda
- Public Meeting
- Choose weekend for All Columbia Clean-up
- Next meeting – January 6, 2009
- Discussion on what to bring to the villages on the VERSAR update – map to show where 6 additional sites are located
- January meeting – discuss April website – 90 day plan
- Early Action Update – Clark to put together spread sheet with projects. This will also go in the report to the villages.

Adjournment

Charles – moved

Cappuccitti – seconded

Motion passed 8-0-0

Respectfully Submitted,

Antoinette Eckstrom

Action Items

- Sattler and Harbaugh to work on agenda for the public meeting before the holidays
- Sattler will have his team draft a Press Release for the January 26th public meeting
- Schweinfurth to send letter that was approved to the Owen Brown Village Board and a copy to the ERC

- Clark to put together a spreadsheet with early action item projects