

**Minutes of
CA Watershed Advisory Committee
November 5, 2008; 7pm**

The regular meeting of the Watershed Advisory Committee (WAC) was held on Wednesday, November 5, 2008, at 7pm, in the Board Room at the Columbia Association Headquarters. In attendance were Committee Member Robert Schweinfurth (Chair), Mark Charles (Vice Chair), Jeff Campbell, Brian England, Monica Schmitt, Tom Mateya, Ray Gard, Sylvia Huestis, Jane Dembner, Atal Eralp, and Debbie Cappuccitti. Also in attendance were Mark Southerland (VERSAR), and Carrie Capuco. In attendance for Columbia Association were Steve Sattler, Jan Clark, and Antoinette Eckstrom.

Agenda

The Agenda was approved with the addition of:

Item #9 Other Business – Schweinfurth asked to add the letter received from Owen Brown Village. Campbell moved to accept the amended agenda. England seconded. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Minutes of September 2, 2008 and October 7, 2008

The minutes of the September 2, 2008 and the October 7, 2008 were approved as amended. Campbell moved to accept the amended minutes. Charles seconded. The motion passed 10-0-0

WAC's Roles and Responsibilities

Schweinfurth lead the committee on a discussion of the WAC roles and responsibilities. Eralp is concerned the WAC goals are too vague and feels more guidance is needed.

Sattler discussed the charter and how the committee is put together. He sees the committee as experts and they are looked to for advice. His interprets the purpose of the group as:

- Having input on the CA watershed plan
- Engaging residents of their villages
- Updating their Village Board
- Working on early action projects

Schweinfurth feels there are communication issues between the ERC and CA and the WAC. Dembner and Schmitt feel unclear as to their roles and would like to be able to bring back more information to their respective villages.

England would like to see more information from CA as to what projects are currently in progress.

Charles stated the early actions items have not been given sufficient attention. He feels the role of the WAC is to lead the charge on these.

Huestis discussed her talks about rain barrels. She indicated that she is interested in more outreach activities.

Mateya stated that the WAC is just a small part of what is going on in Columbia watershed management.

Charles asked if all watershed information is funneled through the WAC or if only some information comes through the WAC.

Sattler reaffirmed his responsibilities, which is communication.

Dembner motioned a recommendation to the WAC goals.

As part of the committee's charge to recommend to CA the techniques, procedures and approaches in the creation of a watershed policy, CA will provide draft deliverables from the watershed consultant(s) and the committee will be given an opportunity to provide comments and recommendations to CA prior to CA providing direction to the consultant(s) on these deliverables.

Eralp moved to accept the motion. Dembner seconded the motion. The motion passed 10-0-0

Communication Process

Sattler reviewed the communication process with the WAC.

The committee added that when information pertinent to watershed is disseminated that **it be done in a timely manner.**

and

CA representatives will reserve the right to make final decisions on any of the information sent. **CA will provide updates on communication submitted that does not get distributed. CA will provide feedback on the status of all motions passed containing recommendations.**

The process was discussed and approved as amended.

VERSAR Presentation

Mark Southerland reviewed progress on the Watershed Management Plan to date. He discussed Hot Spot Investigations at CA facilities including the Hobbits Glen Maintenance Facility and the Open Space Maintenance Facility.

Southerland presented Versar's work to date on Retrofit Investigations. Through field work they have identified 100 problem sites. 54 of these sites were determined to be suitable for inclusion in the list of priority restoration projects. The consultant must pare this number to 18 sites for which they will prepare concept plans. Southerland presented a selection matrix and requested comments from the WAC on the selection process. A number of ideas were voiced by Committee members:

- Many thought it may be better to focus on one area than on small projects spread out all over Columbia
- Howard County projects that are in early planning stages should be considered, so that the 18 selected: Do not interfere, are not repetitive, and consider complementary projects with Howard County's activity.
- The location of other Open Space projects need to be considered so that a real measurable improvement can result.
- Projects should consider adjacent private property owners support of efforts by CA. Private property owners that have an interest in stewardship of their property without doing harm to retrofit projects areas need to be considered in the selection process.
- Politically, it may be appropriate to have a distribution between the villages.

It was suggested that there be an additional WAC meeting on November 19th to further discuss the selection of the priority restoration projects. Southerland will prepare two or three selection matrices for the Committee by November 17th. He will forward that information to Eckstrom for distribution.

It was suggested that it would be appropriate to engage more Columbia residents through presentation of progress on the Watershed Plan at a well-publicized meeting. It was determined that the December 2, 2008 WAC meeting and regular WAC meetings will not be the best venue for engaging the public. WAC members felt that the presentation to the public should take place in January to allow enough time to fully understand contractor proposals before communicating it to the public.

CA Watershed Web Site – 90 Day Content Plan

No discussion took place on the CA Watershed Website – 90 Day Content Plan. It will be placed on the December agenda and Clark will distribute ideas on the 90 day plan to the WAC prior to the meeting.

A brief discussion took place suggesting the Agendas and Minutes be placed on the website. **Dembner moved to have the Agenda and approved Minutes placed on the CA website. Charles seconded the motion. The motion passed 11-0-0**

Other -New Business

Watershed Resident Awareness

Ca staff is considering ways to support the promotion of resident awareness of watershed issues in an event or series of events this spring. CA invites the WAC to consider sponsoring some type of community activity, such as rain barrel workshops, with assistance from CA. CA staff is now researching EAP (Early Action Plan) options. The role of the WAC in any such promotion is open for consideration. Clark suggested that these ideas or any others be discussed in greater detail at the December WAC meeting. She will forward ideas for this before the December meeting.

Dredging Letter from Owen Brown Village Board

Schweinfurth discussed the letter from the Owen Brown Village Board and the committee suggested not changing it's recommendation to hold off on dredging until the watershed management plan is complete as the current schedule for dredging will most likely not have dredging starting until the Summer of 2009. Schweinfurth will draft a letter to the Owen Brown Village Board explaining the recommendation and will have the WAC review it before sending it to the Owen Brown Village Board.

Adjournment

Cappuccitti motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 pm. Gard seconded the motion. The motion passed 10-0-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Antoinette Eckstrom

Action Items

- Sattler to book space for November 19th meeting
- Sattler to add Agenda and approved Minutes to the website
- Schweinfurth to draft letter to Owen Brown on dredging
- Eckstrom to distribute information to WAC from Southerland
- Sattler to update communication plan with WAC based on discussion
- Clark to send ideas for resident watershed awareness events to WAC prior to the December 2 meeting.

APPROVED BY WAC ON DECEMBER 4, 2008