

# St. Mary's River Watershed Restoration Action Strategy

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## MINUTES 10:00 AM May 12, 2008 Lexington Park Library room #B

St. Mary's River Watershed Association (SMRWA) President Joe Anderson called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM. Attendees introduced themselves:

Steve Bernard, community member  
Jon Grimm, Loiederman Soltesz Associates land development engineering  
Meg Hession, WRAS staff and SMCM student  
Dan Ichniowski, St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission  
Erik Jansson, Potomac River Association president  
Andrew Keppel, WRAS staff and SMCM student  
Bob Lewis, SMRWA Executive Director  
Dudley Lindsley, Potomac River Association board member  
Christian Mergner, St. Mary's College, Capitol Projects  
Bob Paul, project co-director and SMRWA vice president  
Joan Poor, SMRWA Board member and SMCM Professor of Environmental Economics  
Dan Raley, St. Mary's County Commissioner District 4  
Dave Reumont, community member  
Lauren Smith, WRAS staff and SMCM student  
Chris Tanner, SMCM Professor of Biology  
Sue Veith, project co-director and SMRWA board member  
Georgia Wheeler, volunteer coordinator Chesapeake Bay Field Lab  
John "Barne" Wheeler, chair, St. Mary's County Commission on the Environment  
Rebecca Wright, WRAS staff and SMCM student  
Bruce Young, Maryland Soil Conservation District  
Katie Zdilla, WRAS staff and SMCM student

Project co-director Sue Veith briefed attendees on the fundamentals of a WRAS project and specifically, on the Breton Bay WRAS (2002-2003), noting strengths and weaknesses as well as implementation successes and shortfalls. The Breton Bay WRAS is referenced in the county's comprehensive plan, but the county commissioners have never formally adopted it.

Project co-director Bob Paul briefed attendees on the St. Mary's River Project and then presented a number of slides – mostly of out-dated maps depicting land characteristics and uses—many from year 2000. A briefing on the portion of this WRAS, which will be funded through the College followed. Funds in the amount of \$78,315 were anticipated in mid-April but had not yet been received from NOAA. (MD DNR reprogramming money) This part of the project will cover non-tidal stream assessment and characterization, and tidal photography linked via GIS. Items of note that were mentioned include: highest elevation in watershed is 105 feet above sea level; St. Mary's River is the only 8-digit watershed entirely contained within one Maryland jurisdiction (St. Mary's County); watershed had approximately 53% forest cover in 2000; and surprisingly healthy diversity was found in this spring's survey of several tributaries including the un-named tributary draining First Colony and the county landfill. To the contrary, Craney Creek, which has little development in its drainage basin, had poor diversity.

Sue briefed the attendees on parallel efforts currently underway including:

- both LUGM and DPWT are looking at ways to address the MPDES permitting process, which is required once a jurisdiction reaches a population of 100,000, to address non-point source pollution.
- Verification of all 911 addresses, which will inform the determination of impervious surfaces for all non-residential properties.
- Development of a database of all storm water management facilities.
- Comprehensive Plan update

The St. Mary's River WRAS will incorporate four elements in the two-year project: 1) characterization and assembly of data and concerns, 2) solicit public input, 3) development of an action strategy, and 4) development of an implementation plan. A formal steering committee will be empowered to execute this project. A tentative calendar for proceeding: element 1 will be addressed May 1–April 2009; element 2 from November 2008–February 2010; element 3 from February 2009–January 2010; and element 4 from October 2009–February 2010.

Much of the rest of the meeting was used to brainstorm areas of concern, which should be incorporated into the St. Mary's River WRAS. The table of contents of the Breton Bay WRAS was used as a launching point and is attached. In addition, attendees mentioned concerns that the WRAS should address and resources that should be incorporated:

- Potable water
- Reuse of gray water
- Maryland Geological Survey reports
- Adding green infrastructure to developments
- Maps and graphs to show data over time
- Ground truthing of wetlands
- Mapping sea level rise
- Marina locations (4), impacts, and greening
- Consultant's (who?) work on mitigation sites
- Historic resources
- Henry Miller's work on oysters
- point source – St. Inigoes facility
- public lands and protected lands
- mining
- shoreline characterization – identify hardened shorelines, restoration projects, breakwaters and gaps, docks
- filter feeds
- external factors- air deposition, automobiles
- impact of Potomac River
- septic systems
- recreation – water- and land-based
- landfill impacts
- equine impacts (MSCD looking at this)
- agricultural impacts – sludge, poultry litter
- residential landscape techniques
- METCOM working on facilities plan
- 2007 Maryland Storm Water Act
- Chesapeake Bay Program – funding for septic upgrades
- public education/stewardship campaign
- map private projects that receive public funding
- map areas requiring protection and/or funding
- implementation prioritization
- funding sources identification
- 5 year assessment of progress

Logistics and next meeting:

A formal steering committee will meet on the second Monday of every month at 10 AM – place to be determined. The June 9 meeting will be held at the Department of Land Use and Growth Management center conference room in Leonardtown.

Those in attendance who indicated that they desire to work on the committee:

Joe Anderson	Bob Paul
Steve Bernard	Dave Reumont
Erik Jansson	Chris Tanner
Bob Lewis	Sue Veith
Dudley Lindsley	Barne Wheeler
Chris Mergner	Bruce Young

Others who have indicated that they would like to participate but were unable to attend today's meeting:

Carrie Decker, DNR	Charles Newkirk, community member
Jim Hardin, SMRWA board member	John Groeger, DPWT
Gary Williams, Environmental Sociologist	Larry Hartwick, St. Mary's County Public Schools
Jackie Smith, Pax River Naval Air Station	

The next meeting will be 10 AM June 9 at the Department of Land Use and Growth Management in Leonardtown.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bob Lewis  
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For more information contact Bob Lewis at 301-862-3517 or [taylew@erols.com](mailto:taylew@erols.com)  
(Soon we hope to launch a web site: [www.StMarysPlanning.org](http://www.StMarysPlanning.org))

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