

St. Mary's River Watershed Restoration Action Strategy

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MINUTES

10:00 AM September 8, 2008
Land Use & Growth Management
Center Conference Room

St. Mary's River Watershed Association (SMRWA) Executive Director Bob Lewis called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM. In attendance were: Joe Anderson, Jenn Ballard, Robin Finnacom, Jon Grimm, John Groeger, Dan Ichnioski, Henry Miller, Bob Paul, Tom Russell, Sheryl Skrabacz, and Chris Tanner.

The **agenda** was accepted as presented.

The **minutes of the August 11 meeting** were accepted without changes. The **minutes of the September 3 public meeting** were accepted with two corrections: 1) in the list of attendees, a one Washington Post reporter and change "three" community members to "two" community members, and 2) Change the last sentence of the fifth paragraph (It take about 2 days for water to travel. . .) to read: "Very few problem sites were noted and more than half of the sites surveyed were representative sites."

Reflecting on the August 11 presentation by State Highways, it was noted that: 1) the characterization and stream surveys should specifically note problem areas associated with or adjacent to roadways; 2) the Great Mills Road upgrade is currently in the engineering phase and the plans should be upgraded to meet the State's green roadways policies.

Henry Miller was welcomed to the committee as a representative of Historic St. Mary's City and as a scholar in the archeology and historical research of oyster culture in the St. Mary's River.

Reflecting on the August 11 presentation by Joanne Throwe of the University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center, it was noted that they are offering to help fine tune our WRAS document in order to make it better at garnering funding.

The second public meeting was poorly attended with only 25 showing up for refreshments and 21 staying for the full meeting. Both The Enterprise and The Washington Post Southern Maryland Extra attended. We need to do a better job promoting the next public meeting and the Association is trying to hire a student intern (ten hours a week) to lead on the public process.

The question was asked to what level of detail would the WRAS affect zoning in the development district. In response, Joe pointed out Tom Horton's new essay Growing, Growing, Gone, which paints a dismal picture of our Bay's future considering that the region is growing at a steady rate. The bottom line Horton says is too many people living in the watershed. Bob Lewis commented that the WRAS document will likely fall short of any specific zoning or land restrictions, but will likely inform decision-makers of sensitive areas, problematic areas, and valuable "filter" and "infiltration" areas. "It's the job of the county commissioners to restrict landowners through zoning."

Final comments before reading the action items: Bob Paul noted that all phase one reports for the DNR grant are due October 1. A discussion of what needs to happen to make it come together ensued adding considerably to the action items below. Specifically, Bob noted that he will need considerable help from LUGM Sue Veith and DPWT Jon Groeger in order to get all the GIS layers together. Noted were green infrastructure, impervious surfaces, and road plan.

Copies of the phase one report will be made available on the web site and to agencies and committee members. The format will likely be CD-R.

The committee then entertained ideas for the next steps—only the scientific part of phase one will be completed October 1. A comprehensive look at other studies and a bit of ground truthing will inform further discussion during the fall and winter. Noted was that phases two and three proceed along together—the refinement of the compilation of data into action strategies and priorities, as well as continuing along with stakeholder input (public process).

The action items were reviewed (see below).

The meeting was adjourned at 11:18 AM.

Action items:

- Bob Lewis to send MD storm water permits spreadsheet to Bob Paul (by 09/12)
- Bob L. to pursue oyster fisher, John Trossbach (this fall)
- Chris Tanner will contact Captain Jackie and inquire about fishers who might be informative (by 10/06)
- John Groeger to provide Bob P. with fisheries data (by 09/12)
- John G. to provide storm water device inspection reports (when available – this month?)
- John G. to send shoreline stabilization project information to Bob P.
- John G. to supply roadway storm drain infalls and outfalls data, when available, to Bob P.
- Joe will contact the College regarding the student intern and push that forward (by 09/12)
- Sheryl (Daryl) to provide data on areas with failings septic systems to Bob P. (by 09/12)
- Sue to assist Bob P. in gathering data in GIS layers from data LUGM already has (by 09/20 if possible)
- Bob P. to get 2007 flyovers from Maryland Department of Planning
- Bob P. to give Sue the GIS template
- Bob P. to contact Daryl and detail the items that he needs from the Health Department

The next meeting will be 10 AM October 6 at the Lexington Park Library room #A.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Lewis
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