

St. Mary's River Watershed Restoration Action Strategy

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MINUTES

10:00 AM October 6, 2008
Lexington Park Library room #A

St. Mary's River Watershed Association (SMRWA) Executive Director Bob Lewis called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM. In attendance were: Daryl Calvano, Robin Finnacom, Dan Ichnioski, Larry Hartwick, Dudley Lindsley, Bob Paul, Tom Russell, Chris Tanner, Sue Veith, and Bruce Young.

The **agenda** was accepted as presented.

The **minutes of the September 8 meeting** were accepted without changes.

Comprehensive Plan Rewrite Sue briefed the committee on the latest developments and concerns:

- There is little development capacity left in the Mechanicsville/charlotte Hall development areas due to soils and slopes
- Staff is likely to recommend downsizing several town and village centers – Piney Point, Callaway, and Ridge will stay the same – all the others are being considered.
- Formalization of the agricultural area to agree with the newly adopted Preservation & Recreation Plan, which includes the upper left county down to St. Clement's Shores. This area would no longer be a receiving are for TDRs and would be a priority area for Ag district or other preservation programs. A bonus would be given for sending TDRs from this area.
- Include Maryland requirements for riparian protection areas.
- Recognition of growth center in St. Clement's area mainly for infill development and providing municipal sewer for existing homes with failing septic systems.
- Leave Lexington Park alone but will likely fix the zoning map to include the Johnson property (BOCC already adopted this change). The planning commission is still debating the addition of the Evergreen elementary School property.

Oysters A meeting in Annapolis is likely to be scheduled for the week of November 17. The Corps proposes to establish about 300 acres of oyster reefs in the St. Mary's River in a ten-year project which will cost tens of millions of dollars. Bob L. reported that there is opportunity for the Association to secure a bottom for future reef development. Chris has talked with local waterman, Craig Kelly. He will invite Craig to the next steering committee meeting.

Septic Systems Daryl reported that MDE has grants for advanced treatment units. Applications can be found online and there is a 2-3 week turn around on approval. The grant covers the unit and O&M for five years. Funding is via the Bay Restoration Plan budget. There are between 30 and 40 of these units already in place in St. Mary's County.

Review of Ongoing Tasking

- Bruce continues work on state highway discharge units and mapping of equine facilities
- Sue will monitor the ongoing work on the comprehensive plan, water & sewer plan, and rural legacy. There are new storm water regulations in draft and will go to public hearing shortly. The state has enabled a process for funding storm water retrofits
- Joe will be reminded to review the workforce housing study.
- Bob L. will get and review the encroachment study and the Governor's Climate Change Report (includes storm inundation report and wetlands loss).
- Chris continues to provide input on SAV and appropriate studies.
- Larry will continue to work with Bruce on state highway issues including conformance with the green highways initiative. Larry will also work on a public schools education piece as well as green building practices.
- Dudley will review recreation opportunities and needs within the watershed.
- Dan continues to monitor water and sewer needs – currently upgrading Marley Taylor to 3-4 ppb nitrogen outflow – looking at possibility of Marley Taylor expansion to increase daily capacity to 7-10 million

gallons per day (currently 6) – would be 15-20 years out. Currently moving more and more effluent to ground discharge in order to reduce nitrogen and phosphorus load to the Chesapeake Bay.

Phase I Reports Bob Paul passed around the final copies of two of the three phase I reports: Tidal Shoreline Survey (1596 photos)/Stream Corridor Assessment, and Watershed Synoptic Survey. The Watershed Characterization is nearing completion. All three will be available on the web site. Bob noted problems areas: Upper St. Mary's River, John's Creek, fisherman's Creek, and St. George Creek (particularly Locus Grove Cove). He also noted that West St. Mary's River is ideal for preservation. He looked closely at tidal shoreline erosion and was surprised to find very little. Other members noted the beach erosion in front of the boathouse. Other issues – Bob noted the continuing road issue at Church Creek and the continuing degrading of the Jarboesville Run, Hilton run, and Penbrook Run.

The action items were reviewed (see below).

The meeting was adjourned at 11:43 AM.

Action items:

- Chris will invite Craig Kelly to the next meeting.
- Bob L. will organize topics to be included in the WRAS.
- Bob L. will make sure John Groeger is in the email group.
- Robin will check with State Highways per green highways initiative and Rte. 246 streetscaping.
- Bruce will send the VIMS study to Bob L.
- Bob L. will call John Groeger and see where the Pegg Road extension environmental study is.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Lewis
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For more information contact Bob Lewis at 301-737-2903 or Bob.Lewis@hughes.net or visit www.StMarysRiver.org