

**Watershed Committee (WC) Meeting  
July 28, 2010, 7:15 p.m.  
Meeting Notes and Next Steps**

**Attendance:** Steve Cardon, Jim Ingle, and Julie Palakovich Carr, WC members; Lise Soukup, DPW Environmental Engineer & staff liaison.

**Environment Commission Updates:**

- S. Cardon reported:
  - Noted the death of Carl Henn, longtime City environmental and community activist, on July 27. Carl was preparing a Climate Change/Peak Oil Public Summit for September.
  - Commissioners are:
    - Preparing the annual report of accomplishments & goals in the next month.
    - Investigating anti-graffiti ordinances from other communities.
    - Considering Rockville Green Business Recognition and Environmental Excellence Award criteria.
  - Environmental Mgmt. Division:
    - Reports increase in recycling and that the recycling program is making a small profit for the first time.
    - The draft Water Resources Element, a new chapter required by the State for the City's Comprehensive Master Plan, was the subject of a public hearing by the Planning Commission in July, and is scheduled for a Mayor & Council public hearing in September.
    - A meeting of environment commissions from cities and counties in the DC region is scheduled for October 13.

**Discussion:**

**Lise Soukup** presented progress of the City's consultant, KCI Technologies, and the sub-consultant, Center for Watershed Protection, on the Cabin John Creek Watershed Study. This study started in February, 2010, and is scheduled to finish by January, 2011. The Mayor and Council will review the study's recommendations in a work session sometime in the first quarter of 2011.

- Distributed and discussed the handout from the study's first public meeting held on June 10. WC member Julie Palakovich Carr attended this meeting. Reviewed study schedule, scope of work and watershed maps.
- Tasks 1, Watershed Analysis, & 2, Stream Field Assessment, are complete. A draft report for these tasks has been submitted to the City and comments returned to KCI for incorporation in final report (marked-up draft report was distributed to WC members).
- Task 1& 2 results indicate that Cabin John Creek watershed in the City is typical of urban watersheds. No unusual results were found in the snapshot stream chemical monitoring, but elevated levels for nutrients, turbidity and bacteria were noted in a few samples, reflecting the urban non-point source runoff of the drainage area. Geomorphic assessment at one location in six of

the seven sub-watersheds indicated that all of these reaches were classified as Rosgen type F4, a deeply incised, gravel substrate channel with high width/depth ratios subject to active erosion. The stream walk also found numerous unstable or eroding channel reaches throughout the watershed. KCI used a modified stream assessment tool (Unified Stream Assessment, Center for Watershed Protection, 2004) to compare reaches and identify opportunities for restoration.

- Residential neighborhoods, based on a windshield survey, were average to good in watershed behaviors, with visible issues mostly related to lawn care practices (i.e., fertilizer/herbicide applications). Hotspot investigations found widespread overflows at commercial dumpsters along Rockville Pike properties (typically from restaurants); also several concerns were noted at the Montgomery County Maintenance Depot on Seven Locks Road & Wootton Pkwy and on Woodmont Country Club.
- Consultants have created an inventory of over 70 potential SWM or stream improvements to further investigate in the Cabin John watershed over the next two months. Staff will work with them to prioritize the list, do additional field investigations, and select roughly 15-20 promising projects for conceptual design, which will include preliminary engineering sketches, SWM drainage area, storage and treatment computations, length of stream stabilization, and construction cost estimates.

Jim Ingle brought up **questions about enforcing dumpster emptying to reduce trash & runoff from entering storm drains along Rockville Pike.**

- Check if either City Code Enforcement or County Health Dept. have rules/procedures to compel owners/leasers to schedule more frequent dumpster cleanouts. (Lise will investigate.)

#### **Next Steps:**

#### **Lise Soukup to:**

- Bring draft SWM and stream concepts from Cabin John Watershed Study to Sept. committee meeting for discussion. If possible, these will be emailed to members prior to meeting (consultant scheduled to deliver these to staff on Sept. 17).
- Check with Code Enforcement & Health Dept. on dumpster cleanout regulations.

#### **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm

#### **Next WC Meeting**

The next Watersheds Committee meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, September 22, 2010 at 7:15 pm in the Blue Crab conference room at Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland, 20850.**