

ACWA MEETING OF 8-23-07

- **Antietam Creek Watershed Alliance** held a general meeting on August 23, 2007 at the Quality Inn, Hagerstown from 7:00 PM until 8:40 PM. The **minutes** of the July 26th meeting were accepted.
- **Treasurer's Report:** Bob Hatch had no report since an account cannot be opened until incorporation.
- **Articles of Incorporation:** The discussion was led by Adam Griggs. The final version will include changes that improve wording and clarity of the document without violating any recommended legal language. Adam will prepare it and mail it to Marcia Watters, Esq. The final version will be e-mailed to the Executive Committee.
- **By-laws:** Adam is continuing to work on them and including issues such as disbandment, voting procedures, membership categories, etc. He will present a draft at a future meeting.
- **Activity Survey and Strategic Plan:** Ron Rosensteel presented the findings from 12 inputs that gave Stream Clean-Ups, Tree Planting and Refurbishment, and Water Trails and Maps the most votes (in descending order) for Short-term Projects. Long-term Project preferences gave Stream Channel/Bank Restoration and Creation of Parks and Greenways the most votes. It was stated that there may have been insufficient knowledge of some of the choices, i. e. water quality (WQ) monitoring, and that they should be given more consideration. Adam explained Water Restoration Action Strategies and approaches to citizen monitoring that eventually could become incorporated into County or City's SOPs. There was agreement that ACWA's target should be restoration.
- **EPAs Watershed Planning Tool:** Mike Saylor, President of Beaver Creek Watershed Association (BCWA), suggested that ACWA pursue resources that could help them fund and obtain an Antietam Creek Watershed Assessment. Adam reported that he had completed a more thorough EPA Watershed Plan and suggested that it could be the framework for any assessment. He agreed to send Ron and Dave Biser copies. He is also working on a watershed fact sheet (draft circulated) and will recommend a subwatershed for concentrated work.
- **22 September Rubbish Round-Up:** Dave Biser reported that he supervised Alternative Sanctions people who cleaned up a large amount of trash on August 18th so that a fallen tree could be removed to open the waterway for boat travel. Washington County Sewage Treatment Plant helped with this challenging effort. One more tree needs to be removed. Fred Nugent discussed two locations that the Scouts had selected to date: Boy Scouts - Crumrine property to Jefferson Boulevard Bridge; and Cub Scouts - Hamilton Run from Pangborn Park to Security Road. Some Scouts will probably show up at the American Legion site. He also stated that a commemorative patch is being prepared and that a preferable time for clean-ups is spring. Sally reported that help in media outreach has been obtained from a member and that a press release will go out September 7th. Hopefully, the *Herald-Mail's* Community Page of September 21st will list the event. Emilie reported that River & Trail Outfitters is the main sponsor and will donate 250 bandanas plus supply rafts and/or boats. Food and beverage needs were also mentioned with no determination at this time as to how, and if, they will be supplied. Food and beverage donations would be much appreciated - snacks, water, etc.
- **Other Issues:** Mike reported that BCWA is sponsoring a tree planting on November 3rd in partnership with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) on the last property that abuts Black Rock Creek that is without buffer plantings. He also stated that irrigation plans for the pond at Beaver Creek Golf Course are in progress. He remarked that the proponents of a shopping center complex near Dual Highway and Rt. 70 seek inclusion of the Oliver Property, which would require a zoning change from agricultural to highway interchange. An organization, Beaver Creek Preservation Organization, has been formed by opponents. For information about this group, please contact Jack Grier at jgrier9938@verizon.net, or at its Yahoo Group(s). Adam had copies of the *Potomac Basin Reporter*, *May/June 2007* from ICPRB with an article about fish kills for members.
- **Next Meeting:** The next regular meeting will be in October with specific date and site yet to be selected. ACWA hopes to sponsor a panel discussion on the watershed's forests and trees. Information will be sent out once the time/place has been set. Adam and Emilie are in charge of organizing this meeting.
- Submitted by Sally Hatch, secretary. Please contact her at sally.bob@verizon.net, or 301.790.0378, for more information or if you wish to be deleted from ACWA's e-mail list: **Thanks to all who help ACWA in any and every way! Hope to see you at the Rubbish Round-Up on September 22nd.**