

Antietam Creek Watershed Alliance (ACWA) July 26, 2007 Meeting Summary

Antietam Creek Watershed Alliance (ACWA) held a general meeting on July 26, 2007 at the Quality Inn, Hagerstown, MD from 7:00 – 8:45 PM. This meeting summary follows the Meeting Agenda as much as possible.

- 1 Introductions:** Sally Hatch opened the meeting at 7:00 PM and introduced those present.
- 2 Approval of the 22 May 2007 Meeting Minutes:** The minutes were approved as submitted.
- 3. Election of the Board of Directors and Officers:** A motion to vote upon all previously nominated officers and board members to be elected as a group was sponsored, seconded, and approved unanimously. A subsequent motion to elect the nominated officers and board members was sponsored, seconded, and approved unanimously. Those elected are:
President – Ron Rosensteel; Vice-President – Dave Biser
Treasurer – Bob Hatch; Secretary – Sally Hatch
Board of Directors – Randy Barber, Donna Brightman, Hank Livelsberger, Victoria Mock , and Merry Stinson
- 4. ACWA Incorporation Status/Issues:** Adam Griggs and Marcia D.Watters led a generalized discussion of ACWA's need for nonprofit status and incorporation. Suggested "articles" were discussed. Mrs. Watters will submit by e-mail a draft Articles of Incorporation for comment in the new few days. Mr. Griggs agreed to be named "Resident Agent with the corporate address being the residence of Robert Hatch, treasurer. Bylaws can be drawn up once ACWA has formal, incorporation status (an estimated 4-6 weeks) and give additional language for IRS review. Marcia said that she assist ACWA with the designation of the specific duties of officers and board members and schedule an additional meeting with the Board and/or officers.
- 5. Finalize ACWA's Mission Statement:** The statement, "The Antietam Creek Watershed Alliance (ACWA) is dedicated to the promotion, protection, and restoration of the Antietam Creek Watershed in cooperation with volunteers; civic groups; and local, state, and federal agencies" was accepted by the membership.
- 6. Activity Survey:** Activity Survey Charts were given to meeting attendees. Absent members will be e-mailed the charts, asked to complete them, and return them to Ron Rosensteel. He will tabulate the results and present them at ACWA's next meeting.
- 7. 22 September Rubbish Round-Up:** Dave Biser circulated photos he recently took of horrific amounts of trash in the Antietam Creek, near Mt. Aetna dam. He stated that members/friends/general public site will begin at Funkstown American Legion, Post #211 – Alt. Route 40 at 9:00 AM. Boats and rafts will go upstream to the dam or downstream to Funkstown. Boy Scout Troops will clean-up several, additional sites, and St. James' students will clean-up one site. The City of Hagerstown will provide gloves and trash bags. Washington County Public Works will pick up the trash. River & Trail Outfitters is the major sponsor and will donate water crafts, gift bandanas, and other assistance. Washington County Soil Conservation District will assist and hopes to donate \$250 for reusable trash containers. Other issues, including water route access, safety, drinking water, publicity, and waivers will be addressed by the committee. Emilie Cooper passed out fliers about the event.
- 8. Watershed Coordinator Position:** Elmer Weibley of USDA/Washington County Soil Conservation District presented a proposal for creation of a Washington County Watershed Coordinator that the Chesapeake Bay Trust (CBT) has pledged to help fund for 3-years. Some matching funds will be required from participating groups as will their cooperation. Members spoke in favor of the concept. Possible sources of funding include grants, donations, and in-kind contributions. An application for a CBT Stewardship Grant must be submitted by December, 2007 with funding sources, job deliverables, and other details in place at that time.
- 9. Soil Conservation District Miscellaneous:** .Chris Burch led a discussion of the possible publication of a pamphlet which would replicate Baltimore County's *From My Backyard to the Bay* . He said that area partners, e.g. Beaver Creek Watershed Association, Washington County Government, Soil Conservation District, and ACWA are needed for funding, obtaining photos, and distributing copies. It was suggested that contributions and commitment by ACWA should not be made prematurely since a Budget and Fund Raising Plan hasn't been done nor have the members' preferred activities been selected. Adam stated that a grant might be obtained to cover the costs. Washington County Commissioners might help with publication, promotion, and distribution.
- 10. Other Agenda Items:** Due to time limitations, no other agenda items were discussed. and the meeting was adjourned. **Next Meeting will be August 23, 2007, Quality Inn, 7:00 PM.**