

## **NOVEMBER 14, 2006 MEETING SUMMARY:**

ACWA held its first public meeting on Monday evening, November 14, 2006, in the training room of St. Lawrence Cement Company, Hagerstown, MD. The meeting was opened by Bob Hatch at 7:00 PM. He gave background comments about the formation of the organization. A small but enthusiastic group attended.

Emilie Cooper, our watershed expert on loan from DNR, introduced Adam Griggs from the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin (ICPRB) and said that Adam will help us out with various organizational matters, e.g., obtaining 501 (c) (3) status, IRS tax forms, and drafting of By Laws. Adam reported that he has contacted Marcy Watters, a local lawyer, who has done similar work for Beaver Creek Watershed Association (BCWA). He stated that he is in the process of writing a grant to ICPRB to pay for her legal services. Questions were raised about the time frame necessary to form an organization. Since no one knew the exact number of months it would take, Adam said that in the meantime ICPRB will probably allow ACWA to be under their "umbrella". Henrietta Livelsberger and Victoria Mock, volunteered to help.

Tiffany Dillman, our student intern from Hagerstown Community College was then introduced. She had on display some of her work on logo and pamphlets for our input and suggestions. Once a logo is approved, John Brognard will develop a web site for us and ICPRB will help us produce other outreach materials. Fay Wastler is assisting with these projects, and Joyce Angleberger offered her help as well.

Emilie reported from e-mails with Fred Nugent that a Kiwanis Park might be established on the banks of the Antietam Creek within the area of a floodplain within the "proposed" Light Business Park. The park would include lighting and a rough, boat launch. No one knew the answer to the question whether or not there were any "scenic creeks" so designated within the Antietam Watershed or the State of Maryland.

Paul Kazyk, our speaker for the evening, was then introduced. Paul is an Aquatic Scientist with DNR and the liaison for the Highlands Action Program for Maryland (HAP). He gave a visual, oral presentation on his work with suggestions how groups such as ACWA can help make a difference in our quality of life and many ways in which he can help us. He urged us to draw businesses in, gain county support, and involve young people. We thank Paul for his time and outstanding presentation and are looking forward to working with him in the future.

Future activities might be tree plantings; cleaning up neglected, planted sites; gray-green corridor mapping; working with the Maryland Brook Trout Alliance; surveying streams; and an annual Rubbish Round-Up. Thanks to everyone who attended and offered their help. Thank you Victoria for hosting the meeting and to Aileen Boyd and others who are interested in getting this fledgling group off the ground!

Sally Hatch, acting recorder

