

**Hickory Ridge Watershed Advisory Committee Meeting
December 3, 2018
Notes**

Present: Deborah Wessner, Iris Mars, Ellen Roberts.

Stenciling Projects:

Stenciling is on hold due to the winter weather and will resume in the Spring. Iris and Ellen discussed paints; Iris gave Ellen a list of primers that could work and a couple to avoid. Ellen probably will use the highway paint WSA already paid for with our grant money; her decision for the Spring. Iris has the Sherwin Williams semi-gloss but is not sure how much of it she will have left when she's done.

Action item: Iris will send Ellen a list of what drains were painted with what primers and topcoats.

Action item: Ellen will estimate how much primer she would need for the redos and for painting the remaining drains and get the cost of getting the primer to Deborah asap so that Deborah can see if Anne has funds. This request should include supplies, like paint roller covers.

Rain Garden Survey:

The plan:

- obtain from Anne the best way to do this;
- send the link to the online survey to the rain garden owners;
- gather and analyze and summarize the results;
- disseminate the summarized results to the stakeholders;
- release the survey the second week of January;
- may need a Log article announcing it.

Action item: Iris will send the survey draft to the team for a final review and comment.

Action item: Deborah will discuss with Anne inre the approach.

Action item: Iris will draft a Log article announcing the upcoming survey. Note: if Anne is sending to all known owners via email, this might not be necessary.

Note: Iris has worked with SurveyMonkey before and summarized data for different audiences.

Rain Garden Maintenance Seminar:

We're going to focus on getting this seminar series going, starting with Rain Garden Maintenance (aka, "Rejuvenating Your Rain Garden"). Everything else can wait a bit.

The plan:

- through Anne, target rain garden owners with an email invite;
- write a separate article for The Log;
- ensure other villages get The Log article to disseminate (can Anne do that or must CA WAC or John McCoy do it?);
- invite Danielle Tyeryar from CA to have a Rain Garden table and be available for general Q&A about the CA rain garden program;
- draft a list of advance questions/issues for the presenters to respond to, e.g.:
 - do we need to clean leaves from the rain garden?
 - berm issues:
 - erosion
 - settling
 - built correctly
 - slope/runoff/ponding depth
 - what to do about too much rain;
 - Year 1: what to do;
 - Year 2 and so on: what to do;
 - sources of materials, e.g., compost, native plants, rocks;
- HoCo has a fee program for maintenance: get someone from HoCo to talk about the program;
- Possible presenters: Lauren Turner, Lori Lilly, Linda Luke.

Action item: Iris will draft a list of questions for the presenters and send to the team to enhance; questions cover issues with rain gardens that the presenters could answer.

- **Action item:** Deborah or Iris will draft a Log article for the upcoming seminar, when we have the dates and speaker(s) confirmed.

Action item: inre sources of compost, Deborah asked whether the compost from HoCo is comparable to the compost from MoCo. Iris suggested that Deborah check with HoCo and see what statistics they have on it. If there's no good answer, she can check with John McCoy.

Action Item: Ellen will check with Alex for dates for the rain garden program. Because the facility is having the bathroom renovated, it will not be available from

February through mid-March. Most likely, the program will happen mid-March to early April, before Easter. Ellen will check with CA on when the Spring Clean-up event will officially be held; most likely, the third Saturday in March (March 23). Note: if it's the 23rd, Iris can't make it – she has a class that weekend.

- **Action item:** Deborah will contact Lauren Turner to see when she's available when we know what dates we can have to do the presentation. She will also contact CA (Danielle) and HoCo (rain garden maintenance fees).

New School in Clary's Forest Next to Pool:

Possibly draft a letter and/or prepare a presentation to the Board of Education inre ensuring there is a bioretention facility on school property. Schools are State property and not bound by HoCo rules, nor are they required to have design approval or public comment sessions.

Desired outcomes:

- bioretention facility/treat stormwater from impervious surfaces on site;
- LEED certified (CA Sustainability people would be better input for this – out of scope for WAC);

Issues:

- some schools have had their bioretention facilities razed to the ground since they didn't like the way they looked; John McCoy has more details;
- need to find examples where they have been successfully implemented for the presentation (show and tell with pictures).

CA WAC Update:

Each village has sent a representative, plus, a representative from the CA Sustainability Committee. However, not all villages have a WAC.

Deborah is trying to get standard guidelines written up so people don't need to reinvent the wheel in each village, for things such as pull and plant, stenciling, and other projects. John McCoy likes Deborah's Pull and Plant guidelines.

Stenciling project guidelines: Deborah asked Sheila Robinson (Oakland Mills) to come up with something. Iris explained she has this stuff written up already and has disseminated it in the past, but to let Sheila do her assignment before contacting Iris.

Leaves in Storm Drains:

There are many areas where HoCo, BoE, State, CA properties have leaves accumulating in the gutters in front of them near storm drains. Who is responsible for getting these cleaned? Street sweepers will avoid these to avoid clogging the sweepers. Per national? law, the sweepers are supposed to do this quarterly.

Action item: Iris will contact HoCo on their policies/rules for cleaning up these areas that are not in front of residential properties.

Sinking Cities:

Deborah recommended we watch the PBS series "Sinking Cities" that describes how four of them (New York, Miami, London, and Tokyo) are coping with sinking into the ground/rising water levels.

Would Ellicott City have similar issues? It has the bowl issues and potential issues with overflow from the Patapsco.

Link: <https://www.pbs.org/show/sinking-cities/>