

**Hickory Ridge Watershed Advisory Committee Meeting
May 7, 2018**

Present: Iris Mars, Sara McGarity, Ellen Roberts, Etarae Weinstein, Deborah Wessner

Pre-meeting discussion notes: one person tried to mitigate runoff by directing a dry stream bed onto an area that's on the 100-year floodplain – can't do that without permission from the State of Maryland.

Hawthorn Open House: over 70 people came by!

Approve Past Minutes: copies of notes from Iris with edits from Deborah were distributed to all to review and approve so they can be filed.

Action item: email Deborah asap if there are any issues.

WAC Annual Report: team reviewed and noted some items to change.

Action item: Deborah will update and send an electronic copy for final review by the team.

Columbia Cleanup Day (April 21, 2018): two Boy Scout troops (Numbers 702, 720) assisted. One had over 30 people (including parents). The boys were excited about going into the stream itself and picking up trash. Estimated 30 bags of trash and 15 bags of recyclable materials were collected. Joan and/or Alex (HR's new event coordinator) should have photos. These should be put on the website.

Stenciling Projects: issue with paint noted by Ellen and Iris: even though Iris was using "primer" (what the WSA said it was), there were still signs of rust coming through. Deborah will call HoCo Department of Highways to see what they recommend. Iris had contacted HoCo's Office of Community Sustainability (stencil people) but so far, no response. Iris and Ellen are holding on getting paint until the contact has responded. Iris has heard from a couple of people about rust primers and will check them out.

Draft log article inre stenciling: per Etarae's suggestion, they will be split into three.

Stenciling event signs: Deborah is talking to Joan about making yard sale sized signs to put out where we are stenciling. Ellen and Iris will review before they go live. Signs will include the WAC logo.

Pull and Plant: scheduled for Sunday, May 20, 2018. Location: on Watch Chain south of Flywheel Court along the Open Space path. Article to go into The Log this week. Deborah will contact one of the scout troops for help.

Action item: Deborah will work with HRV staff to get snacks and water bottles from HRV to bring to the Pull and Plant. If Deborah needs other things like a table and

brochures, she'll check with HRV staff and us, because, if we have a table, someone might need to sit there (bring a chair, too).

Action item: Iris will visit the site and photo. She has old photos from last November, but there was not much to see.

Communications: Sara will contact the rain garden seminar attendees for follow-up for inviting them to other events. Deborah has the HRVWAC email account and will do the actual sending.

Log articles: Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) is not in there, yet; HRV staff needs to find the space.

Website: Deborah and Iris had not scheduled a meeting. Deborah and Iris decided to drop creating a WAC page because the HRV WAC site gets very low traffic. Articles in The Log could direct people to the WAC page, meaning, we would need to have things on the page. Given the current low traffic and other priorities, this item is suspended.

Neighborhood Walks/Door Hanger Distribution: door hangers will be printed within the next two weeks. Goal is to walk and do a 20-minute clean-up at the same time. Joan is ordering plastic bags and gloves; Deborah will inform the team they're available, and interested walkers can stop by the office to grab some for their walks.

Action item: team should view the three YouTube links provided by Deborah about relocating downspouts under sidewalks.

Action item: team should review the business card verbiage and determine what would be the most appropriate. The version provided is a draft.

Where to go walking: Sunny Spring gets trash from the soccer players from Misty Arch Run down to Bright Plume south. It just needs regular walking.

Geegaw: red fire hydrant with rolled up pet waste bag inside.

Note: Iris opines that this adds to the plastic waste problem, even though it's cute.

Discussion: Ellen noted someone put the pet waste inside the pet waste station. Either the person had a bad sense of humor or was malevolent, or hadn't a clue about how to use the pet waste station. Possibly some education, e.g., a Log article, could assist.

Issue with outfall: Sara reported an issue with an outfall backing up or filled with trash. Located off of Watch Chain on Triangle Drive. If on CA property, report to CA to clean up.

Action item: Iris will take a look.

Rain Garden Photos: Deborah listed who responded “Yes” about photoing their rain gardens. Contact them to let them know that no names and addresses will be shown.

Action item: Deborah wants to ask Joan for the number of homes in Hickory Ridge for stats on percents of rain gardens. Note: if Joan doesn't have the info or has to count, this could be found on the GIS maps.

CA is using HoCo's landscaper for the rain garden program. HoCo has a maintenance option; CA could possibly provide that somehow so rain gardens built through CA can have that info. Deborah is looking at getting a price list.

Plastic Straw Reduction Campaign: new project proposed by Deborah. Goal is to reduce the use of plastic straws. These get into streams and eventually into the oceans.

Discussion: different approaches:

CA WAC would convince the CA Board to insist that events at community centers do not use plastic straws nor plastic plates and cups. Compostable plates, Chinet.

Pilot plastic reduction at Hawthorn Center and get feedback. Need rules – who approves of them and would they have an impact on the center users? Need education campaign – signage, info in the rental agreements, examples/sources of alternatives. Need a Green Bin at Hawthorn.

Restaurants at Hickory Ridge Village Center: how to approach: educational campaign.

Action item: Deborah will email team info about egg carton types and egg breakage: break at higher rate in plastic and Styrofoam than paper (compostable).

Future: ban plastics in school system?

Speaking of schools, car wash fundraisers should be done at car wash facilities for a percentage of the profit or some cost-sharing arrangement since the car wash facilities are required to capture their wastewater. If doing at a school or church, should capture the pollutants on an absorbent pad and dump the wastewater down the toilet.

Palooza: unsure if we will do a Palooza. Deborah thought co-sponsoring with River Hill was one option; also, doing one at Robinson Nature Center is another option.

Action Item: Deborah will research Robinson Nature Center as a Palooza host.

Action Item: Iris will check with River Hill WAC on whether they would be interested in having us co-sponsor.

Native Plant Garden: Deborah will follow-up with Jan Clarke on the status of the native plant garden.