

St. Mary's River Watershed Restoration Action Strategy

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MINUTES

10:00 AM December 8, 2008

Land Use & Growth Management – center conference room

St. Mary's River Watershed Association (SMRWA) Executive Director Bob Lewis called the meeting to order at 10:04 AM. Also in attendance were: Becky Wolf, Dan Ichniowski, Dudley Lindsley, Bob Paul, Sue Veith, Jon Grimm, and Lindsay Tempinson.

The **agenda** was accepted as presented.

The **minutes of the November 10 meeting** were accepted with three minor corrections: 1) Lindsay's surname was added – Tempinson, 2) correct typo – liaison vice liason, and 3) "Bob Paul is to review the outline and offer task assignments" was changed to "Bob Lewis . . ."

Each member in attendance stated what they wanted to take away from today's meeting. Generally the comments fell into two areas; 1) That all of the line items (or topics) listed in the draft outline (attached) be assigned to a committee member—and that each assignment would result in a draft text at the January meeting (noting February's meeting as the absolute deadline), and 2) Each member would have a better idea what was expected as the deliverable to the next meeting. Additionally for each:

- 1) A working calendar was agreed to with preliminary drafts for each assigned section be due at the next meeting January 12. Final draft for each assigned section would be due no later than the February 9 meeting.
- 2) For ideas on what this deliverable (assigned section) should look like and reflect, it was suggested that members visit the DNR web site and use the WRAS *Characterization* documents as examples. The Breton Bay characterization would be a good start. See <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/watersheds/surf/proj/wras.html> Basically, existing studies and documents should be summarized (maybe use the *executive summary*) and then the document referenced. If we borrow text, maps, etc. then we need to cite the source – *so be sure to get it when you do the borrowing*. Some documents, or portions of documents, including any tables, maps, diagrams, etc. that have particular import might be considered for an appendix. And be sure to get the URL (web address) for any referenced, borrowed-from, or otherwise pertinent items so that we can link them from the WRAS Characterization document, and our web site.

At that point the committee identified and assigned the topic items from the draft table of contents. The attached image files in four pages depict the notes on assignments. Please review them for your assignment.

The committee also discussed holding additional public meetings. It was decided that we needed the characterization completed before the next major public meeting. The timeframe of April or May for this big meeting was proposed until we can get a better handle on how the drafting will play out. Before that time, it was suggested that smaller meeting should be held to inform government advisory groups and civic groups. Student intern Megan Hession will be setting those up. Suggested was development Review forum, Chamber, Patuxent Partnership, Garden Club. If anyone wants to schedule a meeting with a group that they are working with, contact Megan and Bob Lewis at 301-737-02903.

Other notes:

- The Draft Corps Feasibility Study is underway and includes: [Upper St. Mary's River: Stream & Floodplain Condition Assessment](#).
- New volunteer committee members: Lindsay Tempinson tempinsonl@yahoo.com and Becky Wolf rlwolf@att.net Both are educated and experienced in water quality and related fields and will work with Bob Paul on the extensive related portion of the WRAS Characterization.

The action items were not reviewed (see below) as each attendee took notes.

The meeting was adjourned at about 11:20 with some folks remaining until noon to continue to plan tasking.

Action items -- *Additional tasking on topic areas is attached – please review four pages:*

- Sue – Send to Bob L. the FIDS info
- Sue – Obtain MDE permit locations for map
- Sue – send Drummond report to Bob L. (aquifers)
- Sue – find anything on wetland loss and unbuffered streams
- Sue – talk to Carrie regarding seal level rise and inundation
- Bob P. – Look at MDE Survey and KCI study
- Bob P. – write up on soils erodibility (Bruce may have)
- Bob L. – Ask John G. for projects that are planned, or should be planned, underway, etc., and should be included in our WRAS Characterization – such as Pegg Road extension, FDR, sw retrofits & maintenance
- Bob L. – obtain summaries of each research/science facility within the watershed, such as the Piney Point Aquiculture Facility
- Bob L. - Pull from Breton Bay WRAS hydric soils & Optimizing benefits
- Bob. L. - Ask Ernie to help with birds
- Bob L. – Will prepare aquifers topic area and emergency topic area (Hazard Mitigation Plan)
- Bob L. - find workshop info on sea level rise and wetland loss
- Bob L. - Talk with Donna Sasscer and TriCounty regarding agriculture and water-based economies
- Bob L. – ask Kate and Dan to help with heritage (with Henry?)
- Robin – send Encroachment Study to Bob L. (Bob ask her)

Additional tasking on topic areas is attached – please review four pages.

The next meeting will be 10 AM January 12 at the Lexington Park Library room #A.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Lewis
301-737-2903
December 19, 2008

For more information contact Bob Lewis at 301-737-2903 or Bob.Lewis@hughes.net or visit www.StMarysRiver.org

DRAFT TABLE OF CONTENTS
St. Mary's River Characterization

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
 CONTRIBUTORS TO THE WATERSHED CHARACTERIZATION
 INTRODUCTION

- Background
- Location
- Purpose of the Characterization
- Additional Characterization Work
- Identifying Gaps in Information

HERITAGE

- History
- River as a Resource Throughout History
- Archeological Significance & Archeology
- ~~St. Mary's River Bottomlands Heritage Area~~

} Henry

WATER QUALITY

- Water Quality Standards and Designated Uses
- Shellfish Harvesting Restrictions
- Water Quality Indicators—Setting Priority for Restoration and Protection
 1. Nutrients
 2. State 303(d) Impairment—Not Supporting Designated Use.
- Total Maximum Daily Loads — River, Lake
- Why Are Local Waters Impaired?
- What is the Impact of the Potomac River?
- What Are the Effects of Nutrient Over-Enrichment?
- What Are the Effects of Excessive Sedimentation?
- Sources of Pollution
 1. Point Sources — St. Inigoes and landfill?
 2. Diffuse or Nonpoint Sources — air deposition, automobiles, septic systems, fertilizers, sludge, poultry litter, etc. (where does this all go?)
- Tributary Team Characterization
- Partnership Surveys and Characterization
 1. Overview of Summer 2008 Partnership Program
 2. St. Mary's River Stream Corridor Assessment and Tidal Shoreline Survey 2008
 3. St. Mary's River Watershed Synoptic Survey 2008
 4. St. Mary's River Watershed Characterization

} Bob Paul & Becky Wolf
Lindsay

Water Quality Monitoring

- 1. St. Mary's River Project
- 2. Maryland Biological Stream Survey → MDE Surveys — Bob Paul

Groundwater and Water Supply

- 1. Municipal
- 2. Aquifers and private wells → Summary & Maps — Bob Lewis

} Bob Lewis

Move to
to the
Human Needs

LANDSCAPE

Landscape Indicators

- 1. Impervious Surface — KCI study
 - 2. Population Density
 - 3. Historic Wetland Loss
 - 4. Unbuffered Streams — Mark Matr
 - 5. Soil Erodibility —
- } Sue

Land Use

- 2008 RPD Task Force Study ?
- 2008 Encroachment Study — Robin —
- Lands With Significant Natural Resource Value and Large Area } Sue to pull map.
 1. Green Infrastructure

2. Large Forest Blocks
Mining – need and impacts — Bruce

Protected Lands } Dudley
1. St. Mary's River Wildlands
2. St. Mary's Lake
3. County Parklands

Soils of the St. Mary's River Watershed } Bruce
1. Interpreting Local Conditions with Natural Soil Groups
2. Soils and Watershed Planning

Wetlands }
1. Wetland Categories
2. Tracking Wetlands (ground truthing wetlands)
3. Interpreting Wetland Distribution

Floodplains } Sue V.
Steep Slopes
Low Elevation Areas Subject to Sea Level Rise
Hurricane and Storm Inundation

Consultant's (who?) work on mitigation sites ← KCI study } Bob L.
Lands Targeted for Development
1. Lexington Park Development District
2. Towns, Villages, and Rural Centers

Eyes on the Bay
web site
Wetlands loss

HUMAN NEEDS & SERVICES

Housing & Welfare } Joe → Robin & HD.
1. Workforce Housing Study
2. Homeless ?? do we have anything?
3. Health & Medicine ?? do we have anything?

Employment } Donna Sasscer ? Help.
1. Water-based economies and businesses – impacts and greening
Tri County Council

Infrastructure } John G.
1. Transportation
2. Sewerage ← water-Dan
3. Emergency Services ← Hazard Mitigation Plan
Agriculture } Donna Sasscer.
1. Growing for Local Consumption
2. Grains and bio-fuel
3. Animal Operations
4. Equine Facility Needs & Impacts
Bruce

LIVING RESOURCES AND HABITAT

Living Resource Indicators } Chris
1. SAV Abundance
2. SAV Habitat Index
3. Migratory Fish } Bob, Chris, & Lindsay
4. Nontidal Benthic Index of Biotic Integrity (IBI)
5. Nontidal Fish Index of Biotic Integrity (IBI)
6. Headwater Streams in Interior Forest
7. High Quality Habitat for Forest Interior Dwelling Species (FIDS) } Ernie Willoughby

Birds }
Fish and Crabs }
1. Tidal Areas
2. Nontidal Areas
3. Fish Consumption Advisory } Bob Chris & Lindsay
Benthic Macroinvertebrates }
Why Look at Benthos in Streams?
What are filter feeders? What purpose do they serve?

Oysters — Henry
Sensitive Species

SMR Bottomlands Heritage Area

2

- 1. Habitat Protection Categories
- 2. Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species List - *Becky Wolf - (DNR Katherine McCauley of ? Bryan)*

Submerged Aquatic Vegetation

- 1. SAV Status
- 2. SAV Restoration Potential

RESTORATION AND CONSERVATION TARGETING

2009 Corps Reports

- 1. Report 1
- 2. Report 2 (etc. through 5)

2006 Center for Watershed Protection/ Corps ?? (redundant?)

2007 VIMS Performance of Sills - shoreline study

Agricultural Conservation Programs

Smart Growth - *Priority Funding Areas - Bob L.*

Green Site Design

- 1. Adding Green Infrastructure to Developments

Green Building

- 1. Gray Water Reuse
- 2. Septic System Upgrades and Grant Program

Marina Programs - *Clean Marina web site on DNR - Bob L.*

Fish Blockage Removal - *DNR Programs*

Stream Buffer Restoration

- 1. Benefits and General Recommendations
- 2. Using GIS
- 3. Headwater Stream Buffers
- 4. Land Use and Stream Buffers
- 5. Nutrient Uptake from Hydric Soils in Stream Buffers
- 6. Optimizing Water Quality Benefits by Combining Priorities

Wetland Restoration

PROJECTS RELATED TO THE WRAS PROCESS

~~319(h) Funded Projects~~

Other Projects/Programs

- 1. Center for Watershed Protection *Corps Studies*
- 2. Watershed Evaluation for St. Mary's River and ~~McIntosh Run~~ Watersheds *Bob L. Look at that*
- 3. Potomac River Association *Breton Bay Campaign*
- 4. ~~Yellow Perch Restoration In McIntosh Run~~
- 5. St. Mary's River Watershed Association Oyster Recovery Assessment Study

POTENTIAL BENCHMARKS FOR WRAS GOAL SETTING

REFERENCES

GLOSSARY

- Appendix A St. Mary's River Stream Corridor Assessment and Tidal Shoreline Survey 2008
- Appendix B St. Mary's River Watershed Synoptic Survey 2008
- Appendix C St. Mary's River Watershed Characterization 2008
- Appendix D Breeding Bird Survey for Tall Timbers 1966-2000 (more recent?)
- Appendix E Fall Oyster Bar Survey Results for the Tidal River 1990-2008,
- Appendix F Report on Nutrient and Macroinvertebrate Synoptic Surveys
- Appendix G Maryland Geological Survey Reports
- Appendix H METCOM facility needs study 2009
- Appendix I Maryland Storm Water Act 2007
- Appendix J Governor's GreenPrint Program 2008 (mapping of projects that receive public money)

- Other Projects
- Chamellor's Run
 - Pegg Rd. Ext.
 - Inspection of SWF.

subhead Cons. Programs - Rural Legacy - Ag. Pres.

Forestation

LIST OF MAPS

- Map Title Page
- 1 Regional Context
- 2 WRAS Project Area
- 3 Streams and Subwatersheds
- 4 County Subwatersheds
- 5 Designated Use
- 6 Monitoring Sites By Programs
- 7 Monitoring Sites By Volunteers
- 8 MDE Permits - *mine, water withdrawals, water discharge.*
- 9 Water Supply
- 10 Aquia Aquifer
- 11 Generalized 2000 Land Use
- 12 Green Infrastructure
- 13 Forest Interior
- 14 Protected Lands and Smart Growth
- 15 Soils By Natural Soils Groups
- 16 Hydric Soils And Highly Erodible Soils ✓
- 17 Wetlands
- 18 Floodplain and Sea Level Rise
- 19 Oysters
- 20 Sensitive Species
- 21 Submerged Aquatic Vegetation
- 22 Clean Marinas
- 23 Stream Buffer Land Use Scenario
- 24 Stream Buffer Hydric Soil On Open Land Scenario
- 25 Wetland Restoration Opportunities
- 26 Potential Mitigation Sites

Marinas, mining operations, *sewer facilities*

Fish blockages