



Working Group Name: Water

Meeting Date: December 14, 2011, 5:30 to 7:30 pm

Meeting Location: DCRA Hearing Room, 1100 4th St, SW

Attendees:

Emilie Stander	Ann Aldrich	Andy Oetman
Andy Serfass	Alex Shtogrew	Ram Y. Uppuluri
Kevin O'Hara	William Slade	Maureen McGowan
Josh Young	Jennifer Peters	Co-chair
Chris Earley	Neil Weinstein	Steve Saari
Ellen McBarnette	Kent Slowinski	Alternate Co-chair
Tammy Stidham	Mike Bolinder	Dan Guilbeault
Matt Harper	Bill Brower	SDC Staff

Main Points/Discussion:

1. The group reviewed notes from the last meeting and some of the major themes from our discussion on sustainability:

- All people, but particularly low-income people, should have access to Anacostia
- Must provide access to affordable, clean drinking water
- Waterways shouldn't be dividers—should unite city
- Stormwater and relevant infrastructure can generate jobs
- Decentralizing water system could take pressure off existing infrastructure
- Should treat grey water and stormwater as resources
- All water is part of one cycle

2. Reviewed background information

- Community input (from website, community meetings, and Twitter), formal input (from organizations), and best practices now available online. Existing conditions will be available shortly.
- Please review this information in preparation for next meeting, at which we will discuss recommended goals. This info will provide context for where DC is now so we know where to go from here.
- Keep in mind that DC is an older city with old infrastructure so some things that cities with newer infrastructure may be more difficult to accomplish.

3. Vision Development



The group developed a list of principles that they felt should be included in the vision statement. Below are three attempts at combining these principles, and the full list of principles is included below.

a. Draft Vision Statements –

- **STATEMENT 1: Big picture / aspirational**
All water falling in and flowing through DC must be clean and fully accessible to support a livable, healthy, innovative, and economically viable community that sets a standard for the world to follow.

- **STATEMENT 2: Focusing on triple bottom line, more detailed version**
In recognizing that access to clean drinking water and healthy waterways that connect people with their environment is a human right, we will
 - Develop our riverfront communities in an economically sustainable way;
 - Protect and restore our ecosystem; and
 - Provide access to all species by connecting and uniting them around our waterways.

- **STATEMENT 3: Blend of big picture and triple bottom line**
We recognize that access to clean water is a universal right. Therefore, we will develop our community in an innovative, economically and environmentally sustainable way that unites us by working together to provide access to clean drinking water and waterways to all species.

b. List of key words/principles to be included

- Asset/valuable/resource
- Something that unites rather than divides city/unity/whole city
- DC as innovative regional/national/world leader (we are the capital of the US)
- Drinking water as something necessary for life/health/human right
- Connection between 'ecosystem' health and human health/all species health
- Access to clean waterways and drinking water
- Stewardship
- Triple bottom line (health, economic, environment)/economic, political opportunity
- Education/empowerment
- Drinking water, waterways, waste water
- Public-private players/resident, worker, visitor
- Fishable, swimmable

c. Full conversation notes

- Should it be measurable?
- Would be nice to see something positive about river and how it's an asset to community instead of repeating we need to clean it
- A healthier river will result in a healthier DC
- Need to figure out water assets and how best to make use of them
- A lot of the Anacostia River is actually outside of DC so outside our control
- Let's keep scope broader than just rivers
- Ask ourselves, "does this make the river better?" If yes, can move forward with idea
- DC is contained. We need to work with other jurisdictions where our water comes from and goes back to
- Drinking water is a resource that people need to live
- Could frame the vision statement around the water cycle and how water how water use and treatment fit into the cycle
- Need action items that go to multiple levels that keeps DC as leader in region—quantifiable somehow
- Need to recognize connection between ecosystem health and human health
- Keep DC—and the Anacostia River—as national and international leader
- Who is our target audience? DC is very international city—is it residents? Visitors? International delegations?
- Remember to include public and private sectors. Needs to go beyond just DC gov't to include residents, workers and visitors
- How wonky do we want—or not want—to be?
- Anacostia should be fishable and swimmable
- Waterways in DC should unite community instead of divide it
- Need to keep language accessible and help connect issues to residents. Should show how the plan will benefit people and that water is part of their everyday lives
- Remember importance of education. Indianapolis created map that tells people where their water comes from and goes (and a cool iphone app 😊)
- How do people value water? Should create the foundation for vision
- Water is a valuable and valuing resource for all people to whole city
- River is conduit for accessibility, education, and other things
- This is an opportunity to create economic and political advantage for DC
- Changing people's behavior is key



- Idea – free drinking water for residents (not businesses) in city paid for by savings from energy and water efficiency measures. This would attract new residents to city and benefit low-income people.
- Want to make sure that water is valued and that people conserve it
- How much do we want to emphasize DC as nation's capital?
- Would be nice to be outcome oriented
- Make DC a leader in grey water
- What is the role of food desserts? Capturing water for irrigation for food production would connect water to its benefits
- Access to clean waterways and clean drinking water
- Need to empower ourselves to provide access to water, not just gov't
- It's about education and helping make the connection for people of the value of water
- Should tie together fresh water as a right with the Anacostia serving as a rain garden
- Provide water not just for residents but workers (more employees in DC than residents) and visitors (reliant on them for economy)
- Water is a human right!
- Should be careful not to be too wonky/jargon-y. What is idea behind terms?

Next Steps:

- Make sure to join the Water Working Google Group via the invitation you were sent. If you need another invitation email, contact Dan at dan.guilbeault@dc.gov
- Please review the background information emailed out and available at sustainable.dc.gov in preparation for next meeting. Additional resources should be emailed via Google Group.
- Think about who is not at table and should be invited. Please either reach out to them or contact Dan at dan.guilbeault@dc.gov to do so.

Date for next meeting: January 10, 2011 (Time TBD)

Location for next meeting: TBD

Questions? Email Dan Guilbeault at dan.guilbeault@dc.gov, Maureen McGowan at Maureen.McGowan@dcwater.com or Steve Saari at steve.saari@dc.gov.

Terms

1. **MS4** (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System): a publicly owned conveyance or system of conveyances (including roads with drainage systems, municipal streets, catch basins, curbs, gutters, ditches, man-made channels, or storm drains) that directs stormwater to waterways.



2. **Grey Water** (not universally agreed upon): leftover water from baths, showers, hand basins and washing machines only
3. **Black Water**: wastewater containing fecal matter and urine
4. **Rainwater Harvesting**: Collecting water-from a roof, driveway, or other hard surface during a rainfall-and channeling it into a rain barrel or other container to be saved for use in landscaping or in the household.
5. **Impervious**: not permitting penetration or passage (water in this context)
6. **Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO)**: Direct discharge into a body of water of wastewater and stormwater from a sewer system that collects sanitary sewage and stormwater runoff in a single pipe system.
7. **Combined Sewer System (CSS)**: A sewer system that combines stormwater runoff and sanitary sewage into one pipe that is directed to a wastewater treatment plant.
8. **Triple Bottom Line (abbreviated as TBL or 3BL, and also known as people, planet, profit or the three pillars)**: captures an expanded spectrum of values and criteria for measuring organizational (and societal) success: economic, ecological, and social.

Resources (to include any books/websites that would be good for reference):

- DC Clean Rivers Project:
<http://www.dewater.com/workzones/projects/longtermcontrolplan.cfm>
- Anacostia 2032 Plan:
http://ddoe.dc.gov/ddoe/lib/ddoe/wqd/tmdl_reports/anacostia/Anacostia2032.pdf
- Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4)Permit:
http://www.epa.gov/reg3wapd/pdf/pdf_npdes/Wastewater/DC/DCMS4permit2011.pdf
- Recently Approved TMDLs
<http://ddoe.dc.gov/ddoe/cwp/view,a,1209,q,497444.asp>
 - Total Maximum Daily Loads of Trash for Anacostia River Watershed:
http://ddoe.dc.gov/ddoe/frames.asp?doc=/ddoe/lib/ddoe/services/pdf/Final_Anacostia_Trash_TMDL.pdf
 - Chesapeake Bay TMDL
<http://ddoe.dc.gov/ddoe/cwp/view,a,1209,q,502029.asp>
- Anacostia Watershed Restoration Plan
<http://www.anacostia.net/plan.html>
- DDOE Watershed Implementation Plans which are found at:
<http://ddoe.dc.gov/ddoe/cwp/view,a,1209,q,501875.asp>