

SUSTAINABLE DC WATER WORKING GROUP
November 29, 2011 – Kickoff Meeting Minutes

FACILITATORS

Maureen McGowan, DC Water
Steve Saari, DDOE
Dan Guilbeault, DDOE

ATTENDEES

Meredith Warren	Dr. Harriette Phelps
Josh Silverman	Andy Oetman
Carol Casperson	Brooke DeRenzo
Ann Haas	Alex Shtogren
Jeanne Allen	Hye Yeong Kwon
Kevin Caillouet	Josh Young
Chris Earley	Tammy Stidham
Kent Slowinski	Ann Adrich
Neil Weinstein	Adele Ashkar
Ram Y. Uppuluri	Julie Lacascio
Collin R. Burrell	Lindsey Holaday
Emilie Stander	Jennifer Peters
Bill Brower	Laura Collins

TERMS & DEFINITIONS REVIEWED

1. **MS4** (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems): 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)
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)

INITIAL “GROUND RULES”

1. Decisions will be made by consensus by those present at meeting. Consensus means you can live with decision but don't necessarily fully agree with it. Ideas not agreed upon will still be listed in recommendations, but not as supported by the full working group (WG).
2. If a participant objects to proposal, should have constructive suggestion or alternative.
3. We need to make sure that the group keeps in mind setting goals that can be benchmarked and quantified.
4. We need to identify and track goals/ideas that may be synergistic with other groups.

DISCUSSION

1. Who's not at meeting who should be?

- General Services Administration
- Private property owners
- Governmental decision makers
- Water Resources Institute (UDC)
- Building Industry Association
- District Department of Transportation
- Maryland Jurisdictions (where most of our water pollution originates)

2. "What is sustainability?" discussion

- From social justice point of view, all people—particularly low-income people with fewer alternatives—should be able to swim and fish in the Anacostia River
- Providing access to affordable, clean drinking water.
- Keep in mind majority of toxins in rivers come from Maryland
- MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems) permit regulations should be tied to sustainability issues and be taken advantage of
- DC waterways shouldn't be dividers—they should be resources that bring the city together, especially the Anacostia.
- How to measure all these things? [Will be tackled later in process]
- What is the scope of our group? Stormwater? Drinking water? Should really think of all water as one water cycle.
 - Should definitely include sewage in scope—possible to use incentives and punishments to require entities to naturally deal with certain amount of waste generated onsite.
- Lots of synergies/overlap with other WGs. Should identify those areas of overlap.
- Collecting stormwater and adding relevant infrastructure can generate jobs.
- Much to be said for decentralizing water system and taking pressure off existing infrastructure, especially as city continues to grow in population.
 - How can we do this using natural methods (e.g. rain gardens)
 - Decentralizing sewage treatment and offering onsite/alternative forms of treatment to reduce the carbon footprint of pumping and treating water.
- Treating grey water and stormwater as resources.
 - How can we use gray water more, but also how can we lessen our use of potable water (e.g. not use potable water for sprinklers, fire hydrants)?
 - We should be harvesting rainwater
- All water is part of one cycle and one world. What is the connection of water to carbon, air, energy, etc.?
- It's not just about our water use here, but also our water use in manufacturing, which in essence "exports" water outside the city. Look at our collective "water footprint" through the water we use in the products we purchase and use.
- Need to consider changes to infrastructure as well as behavior.

- Whatever is implemented should use local labor to give jobs and training to the chronically underemployed in DC; employing District residents for jobs that help create and maintain clean waters in the District.
- Stretch goal: Swimmable Anacostia by 2032. Maybe fishable too.
 - People are already fishing in river despite risk—it's an equitability issue
 - Giving kids access to river is an economic justice issue
- Need to look at recommendations in terms of how savings can offset the costs within and between initiatives (e.g. reducing stormwater runoff in the CSO area through rain gardens and low-impact development may lower operating costs of Blue Plains Water Treatment Center). This may make some initiatives more feasible than would otherwise sound.

NEXT STEPS / ACTIONS

- Group member should think about who was not at the meeting and invite them or provide their contact information to staffers.
- Group members would like the information/ideas gathered through the Sustainable.DC website. For the next meeting staff will provide this access/information to the group.
- **Next Meeting Topic:** Vision Statement Development and Review of Existing Conditions, Best Practices, & Community Input.
- **Next Meeting Output:** Long Term Vision Statement for the Topic Area Action. Staff will try to collect some examples of benchmarks and best practices before the next meeting. Group members should collect examples as well.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Proposed Date and Location [Not available]

Tuesday, 12/13/2011, 5:30 to 8:30 pm

~~1100 First Street, SE, 2nd floor~~

New Proposed Date and Location [Reserved]

Wednesday, 12/14/11, 5:30 to 8:30 pm

1100 First Street, SW, 2nd floor