

SRA SWAP Core Team
June 10, 2009, 9:30 am
Galena Town Hall

Present: Joe Blizzard, Allen Davis, Jen Dindinger, Charlie Hayes, Kascie Herron, Kim Kohl, Karen Miller, Amy Moredock, Gail Owings, Shannon Rose, Eric Shertz, Ellyn Vail, John Vail

Absent: Chris Aadland, Jeff Cornwell, Carl Gallegos, Diane Stoecker, Gail Owings, Mitch Keiler, Jen Jaber, John McCoy, Rupert Rossetti, John Seidel, Paul Sturm, Jennifer Volk, Mike Whitehill, Sara Wozniak, Ken Yetman

1. Stakeholder Meeting

Kim Kohl announced the meeting is scheduled for July 21, 6:30 pm, Turner's Creek Pavilion. Event is open to the public – guests are invited to come 1 hour before and bring a picnic. Tom Horton will be the guest speaker, followed by Paul Sturm. SRA will frame message for Tom. Paul will present the preliminary restoration strategies. Charlie Hayes suggested a back up location in case of rain.

SRA anticipates advertising in the Tidewater Trader and Kent County News. Bill Chase and David Whelan of the Chestertown Spy were mentioned. Jen Dindinger agreed to contact the Delmarva Farmer. SRA is also undertaking a direct mail campaign to notify all in the watershed.

2. Characterization

Kascie updated the Team on the characterization and thanked all for the input she's received. Edits have been incorporated and the document is now under review by Paul Sturm. A next to final version will go to the Core Team for review before being passed to Ken Shanks of DNR for final review.

Kascie summarized the Shoreline Assessment. Ken Yetman of DNR is videotaping the entire shoreline. Mitch Keiler of NFWF is annotating high-resolution photos with restoration possibilities. The assessment will be complete by late July.

Gail Owings noted the State is currently working with LIDAR to document the floodplain. Emergency Management has very detailed photos including a foot-by-foot analysis of shorelines – hardened, living, eroding, etc.

Zoning

Gail and John Seidel spoke yesterday about the issue of zoning. They agreed that zoning needs to be included, but not an in-depth analysis. Kascie suggested focusing on land-use maps, not zoning maps; perhaps highlighting the differences among counties. Gail recommended distinguishing between comprehensive plans and zoning. Each zoning ordinance has a “purpose” section that can be used. Charlie noted that comprehensive plans, zoning ordinances, and subdivision regulations are in conflict, at least in implementation. Jen Dindinger questioned in land use chapter, where we describe various land uses, isn’t that sufficient for the characterization? Karen Miller suggested that as each County has different zoning ordinance, if readers want more information they can be directed to county websites.

Invasives

Kascie stated there had been an outstanding issue with how to handle invasives and that she, John Seidel and Paul agreed that invasives will have its own section, rather than be placed under “water quality.”

3. Swap Goals and Objectives

Kim disseminated the Stakeholder Goals and Objectives table for review. Jen suggested adding the clean marina initiative and pump-outs.

Karen noted that there was no extra cover crop money for Sassafra/Kent County.

Gail recommended changing some language (i.e. enforcement) so that all initiatives are stated positively.

4. Emerging Issues

Kim and Kascie raised the following issues that have emerged as a result of the characterization and/or assessment.

Galena WWTP – The town has declined a 20 year loan for upgrading the plant as there is no tax base from which to repay. Kim spoke with Mayor Pisapia to determine Galena’s approach. She told Harry that Galena and Betterton are priorities for SRA. Harry invited Kim to speak to the Town Council. The meeting will is scheduled for July 7. Kim will request the Town partner with SRA so that adequate funding for the right system can be identified.

Indian Acres – Indian Acres was investigated as part of the Upland Assessment. It’ is zoned as a part-time resort community in Cecil County which currently has a significant number of full time residents living therein. Discussions are underway between the county’s lawyer and the

full time residents on how and when to relocate these full-time residents. SRA's issue is water quality and the handling of waste water. The community septic systems that are being used were not considered for full time residents. SRA has spoken out on the issue (letters to the editor) and has attended public meetings. SRA and CWP will return to IA in July to get final data for the Upland Assessment which will also be useful in making a case against current handling of waste water.

ISE America – ISE granted SRA access for the Stream Corridor Assessment. In addition Kascie has inspected NPDES reports at MDE. ISE has not submitted monitoring reports for 2007 and 2008 – their file has been forwarded to AG. Sites have been identified on the land for restoration – wetlands. Allen Davis tills the ground and believes the farms are in pretty good shape. Manure is hauled off-site. Twice a year they pump out the lagoon and spread on the fields. Kascie is tracking the issue with the AG's office as well as Waterkeeper Alliance.

Kim will send CWP's reports on ISE and Indian Acres to anyone who requests.

5. Key Dates

Next Core Team Meeting: July 8 at Washington College, 6:30 pm
Wade In: June 20, Betterton Beach, noon

6. Other Business

As there was no other business the meeting was adjourned.