

# Safe Water Conservation Collaborative

## **Stewardship Workgroup**

*Date – October 25, 2021*

*Time – 11-12PM*

*Location –*

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer or mobile app

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[+1 484-352-3221.113698575#](#) United States, Philadelphia

Phone Conference ID: 113 698 575#

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*Participants –*

*Frank Rodgers – Cacapon Institute*

*Amy Henry – West Virginia Conservation Agency*

*Zack Walburn – Berkeley County Stormwater Department*

*Michelle Wolfgang – US EPA R3 Source Water Program*

**Notes taken by Michelle Wolfgang, US EPA R3 Source Water**

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5 minutes – M. Wolfgang reviewed the **Cornerstones of Collaborative Leadership**

50 minutes - **Implementation updates**

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*Frank Rodgers (Cacapon Institute)*

- *What strategies have been implemented?*
  - Gave report to the Steering Committee in September.
  - We are wrapping up fall season tree planting and have begun working on education with schools. We are hopeful to have some E&O programs ready for the Spring. One tree planting did happen for SWCC in Jefferson County – this planting provides a maintenance and education opportunity for the school adjacent (North Jefferson school)
  - We have launched partnerships with ICPRB and MDNR. Our discussions with ICPRB and MD DNR are looking to target purposeful riparian buffer plantings. MD DNR is developing a multi-state Upper Potomac Riparian Buffer Program.
- *What support is needed from partners to support each other in implementing strategies?*
  - We're looking to hire a couple positions for forestry coordinator to help with these various programmatic efforts.
  - It would be good to get the word out about the various projects and positions in the coming SWCC Newsletter.
- *What financial resource are needed for implementing strategies?*
  - The NFWF grant has been awarded and the G3 grant (Green streets, jobs, communities).
- *What is one action you can take between now and next meeting to move the strategic plan forward?*
  - We are going to see how the local safe water conservation collaborative plan and the ICPRB prioritization tool to identify targeted, effective planting sites

- o We are working with MD DNR to ensure that safe drinking water is incorporated into their action plan

**Commentary:**

*F. Rodgers to Z. Walburn:* Are there other intakes in the county?

*Z. Walburn:* There are multiple intakes; La Fever Springs Plant and Bunker Hill WTP – spring-fed; many karst features and agriculture // they are moving from diatomaceous earth to a newer technology (possibly membrane); major overhaul of the plant to happen next year – majority of water is near DuPont Facility 10 mgpd plants. They are looking for other well sources

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*Amy Henry, Barbie Elliott (WVCA)*

- *What strategies have been implemented?*

*A. Henry:*

- o Involved in finishing up the cost-share programs – 2 projects to be completed by December and 4 projects to be complete by May
- o Writing nutrient management plans; educating local producers on how to apply nutrient management
- o Importing poultry litter from the Potomac Valley area for the poultry litter transfer program; educating local producers on how to apply nutrient management
- o The grants we receive determines the application period and we usually give 6 months for project completion

*B. Elliott:*

- o *Lead for ag enhancement cost-share programs (cover crops, stream fencing)*
  - Cover crops program \$ from Chesapeake Bay program funding / stream fencing program \$ from the state funds
  - This year we planted 1400 ac of cover crop however date of frost has not yet occurred. This is a problem because soybeans need to drop before the close date for cover crop planting (November 9)
  - Next signup is in December/January
- *What support is needed from partners to support each other in implementing strategies?*
  - o *A. Henry/B. Elliott:* Advertising the cost-share program sign-ups in the Newsletter or other outlets
- *What financial resource are needed for implementing strategies?*
  - o Identifying additional grant opportunities
- *What is one action you can take between now and next meeting to move the strategic plan forward?*
  - o Advertising for the cost-share program sign-up. Next sign-up in December/January

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*Zack Walburn (Berkeley Co Stormwater)*

- *What strategies have been implemented?*
  - o Executed a new MOU with Potomac Valley Audubon Society to introduce a tree education program with Mill Creek, Mountain Ridge Bunker Hill, Tomahawk Intermediate Schools; we will partner with them to provide 24 classes this year with 3<sup>rd</sup> graders to go on a field trip to be starting up in 2022 Fall

- o We have a current MOU with PV Audubon Society for a watershed education program with the 4<sup>th</sup> graders of these schools
  - o New(er) relationship with collaborative in the area: Steps Run Watershed Program
    - They are doing watershed planning - there were some impairments due to slurry
    - We are working on preventative and maintenance programs like GI and riparian plantings
  - o We are also getting ready to kickoff our \$1.5 mil grant funded by USFWS which includes actions for green infrastructure (GI) and stream restoration projects –
    - 1 GI project already designed then we received another grant to design the other 2 – trying to start building these next Spring
    - This was a 3-year grant and we are hoping to hire several interns for the next three years to help improve stormwater in the county.
    - We are looking to understand priority land use areas using a software called ToInform to help decide areas that overlap with the source water areas and plan areas of GI projects
  - *What support is needed from partners to support each other in implementing strategies?*
    - o Getting information out to the public about the programs that are supported by our partners –
      - Partner Spotlight?
  - *What financial resource are needed for implementing strategies?*
    - o If we identify cost-effective GI – if there are other funding opportunities with cost-share projects
  - *What is one action you can take between now and next meeting to move the strategic plan forward?*
    - o Continue developing and implementing GI and stormwater projects and their respective E&O components for the County
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5 minutes - **Next Steps**

- Next meeting: Doodle Poll coming end of January
- Forward information about upcoming R1 presentation about source water protection + conservation districts or conservation agencies partnerships
- B. Elliott will add M. Wolfgang to program announcements – only advertise when they have sign-ups
- M. Wolfgang will fill in the E&O workgroup on discussions relevant to the coming Newsletter