

**GWRC Green Government Commission  
Green Earth Sub-Committee Meeting Summary  
April 28, 2009**

Attendance: Chris & Dick Folger, Patricia Kurpiel, Grant Woodwell, Kevin Utt  
GWRC Staff: Kevin Byrnes & Laurel Hammig

**Items Discussed & Action (if any)**

1. Distribution of FLS E-Board handout and FLS request to provide Op-Ed articles from each sub-committee by May 12th to appear in Sunday May 17th edition....Tom Beal has agreed to write the article from the Green Earth Sub-Committee, but members suggested it might be helpful for me (KFB) to ghost write a first draft for Tom & the Sub-Committee to review & tweak, particularly in light of further discussion, see below.
2. Discussion of Public Turn-Out at Alum Springs Park Earth Day event
3. KFB reviewed how GGC got started with various project ideas, including Patricia Kurpiel's suggestion that regional Green Infrastructure planning would be beneficial to provide support to local governments to adopt this approach in updating local comprehensive plans. Based on PK's suggestion and the opportunity to pursue Federal program funding through the Coastal Zone Management program, Green Infrastructure planning is a significant part of GWRC work program for 2008 -2011.

Sub-Committee members discussed how the Committee could support this and how the current and proposed CZM grant proposals address, in various ways, some of the activities of committee interest (e.g. identifying conservation efforts & local tools, measuring regional forest and economic value, measuring the trend in impervious surface area, looking at existing and future local plans and ordinances in relation to a green infrastructure-oriented approach, etc).

Laurel Hammig presented a brief Powerpoint presentation on the VCLNA data sets from Va DCR and how these data can be used for developing a green infrastructure plan. KFB pointed out that we are trying to work with adjoining regions doing similar work and apply similar methodologies to look at the impact of post-2000 development on existing important natural ecosystems (i.e. "ecological cores"). The Committee discussed how members and the various groups they represent can be a resource to help develop local draft green infrastructure maps and help educate community environmental, business and other groups about this planning approach in simple terms easy for the general public to understand.

The discussion referenced some of the analytical projects in next year's CZM grant proposals to generate more information to help explain the importance of protecting natural ecological cores and other regional assets that represent the region's cultural and historic heritage as well as contribute to the quality of life of local residents.

Members suggested that understanding local conservation programs (e.g. purchase of development rights or PDR) would be useful & KFB explained that this documentation will come out of another CZM-funded project which involves working with local governments that must apply the final approved Phase III checklist to evaluate local development codes

(e.g. zoning, subdivision, erosion & sediment control, etc) to see whether whether localities have done enough in managing development & its impact to reduce harmful effects on the Ches Bay.

4. The members in attendance agreed that the Sub-Committee needs to focus on working with GWRC & local government staff to help complete the draft local and regional green infrastructure maps and get this information into the community to begin to explain the process & the benefits of applying this approach to long-range community planning at the local level.
5. Future Meetings: The Sub-Committee members agreed to set the 2nd Tuesday of the month, from 8:30 - 10:00 am as the regular meeting time for the Green Earth Sub-Committee. Longer meetings (as may be needed) should be announced ahead of time so that people can make scheduling arrangements to accommodate.
6. Committee Leadership: KFB explained that Mr. Connors had originally asked that Tom Beal assume the Green Earth Sub-Committee Chairmanship. Mr. Beal has indicated that with his personal schedule it may be difficult for him to perform this role and work with staff to set meeting agendas and represent the Sub-Committee. KFB indicated that he would talk with Mr. Beal & Mr. Connors about this, meanwhile members were encouraged to think about other community leaders that could make valuable contributions that might be attracted to serve on the Sub-Committee to contribute technical expertise or community networking.

#### **Next Steps:**

1. KFB to write rough draft of FLS Op-Ed article for consideration by Tom Beal & Sub-Committee (My goal is to distribute draft copies for review at Wed, 4/29 GGC meeting)
2. Members were asked to look at the draft Forestry grant proposal (attached) to look at completing the project description and its benefits to Green Infrastructure planning process and efforts of the Soil & Water Conservation District
3. Members think about other community partners that might be attracted to serve on the Sub-Committee, including perhaps more local govt staff representation, if possible.
4. Members in attendance agreed to look at the Phase III checklist to see if the depth of info on each County's conservation programs would be generated. A copy of the latest draft of the Phase III checklist was distributed to those present.