

## DC Anacostia River Corridor Restoration Plan (ARCRP)

### Public Engagement: Phase 1

#### Meeting Summary for SAC Meeting #1

**Date: June 29, 2022**

**Time: 6-7PM**

**Convened by** DOEE with project consultant team members, Biohabitats and CHP/NSpireGreen: Matt Robinson, Steve Saari, Emily Rice, and Kara Penino, DOEE; Jennifer Dowdell and Joe Berg, Biohabitats, Inc.; Karen Armendariz and Jordan Exantus, CHP/NSpireGreen

**SAC Attendees:** Jeff Young (Local Resident & Anacostia Community Boathouse); Tony Ford (Seafarers Yacht Club); Lora Nunn (Friends of Kingman & Heritage Islands); Richard Trent (Friends of Anacostia Park to everyone, [www.friendsofanacostiapark.org](http://www.friendsofanacostiapark.org)); Maisie Hughes (The Urban Studio | American Forests); Dennis Chestnut (Resilience Hub Community Committee/Ward7 Resilience Hub [www.faunteroycenter.org](http://www.faunteroycenter.org)); Ruby Stemmler (ecoLatinos); Philip Pannell (Executive Director, Anacostia Coordinating Council, [acc01@aol.com](mailto:acc01@aol.com)); Trey Sherard (Anacostia Riverkeeper, DC Vice-Chair for the Anacostia Watershed Community Advisory Committee); Tina O'Connell (Exec Director, Friends of Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens); Stuart Anderson (Executive Director Family & Friends of Incarcerated People (FFOIP) and community engagement director for ACC); Jamila Stone (River Terrace Civic Association)

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After a **round of introductions** which provided the group an opportunity to get to know their fellow SAC members, **Matt Robinson (DOEE) provided an overview of the project Anacostia River Corridor Restoration Plan (ARCRP), its purpose and goals:** enhance resiliency, restore habitat, improve water quality, & enhance public access and recreation. Matt also reviewed the types of projects that DOEE expects to see proposed through the data analysis, planning and robust engagement process to take advantage of future funding from NOAA, FEMA, etc. Example project types include: living shorelines, wetland restoration, freshwater mussel restoration, public access/ recreational amenity improvements, and submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) restoration. Matt reviewed the overall project approach and schedule and concluded with DOEE's proposed the role for the SAC during the project over the next 12-13 months.

The **intent of this Stakeholder Advisory Council (SAC)** is to have a representative group of local community members to help advise DOEE on conducting outreach and engagement for this project. The SAC members here with us today are key member of the community who can provide valuable input that will help ensure the success of this project.

**The responsibilities of each SAC member** includes the following:

- (1) committing to at least three two-hour virtual meetings over the next 8-9 months with DOEE to discuss conducting outreach and engagement and advise the project team on the best ways to communicate important information to the community
- (2) SAC members will work to recruit members of the public to participate in project engagement events including the following:
  - a. Two public surveys (one in phase 1 and one in phase 2)
  - b. Fifteen (15) individual Stakeholder Interviews

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- c. Pop-up events where the ARCRP will have a presence for public engagement and feedback (Consultant team budget includes 4 pop-up events for CHP/NSpire Green to support. For Anacostia Watershed Society: assume potential to share info at existing AWS events during project period.)
- d. Two public meetings
- e. A final public comment period

After this introduction, **Jennifer Dowdell (Biohabitats) provided a brief overview of the Phase 1 preliminary geospatial desktop data analysis** conducted by consultant team member, LimnoTech, with technical feedback from the LID center experts on resilience and sea level rise, water quality expertise from LimnoTech, habitat expertise from Biohabitats as well as robust dialogue and feedback from DOEE experts in all 4 goal areas in the form of focus groups. This data gathering, vetting and analysis process took place over the course of the last 8 months, with resulting opportunities maps. Jennifer briefly reviewed the data analysis methodology and the results of the habitat maps. The SAC is interested in seeing the preliminary mapping for all 4 goal areas, with the understanding that these are the initial mapping that will then be informed by this initial phase of engagement which is just getting started with the Sister/Fed Agencies meeting last month and this work beginning with the SAC and the public in the coming months.

Following this presentation **Jordan Exantus (CHP/NSpire Green) facilitated a brief discussion to begin to elicit feedback from the SAC** on the key communities to include in engagement in terms of considerations of possible focus areas for advertising the public meeting and potential groups to include in outreach (which the SAC will help with through their role as SAC members). He also shared the draft public survey the team has developed with DOEE which will go live shortly through the EngageDC public engagement website. The team will provide the SAC with a first opportunity to take the survey once it is live, in order to help us test drive the survey and advise on any small tweaks that can be made after launch to help its success with the general public. The public survey is intended for all members of the community as our first touchpoint gathering feedback.

The following is a brief **list of the orgs SAC members suggested to involve in the public survey, possible invites to interviews, and venues/locations to post info/invites/doorhangers about the project as a whole and the two public virtual meetings planned for this project:**

- Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (ANC) and Civic Associations
  - Ie. Deanwood, Eastland Gardens, and River Terrace Civic Associations; Fairlawn Citizens Association
- Anacostia Coordinating Council (ACC) could host a presentation of the info and invites for engagement
- The Anacostia Watershed Community Advisory Committee (AWCAC) could share information and links to the public engagement tools
- the Clean Marinas group
- The three other row clubs that Tony Ford has connections with
- SERVE DC
- The Anacostia community boathouse and the board (who represent all of the rowing and paddling clubs that operate there)
- Churches within Ward 7 and 8 (Infinite Possibilities' existing connections)

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- DC Trail Rangers from WABA may be an option for getting word out and door drops.
- Every Door Direct mailings to residents in priority zip codes?
- Friends of Kingman Park Civic Assn

It was reiterated that for this public engagement process we are interested in hearing from all folks who live near or recreate within the Anacostia River 500-yr floodplain corridor. With regard to compensation for people's time, DOEE is considering different ways to acknowledge community input including raffle prizes for survey, popup event, and public meeting participants. The SAC members have also been offered an acknowledgement of a \$150 gift card per SAC meeting for your engagement and ongoing support with outreach to your networks throughout the project timeline between meetings.

#### The following is a brief list of the possible popup events where the project could be represented:

The FH Faunerooy Community Enrichment Center; Minnesota Avenue Metro Station, Deanwood Metro, Anacostia Boathouse, Yards Park, Anacostia Park, Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, River Terrace, Arboretum Neighborhood, East of the River Shopping Center, Anacostia High School, Earth Conservation Corps; the Waterkeeper's Friday Night Fishing's 10th summer at Diamond Teague Park every Friday this summer July 8th-end of August, 5-8 PM, 60-150 people per night on the dock; Friends of Anacostia Parks events, RISE Center, other APAC events

**Matt Robinson (DOEE) closed the meeting with a request that all members of the SAC complete the short questionnaire developed by the team** to delve deeper into few areas where the team would appreciate the SAC's feedback as we finalize the engagement process for the summer months.

Link here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZVY7CLH>

The SAC's ongoing support and outreach to your network with the information DOEE provides, including links and invites is key to this process; reaching the community members who will benefit from this plan! Thank you for being part of this important council of expertise and community network connectivity.