

Sandra Tripp-Jones

From: Matt Pluta <matt@midshoreriverkeeper.org>
Sent: Tuesday, December 27, 2016 11:47 AM
To: Kathy Foster
Cc: Sandra Tripp-Jones; Stephen Rideout
Subject: Cambridge City Council Meeting: Agenda Item Request

Hi Ms. Foster,

I'd like to make a formal request to add the following agenda items to the next available City Council Meeting. Please let me know if you would like additional details on either of the agenda items.

Request 1: Presentation to the City Council from members of the Cambridge Clean Water Advisory Committee (CWAC) regarding the award of \$118k for the Cambridge Residential Stewardship Initiative project.

Background: In 2015 the Cambridge CWAC was formed and adopted under resolution by the Council to advise on clean water initiatives. Shortly after, the CWAC developed a 10 year clean water plan that identified opportunities that the City and members of the Cambridge community can take to help achieve cleaner water in our creeks and river. To help advance that plan several members of CWAC partnered on the development of a residential stewardship program that would offer technical and financial assistance to residents that have flooding and other storm water related issues. I would like to present the details of this 2 year project to the City Council and request feedback and guidance on the project framework.

Request 2: Request a Letter of Support from the City Council for the development of the Cambridge Creek Watershed Assessment and Action Plan.

Project Scope: Midshore Riverkeeper Conservancy (MRC) proposes to conduct an assessment of the Cambridge Creek Watershed (CCW) for the purpose of identifying and prioritizing opportunities to reduce pollution loads. The goals of the Cambridge Creek Watershed Management Plan are to identify sources and quantities of nutrients and sediment loads impacting Cambridge Creek and ultimately the Choptank River, and create a management plan with a prioritized list of actions that the City of Cambridge and other watershed partners can use as a blueprint to help reduce inputs and improve the water quality of the creek. The plan will include an assessment of existing water quality data, a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) analysis, National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit search and analysis, a targeted load reduction strategy, a cost-benefit analysis of potential retrofits used to prioritize projects, a list of possible funding sources, and an implementation timeline.

Project Need: The City recently completed the retrofitting of Maryland Ave into a green street and the tearing down of an old restaurant and converting the lot into green space. Current projects also include the greening of Long Wharf Park and the Canary Park Stream Restoration project, all of which include green infrastructure and other nutrient reducing management practices. The City has shown their commitment to implementing nutrient reduction projects through current and past activities but sometimes these projects are done in isolation from the rest of the community's efforts. The proposed CCW Management Plan will complement these projects by not only including the City's future management plans in the prioritization exercise, but also offering a blueprint for implementation so the projects can be systematically built to increase nutrient and sediment

reductions. The plan will also engage other watershed partners in the types of projects that the City is already committed to.

Working with the City engineer, who is an active member of the Cambridge Clean Water Adv Committee, we will gain an understanding of the city's future management plan for areas within the Cambridge Creek watershed - details of interest include focus areas, proposed projects, and financial needs. MRC will include these details in the plan while consulting with city DPW. Once the project is complete MRC will present the details of the plan to the City a Council, DPW staff and other watershed partners including the members of CWAC for support and guidance.

Note: This project has been approved for funding in the amount of \$36,000 pending a LOS from the City Council. Also, the grant application is available for review if desired.

Thank you,

Matt Pluta
Choptank Riverkeeper
Midshore Riverkeeper Conservancy

Matthew J. Pluta
Choptank Riverkeeper
Midshore Riverkeeper Conservancy
24 North Harrison Street
Easton, MD. 21601
Office: 443-385-0511
Cell: 814-881-2165
www.midshoreriverkeeper.org

Cambridge Residential Stewardship Initiative Grant Project (\$118k over 2-years).

Background: In 2014, a diverse network of citizen and public service groups created the Cambridge Clean Water Advisory Committee, which was endorsed by the Cambridge City Council in March 2015. Members of this group include the Nanticoke Watershed Alliance, Midshore Riverkeeper Conservancy, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, UMD Sea Grant Extension, Dorchester Citizens for Planned Growth, Eastern Shore Land Conservancy, and the City of Cambridge DPW. This group worked to prepare a 10-year plan for implementing water quality projects and reducing nutrient and sediment inputs. In April of 2016, the City Council unanimously voted to endorse the goals of the plan as a guidance document, well-positioning Cambridge to accelerate adoption of green infrastructure practices. This project is a near-term step to put portions of the plan into action that involves citizens and private property owners.

Objective: The objective of the Cambridge Residential Stewardship Initiative is to accelerate the adoption of green infrastructure practices on residential property in Cambridge, MD in order to solve flooding problems and increase water quality.

Outputs:

- A barriers and benefits assessment (survey) of Best Management Practice (BMP) implementation that guides community engagement.
- Two homeowner education workshops reaching up to 70 residents (workshop content will be informed by the assessment).
- 10 BMPs installed on residential properties (over 2 years), including rain gardens, conservation landscaping, tree planting, rain harvesting devices, permeable hardscapes, or some combination.
- A qualitative summary of behavior change among program participants. (a pre- and post-survey)

Outcomes:

- Measurable behavior change among homeowners and renters targeted for engagement in Cambridge.
- A decrease in the barriers and an increase in the benefits that guide behavior in the target audience.
- Critical information on behavioral preferences and community characteristics for consideration when pursuing future work in the residential sector.
- Post-construction reduction estimates calculated as a percentage of the pollution removal achieved using University of Maryland's Stormwater Management and Restoration Tracker (SMART) tool.

Groups that we are briefing and reaching out to:

- Cambridge City Council
- City Planning Commission
- Historic Planning Commission
- Richardson Maritime Museum
- West End Citizens Group
- Dorchester Citizens for Planned Growth
- Rotary
- Faith Communities

TIMELINE			
<u>Fall 2016</u>	<u>Spring 2017</u>	<u>Fall 2017</u>	<u>Spring 2018</u>
Review CBT and UMCES experiential data	Develop program content	Install BMPs	Conduct site visits, rank potential projects, secure agreements
Compile target audience demographics	Prepare participant packets	Estimate and report pollution reduction	Install BMPs
Conduct focus group	Create and distribute promotional material	Adapt program content as needed	Estimate and report pollution reduction
Administer and review survey	Deliver Workshop 1	Distribute promotional material	Produce behavior change evaluation summary and disseminate
Produce barriers and benefits summary	Conduct site visits, rank potential projects, secure agreements	Deliver Workshop 2	

Questions/Considerations for City Council:


- The project team held a focus group regarding how to frame and deliver the survey. Do you have any guidance on how to get people to participate? What do you think would be a reason why people would not want to participate?
- We plan to be totally transparent about the project and the work that we are proposing to do. At the conclusion of the project in two years we will do a bus tour of the projects installed and we invite you all to join us on that tour. We will let the Council know the date when the time has come.
- There has been a lot of match support invested in this project. We are bringing in financial support and resources to address polluted runoff from private property before it becomes a public issue in regards to our stormwater infrastructure.
 - Grant =\$85,819
 - Match = \$32,765
 - Total = \$118,584.

Contact:
 Matt Pluta
 Choptank Riverkeeper
 443-385-0511
 matt@midshoreriverkeeper.org

Council Agenda Report

Date: January 23, 2017

Prepared by: Brent Jett, PE, Civil Engineer

Submitted by: Oden C. Wheeler Jr., Director DPW 

SUBJECT: Request from Cambridge Clean Water Advisory Committee (CWAC) for a Letter of Support from the City Council for the development of the Cambridge Creek Watershed Assessment and Action Plan.

Recommendation that Council:

A. Authorize the Mayor to sign the Letter of Support for Midshore Riverkeeper Conservancy to complete this assessment.

Discussion:

Previously the City of Cambridge staff participated in the Cambridge Clean Water Advisory Committee (CWAC) which completed a report that detailed various techniques to reduce the nutrient load in the waters surrounding Cambridge. These 7 techniques were broad stroke, and could be implemented by public or private entities, and on public or private property. A representative from The Midshore Riverkeeper Conservancy (MRC) was an active member in the CWAC. MRC is proposing to complete an assessment of the Cambridge Creek Watershed within the City of Cambridge limits. MRC previously applied to receive funds from the Chesapeake Bay Trust Watershed Planning grant to complete this task and was successful, pending a letter of support from the City of Cambridge.

To assess the Cambridge Creek Watershed, MRC will gather data, utilize existing GIS data, analyze the data, ground truth some of the data, and develop a plan of best-administered strategies and techniques to further reduce the nutrient load entering the Cambridge Creek from the surrounding areas. This plan will take the CWAC report to the next step in categorizing various projects and techniques instead of broad stroke methods that could be applied within any area of the City; which the CWAC provided. At the conclusion, the assessment report will be provided to the City which will detail potential projects and techniques along with potential grant funding sources. With a report and an assessment of these areas, any grant application will be bolstered by having this in-depth knowledge of the specific area.

MRC has been successful in completing similar assessments on the Tanyard Branch Watershed in Easton and Wye River Watershed for various parties. In addition, MRC helped develop the Upper Choptank River Watershed Base Plan in 2010 which was consistent with the EPA's 319(h) Nonpoint Source Program Grant.

Fiscal Impact:

MRC will be the recipient of the grant funds and administer the project. They are requesting limited staff time in the data assessment and project identification stages. It is anticipated that at most 20-30 hours of staff time will be required throughout the lifecycle of this grant during the next 12 months.

Approved By: Sandra Tripp-Jones, City Manager *SED*