

**Natural Resources Joint Advisory Group
Meeting Minutes 10-2-17**

The meeting was called to order at 7:01pm in the auditorium of Long Branch Nature Center.

In attendance were: Caroline Haynes, David Howell (Park & Rec), Phil Klingelhofer, Evelio Rubiella (UFC), Gabriel Thoumi, Claire O’Dea, Sarah Meservey (E2C2), and Alonso Abugattas (DPR).

Guest: Alex Sanders, Coordinator for the NOVA Cooperative Weed Management Area

No public comment

NOVA Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA)

Alex Sanders, coordinator for the newly forming NOVA Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA), updated NRJAG on his progress and expectations to meet the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant (\$140,000 in matching funds) awarded to Arlington County Parks to allow partners to share resources across boundaries. This will consist of multijurisdictional partners, both public and private, collaborating to manage invasive plants along the 45mile W&OD Trail. It will include vegetation and habitat surveys, followed by drafting a 5-year management plan, with 3 pilot projects over the next year.

Discussion focused on how to maximize the opportunities presented by the grant, especially given the its short time line (18 months) and how this can be leveraged to create an ongoing interjurisdictional effort.

Staff Updates

Alonso Abugattas provided the following updates:

- The Quarterly Summary Report was presented to the commissioners with the progress tracked for all 19 recommendations called for in the Natural Resources Management plan.
- Involvement in a newly forming DC-CISMA (Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area) to deal with collaborative efforts to deal with all new invasive taxa was presented. Alonso Abugattas is part of the steering committee.
- Announcement that Andrew Knapik is the new Tree Planting Coordinator.
- Announcement of planned participation in the worldwide City Nature Challenge April 27-30 as part of the DC area team to see which area can record the most observations and species.
- Planning for the second Arlington Bioblitz is tentatively scheduled for early September of 2018.

Member Reports

- Sarah Meservey reported that E2C2 was looking into revising the current Environmental Assessment process so it could be reviewed earlier in the timeline of events.
- Gabriel Thoumi reported that MCOG was launching an environmental climate justice week kit for distribution.
- Phil Klingelhofer reported that UFC had been informed that invasive plant regulations may expanded so that invasive plants escaping from areas into public areas could result in actions such as possible fines.
- Caroline Haynes reported on plans for South Park, along Lower Four Mile Run.