



“Stop POollution in its Tracks” Campaign – July 7th Meeting Highlights Summary

SPEAKERS:

- Sally Albright, Education & Outreach Coordinator, AACo BWPR (call moderator)
- Douglas Griffith, Planner, AACo BWPR

MEETING DETAILS:

- The meeting began at 6:00 pm via Zoom. The meeting video and transcript were both recorded and published to <https://www.aacounty.org/departments/public-works/wprp/education-outreach/pet-waste-reduction/>
OR visit <https://www.aarivers.org/> > Education & Outreach > Pet Waste Reduction Campaign

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

Who We Are –

- **The Anne Arundel County Bureau of Watershed Protection & Restoration (BWPR)** is responsible for reducing pollutant loads to the Chesapeake Bay. Implementing a social behavior change campaign focused on encouraging residents to help “Stop POollution in its Tracks” aims to contribute to local clean water efforts. This campaign is funded by the Watershed Protection & Restoration Fee, which comes from local property taxes.
- **The Anne Arundel County Watershed Stewards Academy (WSA)** builds capacity in the county by providing resources and training Master Watershed Stewards to help neighbors reduce pollution in our local creeks and rivers.

Why focus on pet waste?

- **It pollutes our waterways** – bacteria from pet waste left on the ground is carried away by rain into our streams.
- **It attracts pests** – pet waste attracts rats and mosquitoes that spread disease.
- **It is unsightly** – pet waste is smelly and detracts from our neighborhoods and natural areas.
- **Anne Arundel County has a TMDL** – we are required by the Clean Water Act to reduce bacteria in our waterways. This requirement is called a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), or “pollution diet.”

What is the contribution of pet waste to bacteria in our local waterways?

- Anne Arundel County currently has 19 sub-watersheds with associated TMDLs for bacteria pollutants, including fecal coliform, Enterococci, and E. Coli.
- According to MDE bacteria source tracking (BST) data...
 - **Pet waste is the #1 contributor of bacteria loads in Anne Arundel County’s waterways, accounting for over 45% of the total annual bacteria load.**

What is Anne Arundel County doing about this problem?

- BWPR is working with Anne Arundel Community College to sample and monitor targeted waterways for bacteria impairment, including a site in your community!
- BWPR has also partnered with WSA to implement an education and outreach campaign encouraging dog owners in Anne Arundel County to “scoop every time there’s poop.” We are pilot testing the campaign messaging and materials with both the Avalon Shores community and the Manhattan Beach community to assess effectiveness before implementing Countywide.

What are the goals of the “Stop POollution in its Tracks” Campaign?

- **Encourage** Anne Arundel County residents to pick up pet waste and **educate** them as to why it is important.
- **Partner** with community representatives to distribute outreach materials and **normalize** scooping every time there’s poop.
- Ultimately, **minimize** the contribution of pet waste to the overall bacteria pollutant load in the Chesapeake Bay.

What resources are available through this campaign?

- At www.AAWSA.org/pick-up-pet-waste/ you can find tools and resources to take immediate action, including a virtual pledge to “scoop the poop,” downloadable/printable outreach materials, and guidance for engaging your neighbors in conversations about pet waste.
- County residents that would like to participate more actively in the behavior change campaign are eligible to receive a FREE “Stop POollution” Campaign Kit, along with a brief training and collaboration with Bureau staff to share the messaging in a way that works for you and your community.

What’s Next, and what can you do NOW?

- Our team will continue to coordinate with ASCA to host an in-person community event to follow this virtual discussion, which we anticipate taking place in August-September or 2022.
- Based on the initial input from the virtual discussion, a community trash clean-up and/or a doggie play day were the most popular suggestions for an event in your community. If you would like to participate in the planning and/or coordination of this event, please reach out to BWPR’s Education & Outreach Coordinator, Sally Albright.
- One thing that would immediately support the campaign would be to visit our webpage and Take the Pledge to Stop POollution in its Tracks – and encourage your friends and neighbors to do the same!

Learn more about the campaign review the meeting video recording, view/download a virtual copy of these meeting highlights, and stay updated on the status via the You may also reach out to Sally Albright at pwalbr00@aacounty.org or 410-222-0136 for more information. Visit www.aarivers.org to learn more about the Anne Arundel County Bureau of Watershed Protection & Restoration or www.aawsa.org to learn more about the Anne Arundel County Watershed Stewards Academy.