



ANACOSTIA WATERSHED SOCIETY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Anacostia Watershed Society starts 2017 with new leadership team and new board members

(Bladensburg, MD – January 27, 2017) – The Anacostia Watershed Society today announced three staff promotions and two Board appointments that position the organization for sustainable growth and impact in 2017 and beyond.

Jim Foster President of the Anacostia Watershed Society announced the following promotions:

- Erin Castelli, long-time leader of the organization, has been elevated to Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, leading the staff in executing the organization's strategic plan;
- Emily Conrad, who has served on the Development Team since 2010, has assumed the role of Director of Development, overseeing all fundraising efforts, as well as the organization's marketing and communications program; and
- Ariel Trahan will oversee all program-related activities as Director of River Restoration Programs, integrating the education, outreach, recreation, and restoration functions to increase efficiency and impact.

“Our confidence that we will achieve a swimmable and fishable Anacostia River by 2025 is based on the skilled leadership that Erin, Emily, and Ariel bring to our work every single day.” said Foster.

In addition, at their December meeting, the Board of Directors appointed two new members: Neil S. Lang, a partner at Sutherland, Asbill and Brennan and leader in providing pro bono legal assistance to a wide range of non-profits; and Michael Lederman, of the Fulcrum Properties Group, and local advocate in his Kingman Park neighborhood and around the watershed. The Board also thanked Sadara Barrow, Antoinette Sebastian, and Jack Wennersten for their years of devoted service as Board members. Robert Boone was named Founding Director Emeritus.

“Our Board, in partnership with Jim, Erin, Emily, Ariel and the entire staff, are absolutely convinced that a swimmable and fishable Anacostia River is within our reach. And we’re determined to get there, together.” Said Elissa Feldman, Board Chair.

About the Anacostia Watershed Society (AWS)

The mission of the Anacostia Watershed Society is to protect and restore the Anacostia River and its watershed communities by cleaning the water, recovering the shores, and honoring the heritage. The vision is to make the Anacostia River and its tributaries swimmable and fishable by 2025, in keeping with the Clean Water Act, for the health and enjoyment of everyone in the community. Community involvement is critical to achieving this vision and AWS seeks strong partnerships and coalitions with all parts of the community, government, and other stakeholders. Anacostia Watershed Society’s programs include environmental education, stewardship, recreation, and engaging the community through advocacy and volunteer opportunities. www.anacostiaws.org

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