

Montgomery County Water Quality Advisory Group – Draft Meeting Summary

Date and Time: September 11, 2023 (7:00 - 8:30 p.m.)

Location: Microsoft Teams Meeting

Staff Liaison: Miranda Reid, DEP (Miranda.reid@montgomerycountymd.gov)

Notetaker: Allison Wright

Members Present: Bob Buglass, Tracy Rouleau, Keith Brooks, Amy Stevens, Allison Wright, Mark Symborski

Members Absent: Ken Bawer, El Hadji Fall, Tim Stemann, Linda Silversmith, Pamela Rathbone

Others Present: Ann English

Meeting Summary:

There was no official meeting due to lack of quorum. Those present met as an ad-hoc committee and participated in the following discussion.

Rainscapes Program Presentation, Ann English, DEP:

- Total budget is about 700K, usually about 600K spent annually.
- Rebate program is the most known, but they have demo projects also.
- No longer have a tree rebate anymore, that is all via Tree Montgomery program.
- More partnerships = more projects.
- Mostly do permeable paver retrofit and also conservation landscapes, they do very few green roof retrofits - most roofs not strong enough. Eliminated dry wells.
- Rebates went to \$7,500 in 2018. Average rebate is \$4,000.
- Try to get any project done in a year.
- Only people who pay into Water Quality Protection Charge are eligible for rebates. Only property owners can get rebates.
- Rebate \$7,500 per parcel max (lifetime of parcel)
- More information on their website.
- In general, they are trying to get people to understand that what is good for water is good for bugs rivers plants. Would like to get the message out more about the caterpillar crisis... (caterpillars need native plants).
- Ms. English said lawns behave more like parking lots, especially after the first 1.25 inches of rain.
- Serious issues with flooding now.
- Increased density is causing a lot of issues within the County.
- Increased need for professional training in multiple languages.
- Rainscapes in schools - grown over 34,000 plants since 2009. 4,000-5,000 kids involved over a 10 year period.