

Montgomery County - Water Quality Advisory Group Meeting

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DEP/water/water-quality-advisory-group.html>

April 8, 2019 (7:00 - 8:30 pm) – Minutes

DEP Regular Conference Room, 255 Rockville Pike, #120, Rockville

Member and affiliation	Present		Others in attendance and affiliation
	Yes	No	
Kate Bennett, DEP	X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patty Bubar, Deputy Director of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)</li> <li>• Frank Dawson, DEP</li> </ul>
Paul Billingsley, WSSC		X	
Keith Brooks, Co-Chair, Public-at-Large		X	
Philip Browne, Public-at-Large	X		
Crystal Calarusse, Public-at-Large	X		
Michael Carmel, Public-at-Large	X		
Michael McAvey, Public-at-Large	X		
Pamela Rathbone, Public-at-Large	X		
Tracy Rouleau, Co-Chair, Academic/Scientific	X		
Monika Shepard, Public-at-Large		X	
Linda Silversmith, Public-at-Large	X		
Tim Stemann, Business	X		
Amy Stevens, DEP	X		
Mark Symborski, MNCPPC		X	
Allison Wright, Environmental	X		
Agenda Item	Major Points		
I. Introductions	The meeting was called to order by Tracy Rouleau at 7pm.		
II. Reading and approval of the minutes.	The March 2019 minutes were reviewed and accepted without a formal vote of approval.		
III. Reports of Officers, Boards, Standing Committees.	<u>Preparation of WQAG Annual Report</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pamela Rathbone gave a summary of the draft annual report to the WQAG. The annual report will be submitted to the County Executive and County Council after approval by the WQAG members.</li> </ul>		
IV. Reports of Special Committees.	None at this time.		

V. Special Orders.	None at this time.
VI. Unfinished Business and General Orders.	<p><u>Discussion of Priority Topics for future WQAG meetings</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• WQAG categorized the priority topics into 3 categories (stormwater, wastewater, and communication). WQAG might prepare a letter explaining the topics of concern for the new County Executive.</li><li>• At the May meeting, the WQAG will discuss the 10-year water and sewer plan.</li></ul> <p><u>Status of Vacancies</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The WQAG currently has 4 vacancies.</li></ul> <p><u>Mandatory Training</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reminder to WQAG members to complete training.</li></ul>
VII. New Business.	<p><u>County Executive Elrich’s View of Rain Gardens</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The WQAG discussed its approach to educate the County Executive about rain gardens and the benefits that rain gardens provide to society.</li><li>• There have been no complaints about rain gardens from the 9 communities where they have been installed. The communities that requested rain gardens have had positive reactions and liked them. Most of the complaints have been from the new communities where DEP tried to implement rain gardens without sufficient outreach.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ DEP will strive to improve communication about the process and purpose with communities before any decisions are made about where rain gardens will be installed.</li><li>○ Other possible resolutions would be to discuss RainScapes opportunities with HOAs of distressed watersheds and to involve watershed alliances.</li></ul></li><li>• Since the 2018 field trip to view rain gardens in green streets environments was so successful, the WQAG is planning another fieldtrip to view a rain garden variety within the County.</li></ul> <p><u>Transportation &amp; Environment (T&amp;E) Committee Meeting Briefing by DEP, Patty Bubar and Frank Dawson</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tracy Rouleau and Michael McAvey also attended the T&amp;E Meeting. Tracy Rouleau provided testimony for the MS4 permit.</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• At the meeting, DEP discussed the status of the MS4 permit and DEP submitted the annual report and consent decree.</li><li>• In the interim, without a new restoration goal, DEP continues to perform a lot of work that will apply to the new permit and has completed 450 acres toward the new permit so far.</li><li>• DEP still has the responsibility for maintenance under the existing permit and continues to use the existing contracts which are all done through the capital program.</li><li>• The new MS4 permit is supposed to get a draft determination by June 30<sup>th</sup> and the final permit by the end of Dec. 2019. The expectation is to focus on TMDLs for local watersheds. There are no specific requirements for new permits, but there will be measured performance on impervious surface, nitrogen targets, and total suspended sediment “pollution diets” (aka TMDLs). As of this 4/8/19 meeting, Maryland has not meet the Statewide nitrogen target.</li><li>• To meet the targets, DEP will develop a strategy for targeting distressed watersheds and look at issues such as flooding and drainage, in addition to water quality, and environmental justice issues. DEP will also look into resiliency to climate change and communications with watershed groups.</li><li>• To improve communication, DEP will be involved with educating students and young individuals. DEP will also be preparing an interactive map showing what the County has completed with the permit and projects going forward depicting information on stormwater management facilities.</li><li>• Michael Carmel suggested that the County incorporate waterless urinals to save water and help resolve the drainage issue.</li><li>• DEP will also explain the definition of green infrastructure to the Council.</li></ul> <p><u>Press Conference for Tom Hucker’s Proposed Bill 2-19, Health-Lead in Drinking Water-Schools.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Linda Silversmith briefed the WQAG about the proposed bill:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Since there is evidence that the current standard for the amount of lead in drinking water is too high, the proposed bill will lower the standard from 20 parts per billion (ppb) to 5 ppb. Some scientists say that 0 ppb would be best.</li><li>○ There was some discussion among the WQAG if this proposed bill will apply to private buildings as well as</li></ul></li></ul>
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	<p>public buildings. The bill's effect will first take place in County schools and then progress to County parks, recreation centers, and libraries.</p>
<p>VIII. Adjournment.</p>	<p>The meeting was adjourned at about 8:33 pm. The next meeting will be on May 13, 2019.</p>
<p><b>Action Item Registry</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WQAG members to submit comments on the annual report to Pamela Rathbone and Keith Brooks by Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup>.</li> <li>• Tim Stemann will be the notetaker for the May 13, 2019 meeting.</li> <li>• Current WQAG members who have not yet done so should send the completion certificates for the two 2018 training requirements to Kate Bennett.</li> </ul>
<p><b>List of Priority Topics</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10-Year Water and Sewer Plan (Winter 2018)</li> <li>• Educational Outreach – Other Organizations</li> <li>• Blue Plains and Seneca Treatment Plants Tours</li> <li>• RainScapes Update</li> <li>• Geese and deer management – Potential speakers from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR)</li> <li>• Expert panel on water quality benefits on stream restorations (Tom Schueler and/or Pamela Parker)</li> <li>• Community gardening</li> <li>• Erosion and Sediment Control (ESC) plan transparency [On Hold]</li> <li>• Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), nutrient trading, and growth offsets</li> <li>• Montgomery County Sustainability Committee Report and water related issues [TBD]</li> <li>• WSSC discharges from Potomac Filtration Plant and the ensuing litigation [TBD]</li> <li>• WSSC drinking water testing for EPA unregulated contaminants [On Hold]</li> <li>• Quantitative approaches to stormwater management</li> <li>• Elrich and new administration priorities for water quality</li> <li>• Local water quality. How does it fit into the new strategies articulated last year and moving forward? All the projects that were cancelled-what is the new strategy in those neighborhoods?</li> <li>• Lakes. Needwood, Clopper, etc. Can someone explain the water quality issues? Are the cyanobacteria issues entirely</li> </ul>

	<p>related to structure or are there pollution concerns that could be addressed to improve quality?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• One DEP – what is it and how does it work?</li><li>• Meeting on trash</li><li>• MNCPPC topics</li></ul>
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