

Montgomery County - Water Quality Advisory Group Meeting

April 11, 2022 (7:00 - 8:30 pm) – DRAFT Minutes

Microsoft Teams Meeting

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

Member and affiliation	Present		Others in attendance and affiliation
	Yes	No	
Ken Bawer, Public-at-Large	X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Frank Dawson, Division Chief, Watershed Restoration Division, Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)
Keith Brooks, Public-at-Large	X		
Bob Buglass, Public Agency, WSSC	X		
Michael Carmel, Public-at-Large		X	
Andrew Der, Public-at-Large		X	
El Hadji Fall, Academic/Scientific		X	
Michael McAvey, Public-at-Large	X		
Pamela Rathbone, Co-Chair, Public-at-Large	X		
Miranda Reid, DEP	X		
Tracy Rouleau, Co-Chair, Academic/Scientific	X		
Linda Silversmith, Public-at-Large	X		
Tim Stemann, Business	X		
Amy Stevens, Public Agency, DEP	X		
Mark Symborski, Public Agency, MNCPPC	X		
Allison Wright, Environmental	X		

Agenda Item	Major Points
I. Introductions	The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by Chair Tracy Rouleau.
II. Reading and approval of the minutes.	Minutes of the March 14, 2022 were presented. Linda Silversmith made a motion to approve the minutes and Pamela Rathbone seconded. The minutes were approved as written.
III. New Business.	<p data-bbox="626 579 1427 659"><u>a. Montgomery County Operating Budget Overview</u></p> <ul data-bbox="626 709 1427 1869" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="626 709 1427 961">• Frank Dawson, the Manager of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Watershed Protection Division gave an excellent presentation of the County Executive’s requested 2023 operating budget for the Department of Environmental Protection.<li data-bbox="626 968 1427 1220">• The mission of the DEP is to enhance the quality of life in our community by protecting and improving Montgomery County's air, water, and land in a sustainable way while fostering smart growth, a thriving economy, and healthy communities.<li data-bbox="626 1226 1427 1352">• The Operating Budget differs from the Capital Improvement Program budget in that it shows the cost of running the county.<li data-bbox="626 1358 1427 1869">• Major initiatives funded by the proposed budget include:<ul data-bbox="716 1451 1427 1869" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="716 1451 1427 1650">• Add two positions to address flooding Countywide. In addition, amend the CIP to create a new Flood Control Study project to investigate sub-watershed-level flooding solutions.<li data-bbox="716 1661 1427 1869">• Provide funding and positions to implement a Building Energy Performance Standards program to improve energy efficiency and reduce the greenhouse gas emissions from buildings,

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Add funding for climate justice efforts, engaging with minority and low-income communities to collaboratively solve locally-felt environmental problems.• Initiate enhanced inspection and maintenance of stream restorations and best management practices (BMPs), required under the newly-issued MS4 Permit.• Operating costs are funded from the Water Quality Protection charge, bag fees, grants, and investment income.• The FY 2023 budget funds DEP staff as well as operating, inspection, and maintenance costs.• The total recommended FY23 Operating Budget for the DEP is \$38,534,241 an increase of \$5,562,267 or 16.87 percent from the FY22 Approved Budget of \$32,971,974. Personnel Costs comprise 34.64 percent of the budget for 121 full-time position(s) and one part-time position(s), and a total of 122.48 FTEs. Operating Expenses account for the remaining 65.36 percent of the FY23 budget.• In the following Q&A, Mr. Dawson said that:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Water Quality Protection Charge (WQPC) is projected to increase from 119.5 in 2023 to about 148 in 2028. Businesses are charged WQPC according to a different structure from Residences.• The county may increase studies into flooding with increased funds.• Stormwater management assets are inspected on a 3-year schedule. <p><u>b. Draft Stream Restoration Sub-committee Report</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tracy Rouleau forwarded the draft to all members of the WQAG for review. Topics included: (1) types of stream restoration; (2) communications; (3)
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	<p>performance and evaluation and (4) engagement of private sector. Members should send their comments in track changes to Tracy by 4/26 with copies to Keith Brooks, Ken Bawer, Mike McAvey, and Miranda Reid. Include a comment explaining why the change is important.</p>
IV. Reports of Officers, Boards, Standing Committees.	None at this time.
V. Reports of Special Committees.	None at this time.
VI. Special Orders.	None at this time.
VII. Unfinished Business and General Orders.	<p>a. Update Priority Speaker Topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Miranda Reid will schedule Alan Soukup of DEP to discuss the Water & Sewer Plan update once it has been released.• DEP to discuss climate change impact on water quality and quantity in Montgomery County.
VIII. Adjournment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The next meeting is set for May 9, 2022.• The next notetaker, in alphabetic order, will be Mike Carmel• The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.