

Montgomery County - Water Quality Advisory Group Meeting
<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/water/advisory-group.html>

April 12, 2021 (7:00 - 8:30 pm) – Draft Minutes
 Microsoft Teams Online Meeting
 (+1 443-692-5768 United States, Baltimore (Toll)
 Conference ID: 386 899 686#)

I. Introductions

Member and affiliation	Present		Others in attendance and affiliation
	Yes	No	
Ken Bawer, Public-at-Large	X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kate Bennett, DEP • Patrice Bubar, DEP • Frank Dawson, DEP • Jim Stiles, DEP • Christy Ciarametaro, DEP • Jeanne Braha, Executive Director for Rock Creek Conservancy
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 Pamela Rathbone.
II. Reading and Approval of the Minutes	Minutes for March were approved.
III. New Business	<p><u>Patty Bubar presented the FY22 Operating Budget:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DEP manages 3 funds: the General Fund, Water Quality Protection Charges, and System Benefit Charges for Solid Waste and Recycling • The Water Quality Protection Charge Fund provides funds to the Finance organization, Soil Conservation District Organization, DOT, MNCCPC, and includes debt service payments for the MS4 CIP program. The Water Quality Protection Charge Budget request main changes from FY21 are as follows (all of these assets will help with private property): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ hire a 0.5 FTE program manager for enforcement of bag tax (the second 0.5 FTE of this position will be funded by RRM to enforce solid waste laws) and 1 FTE for the Tree Montgomery program to assist with the high demand ▪ \$100,000 for the Rainscapes program due to high demand ▪ \$100,000 for the antilitter program which includes education and data and analysis to address litter issues in the County ▪ \$100,000 for watershed grants ▪ \$37,697 for the BMP inspections • Climate Planning Budget is funded out of General Fund Budget and is included in a non-departmental account (funding activities in multiple accounts). Changes from FY21 include the following requests: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 3 additional FTEs to be in the DEP – initiate coordination in electric vehicle charging stations, outreach on climate issues, program manager who would work with the state on public service commissions <p><u>Frank Dawson next provided an introduction to Stream Restoration and DEP’s Stream Restoration Program:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stream restoration is a set of techniques designed to stabilize stream banks/channels within their present environmental context in order to reduce erosion, reduce downstream sedimentation, restore function, protect aquatic life, and protect adjacent properties and infrastructure. • The technique depends on the stream location. Natural materials (rocks, logs, native vegetation) are used to reduce pressure on eroded banks for streams farther from properties. Engineered solutions (grading and planting) are used for streams in urban areas. Stream buffer reforestation efforts provide long-term protection. • Reason for stream restoration: streams are negatively impacted by increased impervious surfaces and uncontrolled stormwater due to development. This causes a delivery of large volumes of untreated water, erosion of stream channels, pollution to streams, increasing water temperature, loss of aquatic habitat, and damage to public infrastructure and private property. • Goals of stream restoration: restore stream hydrology, hydraulics, reduce damage done by uncontrolled stormwater, and establish aquatic habitat.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DEP looks for opportunities to partner with WSSC and DOT b/c WSSC and DOT pursue infrastructure repair projects and DEP pursues stream restoration work to improve water quality. • MS4 credit is based on Chesapeake Bay Program stream restoration expert panel reports and approved by MDE. Projects must be designed in accordance with the protocol criteria. Stream restoration projects are some of the most highly regulated restoration projects. • How streams are chosen: Suitability modeling to prioritize high suitability areas that have upland stormwater treatment, low to moderate existing imperviousness, and smaller drainage areas. • Clean Water Montgomery Program contractor will propose projects to DEP using the suitability models. DEP will be involved in all design reviews and will conduct inspections during construction. DEP will involve the community throughout the project (pre, during, and post) and seek community support. • Alternatives to stream restoration: RainScapes, Tree Montgomery, inspections and preventative maintenance of BMPs, outreach and education, retrofitting existing stormwater management facilities, adding water quality treatment throughout upland green infrastructure practices. • BMPS for prevention: porous pavement, forest conservation, bioretention/microbioretention/raingarden, tree box, riparian planting, tree canopy, floating treatment wetlands, vegetated/grass swale/bioswale, impervious surface elimination. • Stream restoration seems to be cost effective over upland BMPs. Greenstreet programs are effective, yet expensive due to scale. The front part of people's yards uses a small-scale restoration effort (you treat some impervious surfaces). To reduce cost, a mass number and economy of scale Greenstreet program would be needed by putting in a lot at one time. Another challenge is that no one is really looking at a pond retrofit to be beautiful but Greenstreet's cost is also high due to maintenance at least 10 times a year - people want them to be beautiful and to be part of the community that are enhancing property values; also working with ways to plant different sets of plants that will last longer and will be tolerant next to roads. • Upland BMPs are necessary to slow down, infiltrate and treat stormwater and stream restoration is needed to repair damaged streams, especially since in Montgomery County, streams are not in a natural condition due to urbanization. • Stream restoration projects are inspected at a minimum once every 5 years to maintain MS4 permit compliance. • Examples of successful projects: Breewood Stream Restoration Project and Hollywood Stream Restoration Project • Current Projects: Germantown Park Stream, Old Farm Creek, and Grosvenor Stream
<p>IV. Reports of Officers, Boards, and Standing Committees</p>	<p>None at this time.</p>

V. Reports of Special Committees	None at this time.
VI. Special Orders	None at this time.
VII. Unfinished Business and General Orders	Can remove the letter from the agenda. Not needed at this time.
VIII. Adjournment	Next meeting May 10, 2021 Notetaker will be Tim Stemman Speakers will be Aquatic biologist, Hilderbrand on stream restoration monitoring results and Ken M., DEP The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm

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2021 Priority Speaker Topics			
Rank	Subject Area	Topic	Votes
1	Other	Understanding how climate change impacts water quality in Montgomery County	5
2	Stormwater	Meeting on trash – (February/March) – DEP/Alice Ferguson Foundation	3
3	Stormwater	Twice a year updates from Stormwater Partners Stream Restoration Working Group	2
4 (tie)	Wastewater	WSSC discharges from Potomac Filtration Plant and the ensuing litigation, sewage overflows	1
4 (tie)	Stormwater	Quantitative approaches to stormwater management (MS4, BMPs) (Quarterly updates?)	1
4 (tie)	Stormwater	RainScapes Update – 2022	1
4 (tie)	Stormwater	Erosion and Sediment Control (ESC) plan transparency	1
4 (tie)	Other	DOT Street Tree Policy	1
9	Other	Mont. Co. Sustainability Committee report & water related issues	0
10	Wastewater	Blue Plains and Seneca Treatment Plants Tours (July field trip)	0
11	Other	Educational Outreach – Other Organizations	0
12	Other	Community gardening	0
13	Other	Continue discussions on communicating the benefits of improved water quality	0
14	Other	Communications update from DEP	0
15	Wastewater	Replacing all public urinals in Montgomery county with waterless urinals	0
16	Parks	MNCPPC topics (invasive species)	0