

Montgomery County - Water Quality Advisory Group Meeting

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

December 13, 2021 (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"> Kate Bennett, 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 7:01 PM.
II. Reading and approval of the minutes.	Minutes for November were approved with three minor spelling revisions. Minutes will be available on the WQAG webpage.
III. New Business.	<p><u>1. Presentation on the County's new MS4 Permit</u></p> <p>Kate Bennett provided an overview on the County's 2021 MS4 Permit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final permit was issued on 11/5/2021 and will continue through 11/4/2026 • Additional informational resources are available on MDE's webpage • The Permit was issued to the County as a whole, and many agencies are involved in implementation (DPS, DOT, DGS, MCPS, DEP) • Water quality objectives – prohibit pollutants in stormwater discharges or other unauthorized discharges into, through, or from the storm drain system – attain applicable stormwater wasteload allocations for each established or approved Total Maximum Daily Load • Stormwater Management: implement Maryland Stormwater Design Manual – stable stormwater conveyance and capacity to receiving waters is new in this permit • IDDE – prioritize outfalls with the greatest potential for polluted discharges • Most changes were to the Property Management and Maintenance sections of the permit • Stormwater conveyance – good housekeeping plans must remove debris and prevent flooding • Expands inlet inspection and cleaning to include conveyance system • Develop a salt management plan and training program • Public Education – flooding and conveyance have become a new focus – maintain website and compliance hotline • Impervious acres requirement of 1,814 • Specific restoration projects for each year – first year of projects must be completed by 11/4/2022 • New nutrient trading option, not to exceed 330 Equivalent Impervious Acres – there is cost effective trading potential with wastewater treatment plants, but this does not seem to be a viable option at this time because the County does not operate its own wastewater treatment plant • Sets annual restoration benchmarks to meet Impervious Acre goal – 20%, 40%, 60%, 75%, 100% • Countywide TMDL Implementation Plan – comments were conditionally approved – requires annual documentation of progress on new TMDLs

- Monitoring – given the option to participate in two pooled monitoring programs (BMP Effectiveness and Watershed Assessment) administered by the Chesapeake Bay Trust instead of conducting local monitoring program–
- Additional monitoring requirements for PCB source tracking in the Anacostia and Patuxent watersheds
- A fiscal analysis will be required annually to ensure that adequate program funding shall be maintained

Questions:

- Michael Carmel asked what was being done about internal combustion engine pollution. Kate said that this goal would fit under the County’s Climate Action Plan instead of the MS4 permit program
- Ken Bawer asked whether being a sponsor of pooled monitoring in the past would lock Montgomery County into participating in the program in the future. Kate said that we’re not locked into the program. DEP has not made a decision on whether to participate in the pooled BMP effectiveness monitoring program but will continue to conduct its own watershed assessment monitoring (biological monitoring). DEP is considering continuing to monitor the Breewood BMP site for a few more years instead of the pooled monitoring. DEP has the option to join the pooled monitoring each year throughout the duration of the permit. If the County does choose to enter the pooled monitoring program, they will need to commit through the end of the permit term. There are still some unresolved questions about what the pooled monitoring program will be focused on – monitoring or research/analysis.
- Tracy asked whether we’re seeing chloride levels elevated all year round instead of just in the winter. Kate said there have been observed nationwide increases in salt feeding groundwater, even in the summer. Some soils naturally have higher conductivity levels which may be affecting some of these values.
- Tracy asked about climate change in the permit. Kate said that it would be critical to address development regulations for stormwater controls and that we need to be building to an updated standard, but the MS4 report is predominantly focused on maintaining built infrastructure.
- Ken Bawer asked if the County was planning to use mitigation banks to meet MS4 permit requirements. Kate mentioned that this is a separate program to offset new development.

2. Election of Co-Chairs

Pam has decided to step down as Co-Chair and the Group is looking for a new volunteer to serve alongside Tracy. Responsibility is largely putting together the agenda each month. There were no volunteers to serve as co-chair. If anyone changes their mind and would like to serve as co-chair, please reach out to Tracy or Miranda.

	<p><u>3. Report on stream restoration sub-group discussion and activities</u> Tracy mentioned that the sub-group (Tracy Rouleau, Keith Brooks, Ken Bawer, and Mike McAvey) has been making progress on the stream restoration recommendations document with the intention of having a draft ready in January.</p> <p><u>4. Approve WQAG 2022 Meeting Calendar</u> The Group discussed whether everyone was ok with moving the 2/14 meeting up a week to avoid Valentine’s Day and the consensus was yes. There were no other issues with meeting dates conflicting with holidays. Michael Carmel made a motion to approve the 2022 Meeting Calendar that was seconded by Keith Brooks</p> <p><u>5. Update Priority Speaker Topics</u> The group discussed new speaker topics and decided to remove past topics from the list. Additional speaker ideas included DEP IDDE program (dumping and spills), Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin (water supply), Adriana Hochberg (Climate/Acting DEP Department Director), Update to the County Water and Sewer Plan. The Group will revisit the list in January.</p>
<p>IV. Reports of Officers, Boards, Standing Committees.</p>	<p>None at this time.</p>
<p>V. Reports of Special Committees.</p>	<p>None at this time.</p>
<p>VI. Special Orders.</p>	<p>None at this time.</p>
<p>VII. Unfinished Business and General Orders.</p>	<p>None at this time.</p>
<p>VIII. Adjournment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm. • The next meeting is set for January 10, 2021. • Discussion topics for January: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ January – stream restoration sub-group ○ Extended Producer Responsibility Bill
<p>Action Item Registry</p>	

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