

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

February 8, 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

Two new members, Ken Bawer and Andrew Der were introduced. A third new member, El Hadji Fall was unable to attend. Longtime members Keith Brooks and Linda Silversmith chose to continue their memberships, although their terms had expired.

Member and affiliation	Present		Others in attendance and affiliation
	Yes	No	
Ken Bawer, Public-at-Large, New Member	X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patty Bubar, Deputy Director, DEP • Frank Dawson, DEP Chief, Watershed Restoration • Leslie Wilcox, Watershed Outreach Planner, DEP • Samantha Battersby, Program Coordinator, Trash Free Potomac - Alice Ferguson Foundation
Keith Brooks, Public-at-Large	X		
Bob Buglass, Public Agency, WSSC	X		
Crystal Calarusse, Public-at-Large		X	
Michael Carmel, Public-at-Large	X		
Andrew Der, Public-at-Large, New Member	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 7:08 PM by Tracy Rouleau.
II. Reading and Approval of the Minutes	Minutes for January were approved as written.
III. New Business	<p>PRESENTATIONS: Three presentations were made. Two on Litter Control in county parks and waterways were given by Ms. Leslie Wilcox, of DEP, and Ms. Samantha Battersby, of the Alice Ferguson Foundation; the third, on the expected MS4 permit and the its implementation contract, was given by Mr. Frank Dawson, of DEP.</p> <p>Ms. Wilcox described the DEP’s litter reduction program. The program has monitored 15 sites for many years. Its focus is on the Anacostia watershed because of the watershed’s excess TDML level. Typical litter includes: plastic bags and bottles, construction debris, and carryout food containers. The county is stressing behavior change as a way to remediate the problem. If an area is already messy, people may feel less reluctant to add to the mess. In an area with fewer trash cans, there is likely to be more litter. Open top trash containers are less effective than ones with closed tops. Prevention at the source is the best approach.</p> <p>Ms. Wilcox also described a community based social marketing campaign DEP is testing in the White Oak neighborhood. It encourages people to pick up trash they see but has been suspended during Covid and will be restarted when possible.</p> <p>Other litter control activities include working with other agencies and volunteer organizations to develop better reporting tools, trying to develop new litter reduction laws, and a grant awarded by CBT to the Anacostia River Keepers to install a trash trap in the river.</p> <p>Ms. Battersby, representing the Alice Ferguson Foundation, talked about the organization’s three main programs: reducing trash components, reducing trash in the Potomac watershed, and providing school speakers and activities programs. All of them try to connect communities with their local watersheds to prevent litter and clean up the watershed. Guidance for many activities is available online and includes videos showing kids building a trash eating monster and workshops on how to organize a trash pickup event.</p> <p>The Alice Ferguson Foundation works with Montgomery County, DC, PG county, MD, VA, and other organizations throughout the Washington metro area.</p> <p>The Q and A after the presentations said that glass is generally not recycled because recycling is too expensive; there is no market for used glass. Legislation requiring deposits on glass containers is being considered, but is vigorously opposed by bottlers and retailers who do not want to have to store dirty bottles.</p>

	<p>Some plastics recyclers now only take types 1 and 2 because there is too little profit in other types. The county generates 350 to 500 million tons of waste per year.</p> <p>A third presentation was given by Frank Dawson, DEP, Chief, Watershed Restoration. He discussed the requirements expected to be in the new MS4 permit to be released in the summer and on the DEP's new budget. The new MS4 will require treatment of 1840 acres of impervious surface. Sixty percent of the work must meet the definition of green infrastructure and stream restoration will be limited to 50% of the work.</p> <p>An RFP is being developed for a proposed new contract that will cover approximately 500 acres and specify the maximum allowable price. The county will pay for design once; construction costs will be paid monthly; and projects will be located in areas that are most suitable for improvement.</p> <p>To support local businesses, the prime contractor and all subcontractors must have offices within 50 miles of downtown Rockville. A contractor outreach meeting is scheduled for February 17, the RFP will be issued in March, bids will be due in April, and the contract will be awarded in November. Mr. Dawson will send a PowerPoint that will be posted on the WQAG website.</p> <p>WQAG ANNUAL REPORT A draft of the Annual Report has been sent to all members. Please review it immediately and send any comments to Miranda by February 16. She will incorporate them in the report, which is due March 1. Minutes of the 2020 meetings are available on the WQAG website.</p> <p>CLIMATE ACTION PLAN The comment period on the plan closes at the end of February. If you have comments, send them to Tracy Rouleau, Miranda Reid, or Pamela Rathbone by the 19th so they can be circulated and submitted.</p> <p>STATUS OF THE MS4 PERMIT The county's comments are being reviewed by MDE. The MDE says that there are four main themes in comments they have received from Montgomery and other counties: climate change, green infrastructure, environmental justice, and restoration. Permits may be released in mid-summer if no changes are required. If changes are required, a public review period may be needed. Prince George's County's draft consent decree was released for public comment last week.</p>
<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	<p>WQAG LETTER OF SUPPORT Discussion of a potential WQAG letter of support for continued County commitment to water quality programs during the COVID-19 pandemic has been postponed to the April meeting.</p> <p>STORMWATER PARTNERS NETWORK ACTIVITIES The Stormwater Partners Network Stream Restoration working group held some discussions on the advisability of stream restorations, and controlling storm water outside the stream valley. No consensus was reached, but the group agreed that if a stream restoration is done, that upland control is important so that heavy rain will not blow out stream restoration work. The full Stormwater Partners Network submitted MS4 Permit comments on a range of issues including stream restorations to Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) on January 21, 2021.</p> <p>OTHER Tracy Rouleau mentioned that at the beginning of a year we have usually picked speakers topics for the year and asked for suggestions. One for this year is learning more about the science and policy behind stream restoration goals and BMPs. The current ranked topics are listed below. Others are invited.</p>
VIII. Adjournment	Next meeting March 8 th , 2021 Notetaker will be Ken Bawer No guest speaker has been identified yet. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50

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