

Montgomery County - Water Quality Advisory Group Meeting

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

January 13, 2020 (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"> Adriana Hochberg, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer and Climate Change Coordinator for County Executive Mark Elrich Patty Bubar, Deputy Director of DEP Frank Dawson, Chief of Watershed Restoration Division, DEP
Keith Brooks, Public-at-Large	x		
Bob Buglass, Public Agency, WSSC			
Crystal Calarusse, Public-at-Large	x		
Michael Carmel, Public-at-Large		x	
Michael McAvey, Public-at-Large	x		
Pamela Rathbone, Co-Chair, Public-at-Large	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			
Alison Wright, Environmental (by phone)	x		
Agenda Item	Major Points		
I. Introductions	The meeting was called to order about 7:10 pm by Tracy. Mike McAvey was the notetaker.		
II. Reading and approval of the minutes.	No minutes were prepared from the December meeting.		

<p>III. Reports of Special Committees.</p>	<p>Adriana Hochberg, Climate Change Coordinator for County Executive Mark Elrich made a presentation on Climate Action Planning in Montgomery County.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Hochberg described several MoCo environmental programs related to the environment, energy and climate change • The county’s goals are to reduce greenhouse gases by 80% by 2027 and 100% by 2035 (relative to the 2005 level) • Trends since 2010 show increasing rainfall and severe storms leading to more serious flooding and increased damage to property. • Five workgroups, with over 150 members, are developing an action plan. The members represent dozens of organizations and individuals. A draft plan will be available for public review in late 2020 and it will be finalized in early 2021. • In developing options, the workgroups and later reviewers are considering environmental, economic, and equity impacts. • The County is also taking actions while the long-range plan is being developed. Examples are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Considering a 6-megawatt community solar installation at the Oaks landfill. ○ Changing building codes and energy performance standards ○ Designing Bus Rapid Transit routes and acquiring electric buses
<p>IV. Unfinished Business and General Orders.</p>	<p>Status of Vacancies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The WQAG currently has 4 vacancies, two members who are at the end of their second term have requested waivers so that they can continue to serve. Currently there are no agricultural representatives, and only one representative each for academic, environmental and business. The new online application tool is up and running but it is not clear when we will be able to advertise. <p>Meeting Calendar:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kate Bennett has placed the WQAG meeting dates for 2020 on the official calendars. <p>Group Discussions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frank Dawson noted that road salting increases salt levels in streams, causes pipe corrosion, and can even affect drinking water and private wells. A related issue is balancing public expectations for ice-free roads and reduced salt usage. DEP will do press event on January 16 focused on what residents can do to manage their salt usage. County Executive Erlich will ask county agencies, schools, etc to sign pledges to use less salt. Private applicators (for parking lots, HOAs, driveways, etc.) often overuse salt because clients expect to see salt on the ground to know it is being applied. The County may need a salt management plan for sustainability. • The County budget is scheduled for release in mid-March.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The WQAG must draft its annual report so that it can be submitted for review in February. Pamela Rathbone will lead, with support from the group. Future Discussions: See the List of Priority Topics below
V. Adjournment.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The next meeting will be on February 10, 2020. Crystal Calarusse will take notes at the February meeting. Tom Schueler will talk in February about stream restoration The meeting was adjourned at about 8:30 pm.
Action Item Registry		
List of Priority Topics		
Rank	Subject Area	Topic
1	Stormwater	Expert panel on water quality benefits on stream restorations (Tom Schueler &/or Pamela Parker)
2	Stormwater	Chesapeake Bay TMDL, nutrient trading, and growth offsets
3	Other	Elrich and new administration priorities for water quality
4	Other	Mont. Co. Sustainability Committee report & water related issues
5	Wastewater	WSSC discharges from Potomac Filtration Plant and the ensuing litigation
6	Wastewater	Blue Plains and Seneca Treatment Plants Tours
7	Stormwater	Quantitative approaches to stormwater management (MS4, BMPs)
8	Other	Educational Outreach – Other Organizations
9	Stormwater	RainScapes Update
10	Stormwater	Local water quality. How does it fit in to the new strategies articulated last year and moving forward? All the projects that were cancelled--what is the new strategy in those neighborhoods?
11	Parks	Lakes. Needwood, Clopper, etc. Can someone explain the water quality issues? Are the cyanobacteria issues entirely related to structure or are there pollution concerns that could be addressed to improve quality?
12	Other	Community gardening
13	Other	Continue discussions on communicating the benefits of improved water quality
14	Parks	Geese and deer management (Potential speakers from DNR)
15	Other	One DEP--what is it and how does it work?
16	Wastewater	Replacing all public urinals in Montgomery county with waterless urinals
17	Parks	MNCPPC topics
18	Stormwater	Meeting on trash
19	Stormwater	Erosion and Sediment Control (ESC) plan transparency

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List of Completed Topics		
Date	Subject Area	Topic
5/13/19	Wastewater	10-Year Water and Sewer Plan (Winter 2018)
10/21/19, 11/18/19	Wastewater	WSSC drinking water testing for EPA unregulated contaminants