

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

January 11, 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	
Keith Brooks, Public-at-Large	X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Karl Van Neste, a director of the Muddy Branch Alliance</li> </ul>
Bob Buglass, Public Agency, WSSC	X		
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		
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 Pamela Rathbone.
II. Reading and Approval of the Minutes	Minutes for December were approved as written.
III. New Business	<p>Presentation on Road Salt Monitoring and Legislation – Karl Van Neste (MBA), Director, Muddy Branch Alliance</p> <p>Mr. Neste discussed salt levels in the Muddy Branch creek. The EPA says salt levels higher than 30-40 ppm may be harmful to people with high blood pressure and liver ailments. Salt also corrodes pipes, bridges, and roads. The Alliance has been monitoring salt levels at two sites off Great Seneca Highway and one downstream from Route 28 since 2019. They measure weekly in the winter and biweekly the rest of the year. Salt levels are above 40 ppm year-round and may reach 400 ppm after snow events.</p> <p>High levels of salt occur in the winter from its use to melt ice on roads and other impervious surfaces. Governments generally apply appropriate amounts of salt, but private contractors may apply too much because their customers like to see the white residue on surfaces and to hear the crunch of crystals underfoot. The Alliance is, with other groups, lobbying the State to require training for salt applicators. Training can reduce usage by 30 – 70 %; a 30% reduction will lower salt in the system by 10%. Maryland is studying Minnesota’s well-developed training program and may borrow some of its content. A Minnesota news station has a good <a href="#">video</a> on how to limit salt use. Draft legislation may be ready for the 2022 legislative session.</p> <p>Mr. Neste’s email is <a href="mailto:kfvanneste@gmail.com">kfvanneste@gmail.com</a></p> <p>His power point is available at on the Water Quality Advisory Group webpage.</p> <p>Review Priority Topic rankings</p> <p>The priority speaker topics listed in last month’s minutes were reviewed and approved as read, although it was acknowledged that many of the lower ranked ones were unlikely to be addressed this year. Linda Silversmith mentioned a Washington Post <a href="#">article</a> related to how more and more intense rainfall from climate change is raising water tables and causing septic systems to overflow in parts of the country. She may submit a topic on how increased precipitation will affect local septic systems.</p> <p>WQAG Annual Report</p> <p>The WQAG annual report is due next month. Pamela Rathbone has completed a draft. Mike McAvey has agreed to help edit it.</p> <p>Update on County’s MS4 Permit</p> <p>Comments on the MS4 Permit will be accepted through the 21<sup>st</sup>. Amy Stevens has been monitoring progress and has no word from the Maryland Department of the Environment on updates. The County must also have its financial assurance plan in place (it requires</p>

	assurance for 75% of planned activities; the county has assurance for 100%). All MS4-related reports must be ready to submit by the end of February.
IV. Reports of Officers, Boards, and 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>Potential WQAG letter of support for continued County commitment to water quality programs during COVID-19 pandemic (will be discussed in March)</p> <p>The County's Climate Action Resiliency Plan (CARP) and <a href="#">webpage</a> will be discussed at February's meeting. The WQAG has commented on an earlier draft.</p> <p>A <a href="#">webinar</a> on Protecting Maryland's Drinking Water from Toxic Pollution will be presented by the Center for Progressive Reform on January 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:00.</p> <p>Update on new membership applications New member nominations have moved up to the final review stage. The results of the approval process should be available before our next meeting.</p> <p>Update on Stormwater Partners - Stream Restoration Working Group The member monitoring this was unable to attend the meeting. An update will be presented at the next meeting.</p> <p>Discuss Thrive Montgomery 2050 Plan The WQAG submitted comments on the County's Climate Action Plan. The current version of the plan is available <a href="#">on-line</a>. Individual or group comments can be submitted until February 28. A public meeting on the plan may take place in early February, possibly the 2<sup>nd</sup>.</p>
VIII. Adjournment	<p>The meeting was adjourned at 8:20</p> <p>Next meeting February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021</p> <p>Notetaker will be TBD</p> <p>No guest speaker has been identified yet.</p>