

Montgomery County - Water Quality Advisory Group Meeting

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

July 13, 2020 (7:00 - 8:30 pm) – DRAFT Minutes

Microsoft Teams Meeting

Member and affiliation	Present		Others in attendance and affiliation
	Yes	No	
Kate Bennett, DEP	x		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cindy Pena, DEP • Miranda Reid, DEP • Laura Miller, DEP, Tree Montgomery Program
Keith Brooks, Public-at-Large	x		
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		
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		
Alison Wright, Environmental	x		
Agenda Item	Major Points		
I. Introductions	The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM.		
II. Reading and approval of the minutes.	Minutes for June were approved. Minutes will be available on the WQAG webpage.		
III. New Business.	Laura Miller, with the DEP Tree Montgomery Program, spoke to the WQAG about the program's background and progress.		

	<p>www.treemontgomery.org</p> <p>Tree Montgomery has an interactive map that allows the user to identify and choose the tree species for the user’s property. The program provides education and guidance to the property owner regarding tree selection and soil suitability. However, Tree Montgomery does not provide for ornamental trees. There is a high demand for the program. The process has a high rate of resident participation and is well received by those who use the program. So far, they planted nearly 1,200 trees.</p> <p>There is consistent correlation with lack of canopy cover, high amount of impervious surfaces, and water quality issues. The canopy keeps the water cooler, thereby improving water quality. More than 85% of trees planted are native trees (native to the piedmont in the Mid-Atlantic). The program is looking to introduce species that can adapt to climate change.</p> <p>Planting programs are looking into a balanced distribution across the county – currently, there are high forest cover and high canopy cover percentages over the Stream Valley Park system. The program targets neighborhoods where there’s poor water quality and little to no canopy. Also, the program works in conjunction with Montgomery County’s RainScapes program. Before or during the RainScapes design, it’s best to think about how the tree will tolerate disturbance.</p> <p>An annual report will be provided in the fall.</p>
<p>IV. Reports of Officers, Boards, Standing Committees.</p>	<p>The WQAG reviewed and approved the Climate Action Plan priority recommendations letter, which will be sent to the County Executive and County Council.</p>
<p>V. Reports of Special Committees.</p>	<p>There was a high attendance of environmental groups at the Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week happy hour event. It was a good opportunity for the WQAG to learn about the community interests relating to water quality.</p>
<p>VI. Special Orders.</p>	<p>None at this time</p>
<p>VII. Unfinished Business and General Orders.</p>	<p>The WQAG welcomed Miranda Reid as the new DEP liaison and will be the new point of contact.</p> <p>Montgomery County’s Climate Change Budgeting Process Workgroup is seeking volunteers</p>
<p>VIII. Adjournment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm. • The next meeting is set for September 14, 2020.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crystal Calarusse agreed to take notes for the September meeting.
Action Item Registry		
List of Priority Topics		
Rank	Subject Area	Topic
1	Other	Elrich and new administration priorities for water quality
2	Other	Mont. Co. Sustainability Committee report & water related issues
3	Wastewater	WSSC discharges from Potomac Filtration Plant and the ensuing litigation
4	Wastewater	Blue Plains and Seneca Treatment Plants Tours
5	Stormwater	Quantitative approaches to stormwater management (MS4, BMPs)
6	Other	Educational Outreach – Other Organizations
7	Stormwater	RainScapes Update
8	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?
9	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?
10	Other	Community gardening
11	Other	Continue discussions on communicating the benefits of improved water quality
12	Parks	Geese and deer management (Potential speakers from DNR)
13	Other	One DEP--what is it and how does it work?
14	Wastewater	Replacing all public urinals in Montgomery county with waterless urinals
15	Parks	MNCPPC topics
16	Stormwater	Meeting on trash
17	Stormwater	Erosion and Sediment Control (ESC) plan transparency