

Montgomery County - Water Quality Advisory Group Meeting

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

June 8, 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"> • Patty Bubar, Deputy Director, DEP • Cindy Pena, DEP • Frank Dawson, DEP
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 7:07 PM.		
II. Reading and approval of the minutes.	Minutes for March were approved. Minutes will be available on the WQAG webpage.		
III. New Business	a. DEP Budget Update – Patty Bubar and Frank Dawson Patty reviewed the status of the department budget – a few notes:		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing services budget due to COVID issues • Nothing increasing – • DOT getting funding for drainage issues (flooding, etc) related to water quality – • Continue to fund MNCPPC stream projects • CIP projects less specific “project description forms” and combined as “county wide” projects • WQPC - \$107.60 – increase of 3.2% <p>Pam questioned if a bigger increase was desired to the WQPC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patty – some funding wasn’t approved • Frank – public demand is high – wanted to add more <p>Tracy noted that the DEP budget from the WQPC won’t change, so there shouldn’t be an impact moving forward with COVID budget issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No update on MS4 permit <p>b. Status of DEP Operations Under COVID-19, Patty Bubar, Deputy Director of DEP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A push for Telework – prior staff was allowed 1 day/week, now pushed to Maximum • Of approximately 150 staff, 115 teleworking (transfer station staff on site) • No lost productivity • Protocol for field work established quickly – all maintenance and inspections on schedule • Some remote visits for private sites • Paper & bills – more electronic instead – more efficiency • Likely the new normal moving forward • Social media and outreach still pushing – engaging people via Zoom, Teams, etc • DEP on Facebook, Instagram, etc
<p>IV. Reports of Officers, Boards, Standing Committees</p>	<p>a. Discussion of Ways to Strengthen the WQAG’s Advisory Role</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. First part of committee is educating ourselves 2. Second part is passing that information on – one example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Action Plan • Make sure we are providing input (previously discussed in March) • Cyanobacteria issue mentioned • Work on getting one coherent “advice” to Council • Michael C mentioned the reusable bag issue – no longer allowed at many stores due to COVID • What are other impacts of COVID on typical life/water quality/environment

	b. WQAG Input on the County’s Climate Action Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates: Workgroups are meeting consultants (soon) • Virtual office hours later in June • Climate Action & Resilience Plan draft plan in November • Budget for DEP includes \$400k for Climate Action Plan • Further discussion at July meeting – reviewed Tracy and Keith’s focus issues – move forward with those • Any additional issues the group want included – share by Friday June 12 	
V. Reports of Special Committees.	None at this time	
VI. Unfinished Business and General Orders.	a. WQAG Annual Report – in on 6/8/20 b. Vacancies – advertising soon	
VII. Adjournment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm. • The next meeting is set for July 13 – no field trip. • Pamela Rathbone agreed to take notes for the July meeting. • CAP to be discussed at the July meeting. 	
Action Item Registry	Follow-up on CAP focus issues next time	
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
List of Completed Topics		
Date	Subject Area	Topic
5/13/19	Wastewater	10-Year Water and Sewer Plan (Winter 2018)
9/9/19	Stormwater	MDE's Enforcement Program
10/21/19, 11/18/19	Wastewater	WSSC drinking water testing for EPA unregulated contaminants
2/10/20	Stormwater	Expert panel on water quality benefits on stream restorations (Tom Schueler)