

Montgomery County - Water Quality Advisory Group Meeting

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

March 9, 2020 (7:00 - 8:30 pm) – DRAFT 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"> <li>• Ken Bawer, Watts Branch Watershed Alliance</li> <li>• Drew Budelis, Versar</li> <li>• Patty Bubar, Deputy Director, DEP</li> <li>• Cindy Pena, DEP</li> </ul>
Keith Brooks, Public-at-Large	x		
Bob Buglass, Public Agency, WSSC	x		
Crystal Calarusse, Public-at-Large	x		
Michael Carmel, Public-at-Large	x (phone)		
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		
<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Major Points</b>		
I. Introductions	The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM.		
II. Reading and approval of the minutes.	Minutes for February were approved. Minutes will be available on the WQAG webpage.		

<p>III. New Business</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Climate Action Plan, Amy Stevens, DEP, presented an update on the Montgomery County Climate Action Plan</li></ul> <p>In July 2019, Montgomery County launched a planning process to develop prioritized actions and strategies to meet the County’s Green House Gas (GHG) emissions reduction goals. The County intends to finalize a Climate Action and Resilience Plan by early 2021. The 850 recommendations developed by Montgomery County’s community-based climate workgroups are available for public review and comment. There is a goal of 80% reduction of GHG by 2027 and 100% reduction by 2035.</p> <p>Amy Stevens participated in the Adaptation and Sequestration Workgroups. A high level overview is available on the DEP website -- Climate Workgroups Recommendations (<a href="https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/green/Resources/Files/climate/workgroup-recommendations/overview-of-workgroup-recommendations.pdf">https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/green/Resources/Files/climate/workgroup-recommendations/overview-of-workgroup-recommendations.pdf</a>)</p> <p>Public review is scheduled from February through April with a draft plan scheduled for late 2020.</p> <p>The Sequestration Workshop overarching goals were: (1) strengthen land use policies (2) accelerate the implementation of nature-based solutions; and (3) take a whole systems approach to increase carbon sequestration. There were also a number of sector specific goals including (1) protecting existing trees; (2) preventing the loss of wetlands; (3) increasing county forests; (4) transitioning to regenerative agriculture; and restoring healthy soils.</p> <p>The Adaptation Workgroup goals were: (1) prioritize people and communities that are the most vulnerable and the most sensitive to the impacts of climate change; (2) reduce the risks and impacts of higher summer temperatures; (3) reduce risks and impacts of more intense storms; (4) protect public health from climate-driven impacts; (5) ensure the availability and sustainability of quality drinking water supplies to support a growing and thriving Montgomery County. (6) conserve and restore habitat to support healthy populations and ecosystems, reduce non-climate stressors on natural resources, and promote climate-resilient agriculture; (7) support economic opportunities and address economic challenges for climate adaptation; (8) conduct a vigorous outreach and engagement campaign to accelerate adaptation and resilience and (9) reevaluate and update county operations, strategies, and codes to account for the risks of climate change impacts as well as to reduce greenhouse gases.</p>
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Recommendations to the County are due by March 20th. The WQAG discussed drafting a letter to highlight those recommendations which it feels should be included in the final plan. Members should list top 5 recommendations that the WQAG would include in its comment letter.

- Capital Improvement Projects Municipal Separate Storm Water System (MS4 ) Program, Patty Bubar, Deputy Director, DEP

There are two major Capital Improvement Projects:

- (1) MS4 Permit Program
- (2) Gude Landfill Remediation

The current Municipal Separate Storm Sewer (MS4) permit was issued on February 16, 2010. Requirements include a goal of restoring 20% of the County's untreated impervious surface and making progress toward the meeting total maximum daily load (TMDL) waste load allocations.

The County has completed its restoration goal of 3,778 impervious acres in FY19 (December 30, 2018). Total CIP Expenditures (through FY19) are \$129 million. All other provisions of the permit administratively extended until the next is permit issued. Capital Improvement Projects (1) 11 Projects completed and (2) 12 Project in design or construction. Voluntary BMPs implemented include (1) 112 RainScapes and (2) 4 Watershed Implementation Grants.

The new MS4 permit is scheduled to be issued in the summer of 2020. Restoration requirement is to be based on Maximum Extent Practicable (MEP) analysis. The focus of the new permit will be on the treatment of untreated impervious surface. Guidance allows for impervious acre credit for additional flood storage and for green infrastructure.

Restoration project portfolios are due on Friday, March 13.

Target areas for restoration will be based on suitability maps. In addition to the science and sound data, the policy decisions will be looking at funding, regulatory requirements and environmental justice. These will be interactive maps for future planning. Current maps include existing watershed condition, stormwater management project suitability and stream restoration project suitability.

Three suspended projects have been reopened: (1) Glenmont Forest Green Street, (2) Grosvenor stream restoration and (3) Old Farm Creek stream restoration.

	<p>The FY 2021-2026 CIP Budget Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- \$112 million dollars for the 6-year period</li> <li>- \$70 million State revolving loan fund</li> <li>- \$14 million from State Aid (grants)</li> </ul> <p>Watershed Restoration program will deliver credits to meet the new MS4 permit restoration requirements – Impervious surface, nutrient and sediments based on the new 2019 Accounting Guidance.</p> <p>The new County MS4 permit will guide capital spending.</p> <p>The County’s Operating Budget will be released in April 2020.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recommendation by Ken Bawer, Watts Branch Watershed Alliance, for a future WQAG discussion of water protection areas for water supply.</li> </ul>	
IV. Reports of Officers, Boards, Standing Committees	None at this time	
V. Reports of Special Committees.	None at this time	
VI. Unfinished Business and General Orders.		
VII. Adjournment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.</li> <li>• The next meeting is set for April 13 (Postponed to due to covid-19).</li> <li>• Tim Stenmann agreed to take notes for the April meeting.</li> <li>• County Operating Budget to be discussed at the April meeting.</li> </ul>	
<b>Action Item Registry</b>	List of top 5 recommendation in County Climate Plan for inclusion in letter from WQAG.	
<b>List of Priority Topics</b>		
<b>Rank</b>	<b>Subject Area</b>	<b>Topic</b>
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
<b>List of Completed Topics</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Subject Area</b>	<b>Topic</b>
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)
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