

Montgomery County - Water Quality Advisory Group Meeting

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

November 8, 2021 (7:00 - 8:30 pm) – DRAFT Minutes

Microsoft Teams Meeting

Staff Liaison Miranda Reid, DEP (miranda.reid@montgomerycountymd.gov)

Member and affiliation	Present		Others in attendance and affiliation
	Yes	No	
Ken Bawer, Public-at-Large	X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Frank Dawson
Keith Brooks, Public-at-Large		X	
Bob Buglass, Public Agency, WSSC	X		
Michael Carmel, Public-at-Large	X		
Andrew Der, Public-at-Large		X	
El Hadji Fall, Academic/Scientific	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 7:10 PM.
II. Reading and approval of the minutes.	Minutes for September were approved with a revision on page 3 – change “form” to “from”. Minutes will be available on the WQAG webpage.
III. New Business.	<p><u>1. Update on the County’s Climate Action Plan – Watershed Restoration Implementation Activities</u></p> <p>Frank Dawson highlighted DEP’s Watershed Restoration Division’s Climate Action Plan activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recycling and Resource Management Division is working on a curbside food composting pilot for single family food scraps • County Executive and Office of Management and Budget are including a set of climate questions that departments will need to address as part of their capital and operating budget submissions. This is similar to the existing policy on equity and inclusion. • DEP Watershed Restoration Division (WRD) is working with homeland security to deploy more flood sensors on high hazard dams and other flood prone areas in the county. • DEP’s Doug Weisberger and Stan Edwards are creating a community justice academy to develop community climate change ambassadors. • Draft legislation has been written to ban the sale and use of gas powered leaf blower equipment in the County. Gas powered leaf blowers are an air and water quality issue. • DEP is working to improve aftercare of tree plantings after stream restoration – looking specifically at tree planting density and species composition. • DEP WRD’s Tree Montgomery program is bringing on a third staff person to assist with backlog of requests. • A contract was executed with Casey trees to help accelerate the planting of street trees. • DEP WRD is continuing outreach with property owners and businesses on organic lawns. • DEP WRD planning and engineering staff are identifying projects that will meet new MS4 permit requirements. • Continuing to implement the Glenmont Forest Green Streets project as well as 9 stormwater pond retrofit projects and three stream restoration projects that are currently in Design. • DEP WRD Maintenance program is continuing to inspect and maintain over 18,000 stormwater facilities across the County. • MDE issued a report on advancing stormwater resiliency and is now required to provide an update on water quantity, precipitation data, and where floods are occurring. MDE will be

updating the stormwater management standards to add additional focus on water quantity control.

Questions:

- Ken asked about potential bans on gas powered lawn mowers and electric leaf blowers (noise). Frank mentioned that the bill has not yet gone to County Council and there will be a period for public input.
- Tracy asked about the MDE Stormwater Report. Frank responded that this was MDE's response to Bill 227 and that the report looked at changes in precipitation events. Further analysis will determine whether MDE stormwater standards will need to be adjusted. Amy mentioned that this report did not have a lot of detail and that MDE still has a lot of work to do.
- Tracy asked how DEP was feeling about the plan. Frank mentioned that the plan was very comprehensive and ambitious and would need additional resources for full implementation.

2. Quick update on new MS4 permit

Amy mentioned that MDE issued their final determination on the County's MS4 permit, effective 11/5/2021. The permit will be effective through 11/4/2026. There's a lot in the permit and we'll ask Kate Bennett to come to the WQAG to present on the changes. There was some additional language added on flooding and resiliency and handling of stormwater conveyance systems to prevent roadway flooding. The 2021 accounting guidance was also issued. Some changes in monitoring guidelines in 2022. Tracy mentioned that the new permit and guidance will help inform the ongoing stream restoration sub-group discussion.

3. Report on stream restoration sub-group discussion and activities

Tracy said the sub-group is having productive conversation and is looking forward to releasing a report to the broader group soon. The draft report may be ready for review prior to the December meeting, otherwise discussion will occur in January.

4. Election of Co-Chairs

Pam has decided to step down as Co-Chair and the Group is looking for a new volunteer to serve alongside Tracy. Responsibility is largely putting together the agenda each month. Will add this to the December agenda.

5. DEP Stream Restoration Webinar Series

Amy mentioned a notice about the webinar series was sent out a few weeks back. DEP is putting together a four part series with the first webinar to be held on 11/17. Please register and sign up ahead. The first webinar will be a listening session to hear from residents and will be moderated by Chesapeake Bay Trust. DEP will use this feedback to inform future webinars

	<p>in January, February, and March 2022. DEP is reaching out to academics, researchers, practitioners for speakers, and will also do a few presentations, but is interested in bringing in other folks. The second and third webinars will answer what stream restoration looks like in practice and the final webinar will look towards future trends. These will tie in with the ongoing WQAG discussions. The H2O Summit is also next Wednesday.</p> <p>Tracy asked if anyone was able to attend the October stream restoration tour and if they wanted to share some thoughts. Ken mentioned a few non-natives coming up in the ground cover. Tracy asked the group with they thought these field trips continue to be valuable and to keep in mind other ideas as we plan for 2022 topics. Ken mentioned a potential Glenstone stream restoration/organic landscaping tour.</p>	
IV. Reports of Officers, Boards, 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.	None at this time.	
VIII. Adjournment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm. • The next meeting is set for December 13, 2021. • Discussion topics for November: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Presentation on new MS4 Report ○ January – stream restoration sub-group 	
Action Item Registry		
List of Priority Topics		
Rank	Subject Area	Topic
1	Other	Understanding how climate change impacts water quality in Montgomery County
2	Stormwater	Meeting on trash – (February/March) – DEP/Alice Ferguson Foundation
3	Stormwater	Twice a year updates from Stormwater Partners Stream Restoration Working Group

4	Wastewater	WSSC discharges from Potomac Filtration Plant and the ensuing litigation, sewage overflows
4	Stormwater	Quantitative approaches to stormwater management (MS4, BMPs)
4	Stormwater	RainScapes Update – 2022
4	Stormwater	Erosion and Sediment Control (ESC) plan transparency
4	Other	DOT Street Tree Policy
9	Other	Mont. Co. Sustainability Committee report & water related issues
10	Wastewater	Blue Plains and Seneca Treatment Plants Tours (July field trip)
11	Other	Educational Outreach – Other Organizations
12	Other	Community gardening
13	Other	Continue discussions on communicating the benefits of improved water quality
14	Other	Communications update from DEP
15	Wastewater	Replacing all public urinals in Montgomery county with waterless urinals
16	Parks	MNCPPC topics (invasive species)