

Montgomery County - Water Quality Advisory Group Meeting

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

October 19, 2020 (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	
Keith Brooks, Public-at-Large	x		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cindy Pena, DEP • Ken Bawer, DEP
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		
Alison Wright, Environmental	x		
Agenda Item	Major Points		
I. Introductions	The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM.		
II. Reading and approval of the minutes.	Minutes for September were approved, with one addition with a link to the WQAG procedures. Minutes will be available on the WQAG webpage.		
III. New Business.	<u>1. Overview of Thrive Montgomery 2050 Plan</u>		

	<p>Pam noted that while we can listen to the latest update, to provide feedback/comments would be considered “advocacy” and the group would need to file appropriate forms to do so.</p> <p>Mark Symborski presented an update to the presentation from about a year ago. Thrive Montgomery is an update to the “General Plan” which then more detailed plans (local master plans, etc) are pulled from.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Original plan was in 1964 (Corridors and Wedges), latest update was in 1964. As MoCo has changed to a major employment center from residential/bedroom community, more changes needed.• Recognition that the future is Infill and Redevelopment• 3 priorities – Economic health, community equity, environmental <p>Mark focused on the Environmental portion for the group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Forest gains/losses and increase in impervious cover• New TMDLs from EPA based on stream impairments• Focus on extreme weather conditions – increased rainfall and heat, higher energy costs, human health impacts• Plans for Mitigation, Adaptation, Resilience <p>Draft Plan section 6.1 to 6.5 – focused on environmental issues Implementation requires partnership of MNCPPC, Parks, County government, MCPS, economic development, WSSC and state The draft plan is available online now (released Oct 1) Planning board public hearing (Nov 19) Work sessions (Dec to March) Council approval – April?</p> <p><u>2. Discuss providing written comments on Thrive Montgomery 2050 Plan</u> Tracy echoed Pam’s comment – do we want to provide feedback? Or is something like this so general that it doesn’t get into the issues we have concerns on? Tracy also asked about Goal 6.4 (focused on healthy food) and whether water was considered. Mark noted that 6.4 was food, water is tackled in other goals Pam noted a focus on runoff and water quality along with tree canopy (good) Linda asked if we could provide comments next month BUT Tracy noted we need to turn around quicker than that. After some discussion of timing, Amy pointed out that before it goes to Council there is an opportunity for WQAG to provide input. Keith noted this avoids the “advocacy” issue. Moving ahead: All to read section 6 and discuss further at upcoming meetings along with up front/intro materials in plan.</p>
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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.	<p>1. Adopt revised Procedures reflecting existing Order of Business <i>Pam: rearrangement of topics/subjects on agenda</i> <i>New version to be posted on the website</i></p> <p>2. Potential WQAG letter of support for continued County commitment to water quality programs during COVID-19 pandemic <i>PR: perhaps we wait until we see any budget updates before we comment</i></p> <p>3. Update on new membership applications <i>5 applicants, given go ahead to schedule interviews – interview team to include Traci, Pam, Keith and Mike McAvey</i> <i>Currently 9 vacancies</i></p> <p>4. Update on stormwater partners - stream meeting <i>TR: the “Montgomery Coalition to stop stream destruction” asked for a pause on stream restoration work, Stormwater partners in disagreement, agreed to create a working group</i> <i>First meeting was Oct 19 – good discussion</i> <i>3 major question on stream restoration: how does it help achieve goals, what other would achieve goals, and positive/negative of stream restoration</i> <i>At this point, WQAG to follow for updates, not sure there will “output” or a way to provide feedback until the group has determined what their “output” will be</i> <i>Perhaps the group could present to WQAG – but wait and see for now</i></p>	
VIII. Adjournment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm. • The next meeting is set for November 9, 2020. • Discussion topics for next month: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cyanobacteria issue? ○ MS4 new permit (Oct 23rd release?) ○ DEP presentation on MS4? 	
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