

Montgomery County - Water Quality Advisory Group Meeting

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

September 14, 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 • Darian Copiz, 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 July were approved, with one addition requested by Linda, to add Miranda's email to the minutes. Minutes will be available on the WQAG webpage.		

<p>III. New Business.</p>	<p>Darian Copiz gave a presentation on the Equity portion of DEP’s Equity and Restoration Suitability Planning efforts. DEP is using Equity to assess DEP’s past and future work.</p> <p>The presentation will be posted on the Water Quality Advisory Group’s webpage (https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/water/advisory-group.html)</p> <p>Miranda Reid presented the second half of the presentation. Her presentation was titled: Geographic Targeting and Environmental Justice: CIP Restoration Work</p> <p>Director Ortiz asked DEP planners to conduct their restoration work in the most distressed and most underserved areas.</p> <p>Two questions were discussed as precursors for selecting restoration projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Where are the most distressed watersheds in the County?• Where can we also achieve programmatic goals? <p>Other conditions considered included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meet Regulatory requirements• Achieve Biological Uplift• Ensure Project Longevity: Reduce stream maintenance obligations <p>The maps are available on DEP’s Website (https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/water/restoration/equity.html)</p> <p>Q: How are you combining the Equity and Restoration Suitability pieces - is it a simple overlay?</p> <p>We are looking at past projects to see how the Demographic Index aligns with those projects. They are also talking about using it for future work, to make sure that they are not disproportionately doing restoration projects in a single area, or making sure that disadvantaged areas are being served appropriately.</p> <p>The tools help with outreach and engagement - as identifying ahead of time where there are areas that are primarily minority can help to guide outreach approaches. Amy noted that the maps are new, and a work in progress, and that they are looking for feedback on the project.</p>
<p>IV. Reports of Officers, Boards,</p>	<p>None at this time.</p>

Standing Committees.	
V. Reports of Special Committees.	None at this time.
VI. Special Orders.	None at this time
VII. Unfinished Business and General Orders.	<p>Tracy gave an update on the two letters being developed by MCSSD and SP regarding stream restoration in Montgomery County. The letters have been put on pause while Stormwater Partners Network develops a working group to attempt to come to consensus on the issue.</p> <p>Pam proposed some changes to the WQAG procedures (insert link) - to match the way that the agenda is written, and add in special orders to the agenda. Motion was approved unanimously.</p> <p>Pam discussed the 2022 budget and timeline for virtual meetings: 2022 Budget Virtual Meetings:</p> <p>September 21st 7pm September 30th 7pm October 8th 7pm October 13th 7pm October 26th 7pm October 28th 7pm</p> <p>January 15th - County Executive Elrich transmits his recommended 2022 Capital Budget to the County Council. March 15th - transmits operating budget May - Council approves the budget</p> <p>Thrive Montgomery Dates: 2/20 - Final Issues Report 4/9 - Draft Vision and Goal 6/4 - Draft Policies and Actions 9/24 - Working Draft Plan 11/19 - written or oral testimony to the Planning Board Public Hearing</p> <p>Discussion on future meetings included some changes to planned speakers - based on recent changes by SP and MCSSD.</p> <p>October meeting will be focused on the Thrive Montgomery presentation, we will ask Mark to make a presentation. The meeting will also determine a timeline for the WQAG to provide comments. As Keith noted, we may need to get comments approved by the BCC prior to sending to the Planning</p>

	Commission. Miranda will ask Beth what the appropriate approval process and timeline is.	
VIII. Adjournment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm. • The next meeting is set for October 19, 2020 (one week later than usual due to the Holiday). • Tim Stemann agreed to take notes for the October 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