

Montgomery County Water Quality Advisory Group
Meeting Minutes for July 11, 2016

Member and affiliation	Present		Others in attendance and affiliation
	Yes	No	
Keith Brooks, public-at-large	X		
Jonathan Breul, public-at-large	X		
Philip Browne, public-at-large	X		
Mary Campbell, public-at-large	X		
Dan Dozier, public-at-large & co-chair		X	
Korkud Egrican, public-at-large		X	
Andy Garfinkel, business		X	
Philip Kibak, public-at-large		X	
Paul Hlavinka, public-at-large	X		
Christopher Meaney, academic/scientific		X	
Annette Rosenblum, academic/scientific & co-chair	X		
Linda Silversmith, public-at-large	X		
Tawana Spencer, environmental		X	
Phil Wagner, business	X		
Paul Billingsley, WSSC	X		
Pam Parker, DEP	X		
Mark Symborski, MNCPPC	X		
Agenda Item	Major Points		
7:05 PM Meeting convened by Annette Rosenblum	Annette opened meeting by presenting Paul Hlavinka with an Award of Service. We did have a quorum, so could vote and minutes were to be taken. Paul Hlavinka took minutes. Linda volunteered to take minutes in September.		
Minutes and Agenda Approved.	Draft minutes of the May meeting were approved with minor edits. No June Meeting was held this year. The proposed July agenda was approved with minor edits.		
Discussion of Committee Concerns	The vacancies ad closed June 29th. Annette Rosenblum and Mary Campbell have stepped forward to be on selection committee.		
Salt Barn	The State Highway Administration (SHA) is seeking to build a salt barn off Kensington Parkway. Neighbors are concerned about runoff. Pamela will request a SHA speaker for September.		
Stream warning signs	The Group discussed follow up on Dr. LJ Ingram's recommendation to put water quality warning signs up on streams. It was decided that Annette would draft a response based on the discussion points from our previous meeting.		
Boards, Committees and Commissions	We would like to understand how we create positions in the future based on recent vote by council. Pamela explained that the Board of Committees Commissions wants the county attorney to present for interested groups on how to transmit opinions. Keith will plan to attend for WQAG and bring back information to the group.		
Other topics for future meetings.	We discussed environmental education and Linda volunteered to help Chris find speakers on environmental education in schools potentially for October meeting. Potential additional topics for future meetings:		

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	<p>Rainscapes update. Time table to get easements from Department of Permitting Services for ESD. Pamela to investigate. Moving WSSC Potomac WTP intake to middle of Potomac. Paul to investigate. Ash borer implications for water quality. Geese and deer management. Potential speakers from DNR? 10 Year Water Supply Plan. Pamela to talk with Alan about speaking. Gude Landfill Presentation. We noted several items can be removed from the future meeting list:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- WQPC 2-15 already passed. Remove.- Fracking
The meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.	
Action Items	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Linda requested action items be recorded separate from the action meeting highlights. We have added this new section to the minutes.2. Annette to draft response to request for stream signage.3. Pamela to request SHA speak at our September meeting.4. Keith to attend county attorney meeting for WQAG.

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Member and affiliation	Present		Others in attendance and affiliation
	Yes	No	
Keith Brooks, public-at-large	X		None
Jonathan Breul, public-at-large	X		
Philip Browne, public-at-large	X		
Mary Campbell, public-at-large	X		
Dan Dozier, public-at-large & co-chair		X	
Andy Garfinkel, business	X		
Philip Kibak, public-at-large		X	
Annette Rosenblum, academic/scientific & co-chair	X		
Linda Silversmith, public-at-large	X		
Tawana Spencer, environmental		X	
Phil Wagner, business	X		
Paul Billingsley, WSSC	X		
Pam Parker, DEP	X		
Mark Symborski, MNCPPC		X	
Agenda Item	Major Points		
7:07 PM Meeting convened by Annette Rosenblum, WQAG co-chair	Linda Silversmith took minutes. The July meeting minutes were reviewed and accepted with some editing changes. Pam Parker announced that the new director of DEP, Lisa Feldt, this month, as also was true in July, has a conflict and is now aiming to attend a meeting once new WQAG members are on board (possibly in December).		
Agenda review	<p>Annette proposed changes to the suggested list of future topics included on the agenda: (1) combining TMDLs with nutrient trading and (2) adding other environmental organizations that do outreach.</p> <p>Pam will check with Chris Meaney whether he will still procure a speaker on environmental education in MCPS since his term is ending. If not, Linda will try to identify the MCPS speaker.</p> <p>The next volunteers to do minutes are (1) Phil Browne in October and (2) Phil Wagner in November. The October meeting will be on the third Monday, Oct. 17, to avoid the Columbus Day holiday.</p>		
Brief updates	<p>Annette reported on follow-up with Dr. L.J. Ingram, who visited WQAG in April concerning posting warning signs about the water quality of streams. Dr. Ingram followed up with the county and liked our suggestion of relevant education in schools.</p> <p>Keith Brooks noted that this year Lake Needwood has more signs posted about the presence of microcystis than in the past.</p> <p>Paul Billingsley was asked to confirm that Sima Baidoo, project manager, can speak with us on Oct. 17 about the proposal for an offshore submerged channel intake for the WSSC Potomac water plant.</p> <p>Mary Campbell and Annette, assisted by Pam, recently conducted interviews of several candidates for WQAG membership; Pam will</p>		

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	forward the recommendations memo to the Office of the County Executive.
Salt Barn	<p>We mentioned last time that the State Highway Administration (SHA) is seeking to build a salt barn off Kensington Parkway. There was a prior informational meeting in April 2016, and SHA is not planning to speak to another public meeting, including the WQAG. The proposal may go before the Planning Board in the near future. Annette passed out an information packet consisting of the material on the SHA website and letters found on the internet that included criticism and SHA response letters. A letter in our information packet did not address some of the points raised to SHA.</p> <p>Annette thinks the packet does not have enough information about the reasons for discarding other sites that were under consideration. Jonathan Breul remarked that procedures were not always followed. Pam mentioned a mandatory referral and that the Planning Board is usually rigorous in its reviews. Keith wondered whether SHA responded to the Audubon Naturalist Society’s position opposing the site and ANS’s request for alternatives, and Annette volunteered to ask ANS. Pam volunteered to resend an e-mail regarding the Planning Board process.</p> <p>Mary Campbell noted that in earlier salt storage discussions a speaker had mentioned places that used “beet leavings” to treat roads. From Mary’s experience growing up near a sugar beet plant, she assumes that the prior speaker meant the liquids left over after the sugar has been extracted.</p>
Choosing topics	<p>When Annette asked about any additional topics on which we should focus in the near future, Jonathan wondered about the status of the 10-year water supply and sewage plan. Pam will check on its status by asking Alan Soukup, with DEP’s Water and Wastewater Group.</p> <p>Pam then proposed removing the expert panel topic.</p> <p>Annette suggested combining the TMDL topic with the Smart Growth one. Pam will circulate a summary on nutrient trading and Annette will recommend a website on nutrient trading. Pam mentioned growth offsets could be another topic.</p> <p>Linda will ask Laura Miller, the county forest conservation coordinator, about how ash borers are affecting the county and how the county is responding.</p> <p>If and how the county tests for the quality of drinking water in government and school buildings may be worth exploring. Pam will confer with a Montgomery County Public Schools industrial hygienist about whether this topic is worth pursuing.</p> <p>Because of stormwater runoff, it may be useful to look into community gardening. We also wondered how much deer and geese might affect the</p>

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	<p>ability of county streams to meet TMDLs for bacteria (e.g., in the Anacostia River and Cabin John and Rock Creek) and whether the county has taken any steps related to this problem.</p> <p>The remand of MDE's MS4 permit/suit was reversed and that topic will be removed from our future topics list. In addition, we plan to remove "WSSC wastewater treatment plant technology" as already done, and "Time table to get easements from Department of Permitting Services for ESD". Remove Laura Miller's name from topic of "Quantitative approaches to Stormwater management". Because of the passage of a recent State bill on drinking water testing, it might be too soon to look at this topic.</p>
<p>Announcements</p>	<p>EPA will be holding its annual local water quality standards academy on Feb. 12-16, 2017. The deadline for signing up is Oct. 14, 2016.</p> <p>Three WQAG members plus Pam will attend the advocacy training on Sept. 27.</p> <p>Pam is now the acting manager for the stormwater facility maintenance program. Amy Stevens, who is taking over Pam's current position, will assist the WQAG and will probably attend the Oct. 17 WQAG meeting.</p>
<p>The meeting adjourned at 8:18 pm.</p>	