

## **Montgomery County Water Quality Advisory Group Draft Meeting Summary**

**Date and Time:** January 13, 2025 (7:00 PM – 8:30 PM)

**Location:** Microsoft Team meeting

**Staff Liaison:** Ho-Ching Fong, DEP

**Notetaker:** Keith Brooks

Members present: Allison Wright, Bob Buglass, Amy Stevens, Mark Symborski, Keith Brooks, Linda Silversmith, Ho-Ching Fong

Members absent: Tracy Rouleau, Travis Goleski, Phillip Mariscal, Amanda Rockler; Miranda Reid

### **Meeting Summary**

#### **I. Introductions and welcome**

Bob Buglass, started the meeting at 7:05.

#### **II. Review of the December 9, 2024, meeting summary**

The summary of the December meeting was approved. A quorum of voting members was present.

#### **III. New Business**

##### **a. Update on WSSC frozen pipes**

Bob Buglass of WSSC provided the group with an update on the recent breaking of water pipes in Montgomery and Prince Georges Counties. Bob told us that at temperatures below 40 degrees Fahrenheit, the pipes become brittle. Many of the pipes that were placed in service in the 1970's and earlier are cast iron and are more likely to break with colder temperatures. Newer pipes and replacement pipes are ductile iron pipes which are less susceptible to breakage during prolonged cold temperatures. The ductile iron pipe is zinc-coated which helps fight corrosion and gives the pipes an expected life span of at least 100 years. WSSC has over 5,00 miles of pipes. More than 40 % of the pipes are over 50 years old.

##### **b. Future topics for WQAG Meetings**

Kevin Meissner of the Seneca Creek Watershed Partners; Water quality impacts of the Clarksburg highway extension; Climate change as focus of the WQAG; Riparian green programs including replanting and re-forestation; Drought issues from the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments – Water Supply and Drought Response Awareness Plan Drought Plan which was updated in 2024 (the Plan was adopted in 2000) and is implemented during drought conditions for the purpose of coordinated regional response; and Montgomery County’s flood plain management program.

**ACTION:** A proposed speaker list will be sent out to obtain first and second choices for topics for the coming year.

**c. New DEP liaison**

Ho-Ching Fong introduced herself to the WQAG. Ho-Ching is a Senior Planning Specialist and has been at DEP for 15 years in watershed restoration projects and on the planning team. She is an expert on the MS4 (Municipal Storm Sewer System) program and its annual reporting requirements.

**d. WQAG Terms**

A number of WQAG terms expire this May. Amy Stevens will check with the Montgomery County Boards, Committees and Commissions (BCC) to determine whose terms are ending and about replacements for those positions.

**e. Meeting Notetakers**

2025 notetakers will be in alphabetical order from the Member list on the WQAG website.

**f. Cochairs**

Co-chair positions are still open

**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**

Next meeting will occur on February 10, 2025, from 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm ET.  
Bob Buglass will serve as the February Notetaker.

The meeting adjourned at 7:32 pm ET.

DRAFT