

**Montgomery County Water Quality Advisory Group
Meeting Minutes for March 12, 2018**

Member and affiliation	Present		Others in attendance and affiliation
	Yes	No	
Susmita Bandyopadhyay, public-at-large		x	Patty Bubar, Acting Director, Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection
Paul Billingsley, WSSC		x	
Keith Brooks, Co-Chair, public-at-large	x		
Jonathan Breul, public-at-large	x		
Philip Browne, public-at-large	x		
Lakisha Harris, academic/scientific	x		
Dan Dozier, public-at-large		x	
Harris Tobing, agricultural		x	
Tim Stemann, business	x		
Fahad Hashmi, public-at-large		x	
Amy Stevens, DEP	X		
Kate Bennett, DEP	x		
Tracy Rouleau, Co-Chair, academic/scientific		x	
Linda Silversmith, public-at-large	x		
Tawana Spencer, environmental		x	
Mark Symborski, MNCPPC	x		
Phil Wagner, business	x		
Allison Wright, environmental	x		
Agenda Item	Major Points		
The meeting was called to order about 7:05 pm by Keith Brooks, WQAG co-chair	<p>Patty Bubar, Acting Director, Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection made a presentation of the general state of financing and funding for water quality projects in the county. (Where we are in the water quality program -preliminary briefing)</p> <p>Major points of interest of preliminary briefing:</p> <p>Under the current administratively extended MS4 permit MOCO needs to restore 3,378 acres of impervious surfaces under.</p> <p>This is expensive.</p> <p>There are three main sources of funding for the Water Quality Protection Charge, which funds these restorations. 1) Tax on real property, only land owners pay this. 2) Solid waste fees that everyone pays. 3) The general fund. Also bag tax revenues go to the water quality fund.</p>		

	<p>The capital improvement budget asked for more money based on an assumption the WQPC would be increased 10 percent. The County Executive said no, he felt that would put at risk the entire charge (aka water tax). So savings needed to come from other areas.</p> <p>A lot of current funding is from bonds. Bonds of 45 million were issued in 2012 and 2016 to build stormwater treatment facilities. There are upcoming changes because bonds are too expensive due to servicing fees.</p> <p>County hopes to use funds from the Maryland Water Quality Revolving Loan Fund. This used to be used for sewage treatment funds. As those needs are mostly met DEP hoping to be able to use the fund for stormwater projects. The Maryland public works board must review and approve as well as the EPA. If successful this would save money.</p> <p>Another money saving plan DEP has is to save money on the actual construction costs. Currently most construction work is done by separate design and construction firms. The County Executive wants to do a public private partnership where the partner actually takes on risk. Currently this “pay for performance” system is being used for 3 contracts. These save about 50-60 percent over the design/build contract system.</p> <p>County is still negotiating the consent decree for the MS4 permit and DEP thinks they will get a new 2019-2024 five year permit. County is trying to take credit for previously uncounted impervious surface restorations. (This will also save money if credits are awarded.) The FY17 MS4 annual report shows more than 800 acres of credit from new BMPs treating existing impervious area, however this number is pending MDE review and approval. The FY17 MS4 annual report overall shows/claims more than 2,900 acres have been restored. This is also pending MDE review and approval. DEP expects the new permit will probably require the backlog to be cleared plus another 1000 acres.</p> <p>The Blue Plains water tunnel is opening this week.</p>
Agenda review	Not done this time
Draft minutes	Not done this time
Committee Business	<p><u>Update on vacancies:</u> In May new vacancies for the group will be announced. We can help publish them where we would like, but MOCO will only publish on the boards/groups vacancies announcement website.</p>

	<p><u>Update on WQAG website:</u> There are updates on the website. We agreed the WQAG would post all official outgoing correspondence and replies on the website in the future. (And some past items if we can find them.)</p>
<p>Communicating Water Quality Goals/Letter to and Meeting with the County Executive (continuing a discussion...)</p>	<p>Letter to County Executive We decided to vote by email on the letter to the County Executive -- WQAG Recommendations to County Executive on Improving Communication. Votes due March 30. Annual Report to County Executive The annual report for the County Executive will be up for votes until April 6, 2018. Keith and probably Tracy will go to the meeting speed dating with County Executive. Meeting is the 10th. Anyone can go, the meeting is about 3 minutes long.</p>
<p>Updates and announcements</p>	
<p>Next WQAG meeting and future speakers</p>	<p>The next meeting of the WQAG will be on Monday, April 9, 2018.</p>
<p>The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm</p>	

Action Item Registry:

1. Keith Brooks will circulate the Annual Report for suggestions. Comments due by April 6, 2018.
2. Keith Brooks will circulate for votes the draft letter to County Executive. Votes due by March 30, 2018.
3. Jonathan Breul will take minutes for April 2018.
4. We may request a change to quorum requirements.