

April 6, 2022

SUBJECT: FY23 Operating Budget Hearing on April 19, 2022 – opposition to funding for DEP Senior Engineer for Watershed Restoration

Dear Council President Albornoz and Councilmembers:

Within the FY23 CE Recommended Operating Budget are increases for DEP Watershed Restoration. In the Design and Construction area, there is a request to add Funding for a Senior Engineer for “Watershed Restoration” for \$62,989 per <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/OMB/Resources/Files/omb/pdfs/FY23/psprec/68-EnvironmentalProtection-FY2023-REC-Publication-Report.pdf>. In a DEP presentation to the Stormwater Partners Network on March 30, this position was referred to as a “stream restoration” expert.

**I am opposed to this position** since we should not be funding the self-evident damage being done to our natural areas by so-called “stream restorations”. Instead, this position should be filled by an expert in upland stormwater control. Upland stormwater control by non-destructive practices such as bioretentions and pervious pavement will eliminate the root cause of stream erosion and will render the use of “stream restorations” obsolete.

Thank-you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Bawer  
Rockville