

Montgomery County Water Quality Advisory Group Draft Meeting Summary

Date and Time: February 10, 2025 (7:00 PM – 8:30 PM)

Location: Microsoft Team meeting

Staff Liaison: Ho-Ching Fong, DEP

Notetaker: Bob Buglass

Members present: Tracy Rouleau, Keith Brooks, Linda Silversmith, Travis Gorleski, Phillip Mariscal, Tim Stemann, Amy Stevens, Ho-Ching Fong, Mark Symborski, Bob Buglass

Members absent: Amanda Rockler; Miranda Reid, Allison Wright

Meeting Summary

I. Introductions and welcome

Tracy Rouleau started the meeting at 7:05.

II. Review of the January 13, 2025, meeting summary

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

III. New Business

- a. **New Co-Chair** - Travis Gorleski is now a Co-Chair along with Tracy Rouleau.
- b. **Watershed Assessment – An Overview.** Ho-Ching Fong presented an overview of the Montgomery County DEP watershed assessment. Presented vision and goals, defined watersheds, outlined water quality and quantity issues. Presented the analogy that a watershed is like a dirty dish, with rain rinsing pollutants into waterways; compounded by climate change impacting quantity. Drivers for the watershed assessment – the MS4 permit, local regulations including SPA, forest conservation, and social equity. A watershed assessment is a health check-up, on biology, temperature, and quantity. The assessment findings will drive policies, programs, and initiatives in an iterative process. Starting with County wide assessment, looking at land use,

forest cover, canopy gain/loss. A digital elevation model will provide information on channel changes. The assessment is incorporating racial equity and social justice. DEP is soliciting public input, the link for reporting watershed issues or opportunities is <https://arcg.is/0KCHPi>. Tracy Rouleau asked about reporting, immediate problems should be reported to MC311 or others.

- c. **DEP CIP Budget**, Amy Stevens presented an update on the Montgomery County DEP FY25-30 CIP Budget. DEP does a full CIP update in even numbered years, does amendments in odd numbered years. DEP's operating budget will be released March 15. The CIP is long-term projects. Overall program for comprehensive flood management, major facility repair projects, and storm drain work. Reviewed funding sources and projects. Largest program is implementation of the Comprehensive Flood Management Plan (~\$151M). Also, county-wide storm water management retrofit is a very large program (~\$90M), and includes some pay-for-performance projects.
- d. **Speaker Topics** –updated list will be circulated for voting. Travis Gorleski suggested looking at optimum planting density for reforestation projects.

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 March 10, 2025, from 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm ET.

The meeting adjourned at 8:32 pm ET.