

Montgomery County - Water Quality Advisory Group Meeting

July 15, 2024 – Minutes (draft)

- I. Notetaker: Tim Stemann
- II. Attendance:
 - a. Present: Bob Buglass, Travis Gorleski, Philip Mariscal, Miranda Reid, Tracy Rouleau, Linda Silversmith, Tim Stemann, Amy Stevens, Mark Symborski, Jeff Seltzer, Sarah Kogel-Smucker
 - b. Absent: Keith Brooks, Amanda Rockler, Allison Wright
- III. Introductions, then review and approval of the June 10th meeting summary.
- IV. New Business.
 - a. Climate Change in Montgomery County, Sarah Kogel-Smucker, Climate Change Officer, Montgomery County Office of the County Executive
 - Goal of the plan is zero emissions by 2035
 - Climate Action plan released in June 2021
 - Sarah has been in position since September 2023, Tacoma Park resident, involved for 16 years –NYC and DC, environmental non-profits, law degree
 - County Executive's office is overseeing all various agencies...
 - IPCC - - report...last window to make changes...
 - Climate change - low income and communities of color are impacted more significantly
 - Nation leading goals - reduce by 80% by 2027, 100% by 2035
 - Numbers are falling...most are from transportation...next is buildings
 - CAP (Climate Action Plan) - June 2021
 - Sector based sections...7
 - 86 actions
 - More electric sources - less fossil fuels - community choice energy...
 - Travis: how do we control or monitor those commuting into/out of the county...
 - Trying to divide that impact
 - Push EVs for MoCo residents
 - Individual behavior change is beyond the reach to some degree (federal/state incentives)
 - A Modal shift is easier in DC with public transportation/urban environment
 - Vehicle registrations...can be tracked
 - Started 77 of 86...completed 49 (?)
 - SNAPSHOT:
 - Solar Switch
 - Microgrid - at animal shelter
 - Philip asked about it as a "plan" vs an actual actionable item
 - Zero emission buses - this was worked on right away, was in motion
 - Microgrid charging stations
 - More attention on DOING it, not fighting resistance, and not just "planning"
 - Political will of the residents helps
 - Building Energy Performance Standards

- From <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DEP/energy/commercial/beps.html>

- QUESTIONS:

- Traci: Always a focus item - more intense storms and flood issue...
- Sarah: dangers of stormwater...extreme storms and heat are ADAPTIVE issue...
- Comprehensive flood management plan - critical piece - STAN EDWARDS -
- County urged State - create localized sensors -
- 3 watershed studies happening now (CFMP)
- ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION
- Regulations will come from those studies - pinpointed to areas...

- b. Introduction, Jeff Seltzer, Deputy Director, Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection

- New - in April -
- DC - EE - career focused on water quality, stream restoration, flood mitigation...
- Priorities as it relates to stormwater:
 1. Focus on water quality - MS4 permit
 2. Not as much focus on flooding, quantity control
- Blue carbon discussion
 1. Conservation of wetlands - ecosystem triple help -
 2. No net loss
 3. AMY: parks - most are covered in their purview -
 4. State controls most wetland regulations
 5. Submerged gravel wetlands - trial cases -
 6. What is a wetland in MoCo
 7. Good question about Parks...Sarah: goal to lose less older trees - more maintenance of trees/forest areas...

V. Reports of Officers, Boards, Standing Committees.

- a. None at this time

VI. Reports of Special Committees.

- a. None at this time

VII. Special Orders.

- a. None at this time

VIII. Unfinished Business and General Orders.

- a. Approve 2023 Annual Report
 - i. No objections from group - approved

IX. Adjournment.

- a. Next meeting September 9th, 2024
- b. September Notetaker: Amy Stevens