

Montgomery County - Water Quality Advisory Group Meeting October 21, 2024 (7:00 - 8:30 pm) – Draft Meeting Notes

- I. Notetaker: Mark Symborski
- II. Attendance:
 - a. Present: Amanda Rockler, Bob Buglass, Travis Gorleski, Keith Brooks, Linda Silversmith, Phillip Mariscal, Miranda Reid, Mark Symborski, Amy Stevens, Allison Wright, Dr. Dann Sklarew (guest)
 - b. Not present: Tracey Rouleau (Chair), Tim Stemann
- III. Introductions of WQPC Members
- IV. New Business
 - a. A presentation was given by Dr. Dann Sklarew, Professor of Applied Ecology and Sustainability Sciences, George Mason University, on the Effects of Climate Change on the Tidal Potomac River. The presentation focused on trends in various water quality indicators including water clarity (hypereutrophic), phosphorus (eutrophic), nitrogen (hypereutrophic), algal bloom density (mesotrophic), maximum algal density (eutrophic or worse), and carbon production (not known and to be determined). Dr. Sklarew noted that algal blooms have not been adequately limited by the investments made so far in reducing nutrient pollution and that algae will likely increase with higher temperatures due to climate change. In addition, erratic rainfall events and increasing temperatures will create more drought conditions that will foster harmful algal blooms. There is a need to better understand microbial responses to climate change factors. Dr. Sklarew also noted that there is a need to remove disincentives to more efficient circular economies for nutrients. His presentation is included with the meeting notes.
- V. Review of the July 15, 2024, meeting summary, no comments or changes from the group
- VI. (moved from item IV.b. on the agenda) The WQAG had a discussion on the Montgomery County Committee Evaluation and Review Board (CERB) Questionnaire. Keith Brooks asked the WQAG for input regarding the Group's focus in fulfilling its charge to provide recommendations to the County Executive. He noted that the questions in the Questionnaire seemed to seek to both narrow the WQAG's focus and expand it. The WQAG reviewed nine of the questions and drafted answers to them. The remaining questions were divided up among WQAG members to draft answers after the meeting. The WQAG will review and finalize the answers and will forward them to the CERB by the deadline.
- VII. Reports of Officers, Boards, Standing Committees.
 - a. None at this time
- VIII. Reports of Special Committees.
 - a. None at this time

- IX. Special Orders.
 - a. None at this time

- X. Unfinished Business and General Orders.
 - a. None at this time

- XI. Adjournment.
 - a. Next meeting November 18th, 2024
 - b. November Notetaker: Allison Wright

