

Montgomery County - Water Quality Advisory Group Meeting June 10, 2024 – Minutes (draft)

- I. Notetaker: Linda Silversmith
- II. Attendance:
 - a. Present: Keith Brooks (chairing), Bob Buglass, Travis Gorleski, Philip Mariscal, Maureen Mitchell (guest/Anacostia Riverkeeper), Dean Naujoks (guest/Potomac Riverkeeper), Amanda Rockler, Miranda Reid (staff), Linda Silversmith, Amy Stevens (staff), Mark Symborski, Allison Wright;
 - b. Absent: Tracy Rouleau, Tim Stemann
- III. Introductions, then review and approval of the April 14, meeting summary
- IV. New Business.
 - a. Water Quality in the Anacostia River Watershed, Maureen Mitchell, Anacostia Riverkeeper (maureen@anacostiariverkeeper.org)

The mission of the Anacostia riverkeeper is to protect and restore its watershed. There are MD and DC programs on water quality and training of local residents. Monitoring is done in partnership with some other organizations. EPA provides guidelines on what to monitor, including bacteria (E. coli), pH, and turbidity. Training starts in April and monitoring in May. Samples are taken at the same time and day each week. In 2024, 3 more monitoring sites were added to the 5 used in 2023. Results came within acceptable parameters and a slight improvement occurred over 3 years. The Smithsonian Environmental Research Center has followed dissolved oxygen conductivity, and nutrient levels.

In 2024 plans include increased public outreach and more sampling. g and monitoring partnerships. Responding to a question about bacteria, Ms. Mitchell agreed that agriculture is a likely source. More green infrastructure could help.

- b. Potomac Riverkeeper Network, Dean Naujoks

Mr. Naujoks reported that the Potomac has 3 riverkeepers and involves 14,000 square miles. The mission of the riverkeepers is to monitor the water and hold polluters responsible. He said that relevant agencies do insufficient enforcement. For example, Alexandria was discharging coal tar for 45 years until notified in 2022. Among new positive steps, a large number of mussels were added back to the river, and two coal-fired plants were closed. Sewer upgrades won't be complete until 2030. The Navy had a Potomac test range without a clean

Responding to a question about climate, Mr. Naujoks expects climate impacts, including from the river rising several feet.

- 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. None at this time

IX. Adjournment.

- a. Next meeting July 15 (third Monday), 2024
- b. July Notetaker: Tim Stemann

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