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WM RC&D Quarterly Council Meeting
Minutes
June 6, 2012

Council President Craig Hartsock called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. at the Western Maryland Cooperative Extension Research and Education Center in Keedysville, Maryland. In attendance were Craig Hartsock (Allegheny SCD), Ed Null (Carroll SCD), Mark Goldbach (WMRC&D), Laura Michael (WMRC&D), Gary Reeves (WMRC&D), Rhonda Kratochvil (WMRC&D), Jeff Barclay (Allegheny County Commissioners), Roger Troxell (Frederick SCD) and Willie Lantz, UME – Garrett County (At-Large Member).

Guests included Brenda Frantz (Congressman Bartlett's office), Kathryn Coulter, (Appalachian Coal Country Team OSM, Vista/Americorp Program), Paul Petzrick (MDNR-PPRP), Adam Heavner, (Allegheny Soil Conservation District), Constance Loucks, (MDE – Mining Program) and Jonathan Kays, (Natural Resource Extension Specialist, University of Maryland).

Mark Goldbach presented a financial update to the Council on behalf of Council Treasurer, Gabe Zepp.

Kathryn Coulter gave a power point presentation on the Appalachian Coal Country, OSM, VISTA/AmeriCorps Program. Katie provided an overview of the program as well as opportunities for participation through hiring an Americorp/VISTA employee(s). Katie, handed out several publications regarding the work completed by the OSM/VISTA, and encouraged the Western Maryland RC&D to become involved through the placement of volunteers within our organization.

Jonathan Kays, Education Specialist, gave a power point presentation on the use of woody biomass for high-efficiency wood energy technologies. Jonathan distributed a "*Prospectus for Advancing Biomass Thermal Energy in Maryland Developed by the Maryland Wood Energy Coalition*" paper to the Council meeting attendees. Jonathan serves as the Chair on the Maryland Wood Energy Coalition and is encouraging Maryland policy and decision makers and citizens. Many opportunities for improving the quality of life and economy of the residents of Western Maryland through the use of woody biomass as a renewable and sustainable energy.

Connie Loucks, MDE Mining Program, spoke briefly about a partnership project (MOA) with Garrett SCD for the development of water treatment sites along the Casselman River. Construction is expected in August and the goal is to improve water quality for Brook Trout habitat.

Paul Petzrick, MDNR-PPRP complimented the WMRC&D for continued good work on the contract with MDNR-PPRP.

Willie Lantz, University of Maryland Education-Garrett County, spoke about the Draft agriculture and conservation regulations proposed for Maryland farmers that will likely become new law within 6 to 8 months. Public Hearings are proposed from June 29 to August 15 (public comment period) on the Draft regulations. The regulations if approved as drafted will require the development of conservation plans including the fencing of streams to control livestock access.

Lunch was then offered to meeting attendees at 11:30 AM.

After lunch, the Western Maryland RC&D staff including, Rhonda Kratochvil, Laura Michael, Gary Reeves, Rhonda Kratochvil and Mark Goldbach gave presentations on their work.

Council Member Meeting:

At 2:00 PM Craig Hartsock called the roll of Council voting members and determined a quorum was present in order to conduct council business.

Minutes from the March 14, 2012 Quarterly Council Meeting were discussed. Mr. Paul Petzrick identified a few editorial corrections needed upon which the Council moved to accept the minutes with corrections.

Discussion: A DRAFT WMRC&D Table of Organization was distributed for Council member's consideration.

Motion: To accept the Table of Organization as proposed with out change. The Table of Organization will be included within the WMRC&D Bylaws and Operational Manual.

Moved: Ed Null

Seconded: Jeff Barclay

Vote: Unanimous

Discussion: WM RC&D Council Member recruitment opportunities. Craig stated that council members Edgar Harmon and Gary Fuhrman have retired from the Council and new Council members are needed especially for Washington County. Craig advised all Council members to look for new Council members interested in serving on the Council.

The next scheduled **Executive Council Meeting** will be held Wednesday, August 15, 2012 at the Western Maryland RC&D Office in Hagerstown, MD.

The next scheduled **Quarterly Council Meeting** will be held Wednesday September 12, 2012 at the Allegany College of Maryland in Cumberland, MD.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m.