



1260 Maryland Avenue, Suite 103 • Hagerstown, Maryland 21740  
Phone: 301-671-1800 • Fax: 301-671-1800  
Website: [www.wmrcd.org](http://www.wmrcd.org)

**Western Maryland Resource Conservation and Development Council Meeting  
Quarterly RC&D and Council Meeting Minutes  
December 15, 2016**

Council President Craig Hartsock called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. at the Western Maryland Research and Education Center, in Keedysville, MD. In attendance were Craig Hartsock (Allegany SCD), Roger Troxell (Frederick Soil Conservation District) Ed Null (Carroll SCD), Dan Fiscus (Frostburg State University), and WMRC&D employees Stacey Kahler, Elizabeth Jamison, Laura Michael and Mark Goldbach (WMRC&D).

Guests included Steve Strano, State Biologist, NRCS State Office, Brad Knudsen and Paul Petzrick, MDNR PPRP, Dan Fiscus and Corey Armstrong, Frostburg Grows.

Council President, Craig Hartsock welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance and recognized the guests attending the meeting.

Ed Null presented the Treasurer's Report financial status to the Council and meeting attendees.

Steve Strano, Biologist, with the USDA NRCS State Office gave a power point presentation on WRP project work along the Pocomoke River in Eastern Maryland. Steve explained the effects of river channelization on floodplain function including the history of the Pocomoke River Channel and modifications. Steve detailed how past river channelization work was being removed because it disconnected the adjacent floodplain. This project focused on reestablishing wetlands resulting in improved ground water hydrology while enhancing plant and animal wildlife habitat. Steve's presentation was very informative and resulted in many questions from meeting attendees.

Paul Petzrick, MDNR Power Plant Research Program gave a power point presentation regrading PPRP efforts to establish renewable energy (solar, wind) power plants and utilize coal ash from Maryland legacy power plants. This coal ash has had both economic and environmental benefits if utilized properly. Paul reviewed past and present power plant facilities in Maryland and how the resulting ash disposal sites are being utilized for manufacturing concrete products. Paul's presentation was an excellent update on the latest PPRP activities throughout the state of Maryland.

Council President, Craig Hartsock presented the 2016 G. Paul Edwards, Conservation Award to Mark Goldbach, Western Maryland RC&D's Projects and Grants Administrator. Craig recognized Mark for his valued work for the Council and presented Mark with a framed award certificate and a beautiful framed print. Mark thanked Craig and the Council for being recognized with this award.

1260 Maryland Avenue, Suite 103 • Hagerstown, Maryland 21740  
Phone: 301-671-1800 • Fax: 301-671-1800  
Website: [www.wmrcd.org](http://www.wmrcd.org)

Craig adjourned the meeting at 12:10 PM for lunch. The meeting was resumed at 1 PM.

Craig reconvened the meeting at 1:00 PM and then opened up the council meeting for staff reports.

Corey Armstrong and Dan Fiscus, Frostburg Grows, gave a power point presentation with an up to date status of the Frostburg Grows Project including the development of the Western Maryland Food Council funded by the Town Creek Foundation which sunsets in 2021.

Dan detailed the development of the 3 county regional work group meeting on December 9<sup>th</sup> for the Western Maryland Food Council. The meeting attendees discussed the development of a Collaborative Food Plan, getting agriculture activities in these 3 counties, the development of a food system with more local farms producing food products for local consumption.

Craig introduced Laura Michael, Western Maryland RC&D Environmental Coordinator. Laura gave a presentation on her current MDNR PPRP assignments including Hoyes Run, Jennings Run, Georges Creek, and the Maryland Scenic Rail Road subsidence issue and associated opportunities to utilize coal combustion by products (fly ash).

### **Council Member Business Meeting:**

At 1:20 PM, Craig Hartsock called the roll of voting members and determined a quorum was present in order to conduct council business. The following Council Members were present;

Craig Hartsock  
Roger Troxell  
Ed Null

Minutes from the September, 2016 Quarterly Council Meeting were approved without any changes.

### **Old Business:**

No old business.

### **New Business:**

The Council unanimously approved a request by Dan Fiscus and Corey Armstrong to transfer the Community Trust Fund Grant (located in Cumberland MD) and received by WMRC&D to the Foundation for Frostburg (located in Frostburg, MD). Post meeting note; Corey contacted the Community Trust Fund and requested approval for this grant change and it was not approved.

1260 Maryland Avenue, Suite 103 • Hagerstown, Maryland 21740  
Phone: 301-671-1800 • Fax: 301-671-1800  
Website: [www.wmrcd.org](http://www.wmrcd.org)

The Council approved entering into a contract with CB Studios to redesign and update the Western Maryland RC&D website. Mark will follow-up with CB Studios.

The Council approved a \$100 donation to the Evergreen Heritage Foundation for 2016. Mark will follow-up with preparing and sending a check.

The next scheduled Executive Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday, Feb 22, 2017 at the WMRC&D Office in Hagerstown.

The next Council Quarterly Meeting will be held on Thursday, March 23, 2017 at 10 AM at either Garrett County Community College, in McHenry, Maryland or the Allegany College of Maryland in Cumberland, MD. Mark will check on the availability of meeting facilities at Garrett CCC.

There being no further business, President Hartsock adjourned the council business meeting at approximately 2:30 P.M.