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

Council President Craig Hartsock called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. at the Western Maryland Research and Education Center, in Keedysville, MD. In attendance was Craig Hartsock (Allegany SCD), Roger Troxell (Frederick Soil Conservation District) Ed Null (Carroll SCD), Dan Fiscus (Frostburg State University), Jeff Barclay, Scott Shank (Washington County), Stacey Kahler, Laura Eddy, Justin Gross, Kyra Neil, Laura Michael and Mark Goldbach (WMRC&D).

Guests included Julianna Albowicz of U.S. Senator Barbra Mikulski's Office, Brad Knudsen, Patuxent National Wildlife Refuge, Bob Sadzinski and Paul Petzrick, MDNR PPRP, Charlotte Davis, Rural Maryland Council, University of Maryland, FSNE, Corey Armstrong, FSU, Joe Hoffman (Garrett County).

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.

Brad Knudsen Patuxent National Wildlife Refuge Manager thanked Western Maryland RC&D for the partnership opportunity to work with WMRC&D to fill Tram Drivers positions, Biological Technician position, and Urban Refuge Internship positions. Brad gave background information on the National Refuge System including 564 National Wildlife Refuges in the nation which includes 15 Urban Refuges which are very important for connecting urban populations with wildlife education.

Kyra Neil, Refuge Intern and Western Maryland RC&D employee presented background on her education and work at Patuxent to include Biological Team, soft turtle study, herbicide use, evasive plant species removal, bat studies, assistance to the Youth Conservation Corp and prior Youth Conservation Corp membership,

Bob Sadzinski, Maryland DNR PPRP employee gave a power point presentation on pollinators. Bob gave a brief history of the PPRP program and then went into his pollinator's presentation discussing the 4 groups of pollinators including bees, wasps, butterflies and flies. Bob explained that habitat loss, habitat fragmentation and pesticide use have all contributed towards declines in the bee population which is not half of the 1947 bee population. Bob explained that 90% of all known flowering plants require pollination to produce crops. Natural pollinator habitat is diverse (not uniform) and must be year round habitat. Bob discussed the National Pollinator Strategy goals and how the State of Maryland is the first state in the nation to ban the

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use of Neonicotinoids a pesticide that kills bee nests from the inside out. Bob then discussed techniques to improve pollinator habitat along transmission lines, solar energy farms and highways. Bob discussed potential funding sources for improving pollinator habitats. Paul Petzrick summarized MDNR PPRP efforts for improving pollinator habitats.

Corey Armstrong, Frostburg State University, gave a power point presentation with an up to date status of the Frostburg Grows Project. Corey detailed the 2016 Winter and Spring associated workload including winter storm damage, grants progress, the new water storage project the partnership with the Allegany Public Schools, rain garden and rain water collection system. Produce grown to date includes 30 types of vegetables, Mountain Ridge High School student involvement, the new proposed VISTA position and plans for 2016.

Craig adjourned the meeting at 11:40 AM 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.

Craig introduced Laura Michael, Western Maryland RC&D Environmental Coordinator. Laura gave a power point presentation on her current MDNR PPRP assignments including Hoys Run, Jennings, Run, Georges Creek, and the Maryland Scenic Rail Road subsidence issue and associated opportunities to utilize coal combustion by products (fly ash). Laura also described her efforts to account for the former materials testing lab furniture currently in storage in a shipping container at the Frostburg Grows project site.

Jonathan Kays, University of Maryland Forest Woodland Manager, who gave a brief presentation about the woodland education program called “Call Before You Cut” and “A Landowners Guide to Healthy Forests” flyer. Jonathan explained that partners are needed to help implement these programs and invited WMRC&D to participate by sharing this with our members.

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
Jeff Barclay

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Dan Fiscus
Scott Shank

Minutes from the March 25, 2016 Quarterly Council Meeting were approved without any changes.

Old Business:

No old business.

New Business:

President Hartsock asked for progress from the Council Officer Nominating Committee led by Jeff Barclay. Jeff reported that a recommendation be made for the existing officers to serve another year in their current positions. Jeff moved a motion to this effect be made for Council approval. The motion was made for Council President Craig Hartsock, Roger Troxell, Vice President, and Treasurer; Ed Null would serve one more year until Summer 2017. The motion passed unanimously,

The FY 2017 revised Operating Budget was presented to the Council for their consideration and approval. A motion by Ed Null was made to accept the operating budget and the motion was carried, passing unanimously.

The Frostburg Grows MOU (to expire June 30, 2016) was opened up for discussion by Council Member Dan Fiscus. Dan presented a revised procedure for calculating the administrative fee to WMRC&D from grants obtained. A motion was made to request that the WMRC&D accountant (Joe Mullinex) review this proposal and make a recommendation to the Council. This motion was passed unanimously by the Council.

The next scheduled Executive Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 10, 2016 at the WMRC&D Office in Hagerstown.

The next Council Quarterly Meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 21, 2016 at 10 AM at the Allegany College of Maryland in Cumberland, MD.

There being no further business, President Hartsock adjourned the council business meeting at approximately 2:00 P.M.