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Quarterly Council Meeting
Minutes
June 12, 2013

Council President Craig A. Hartsock called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. at the Western Maryland Cooperative Extension Research and Education Center in Keedysville, MD. In attendance was Craig Hartsock (Allegany SCD), Roger Troxell, (Frederick SCD), Ed Null (Carroll SCD), Jeff Barclay, (Allegany County), Laura Michael (WMRCD), Gary Aronholt (WMRCD), Mark Goldbach (WMRCD), Gary Reeves (WMRCD), Rhonda Kratochvil (WMRCD).

Guests included Senator George Edwards, Garrett County, Bryan Harris and Keith Potter, MDA Nutrient Management, Paul Petzrick, (MDNR-PPRP), Jennifer Gunnulfsen, Environmental Resources Management, Jason Litten, John Ninested, Erica Breyhner (WMRGIS-FSU), Dean Joe Hoffman, FSU, Dan Fiscus, FSU, Corey Armstrong (FSU).

Council President, Craig Hartsock welcomed everyone attending especially guests and then introduced Council Treasure, Ed Null who provided the Treasurer's report and a financial update.

Keith Potter and Bryan Harris gave a power point presentation including several handouts on the status of Maryland's Revised Nutrient Management Regulations. This was a very informative joint presentation that explained the complexities of implementing the regulations, general guidelines, and summary of the nutrient application requirements currently in effect including policy flexibility and exemptions. The presenter's fielded questions and concerns from the Council and discussed the challenges associated with implementing the new regulations especially in Western Maryland. Possible RC&D partnership assistance was discussed in the way of purchasing equipment that could be made available to farmers in an effort to help them comply with the new regulations. The possibility of a cost share project between MDA, USDA/NRCS, WMRCD and others was briefly proposed for acquiring this equipment. Council President Hartsock thanked Keith and Bryan for the excellent presentation on this difficult subject.

Paul Petrick initiated a presentation on CO₂ produced by Maryland power plants including capture, utilization and storage. Paul introduced Jennifer Gunnulfsen from Environmental Resources Management who gave a power point presentation on CO₂ technology, transport, and potential storage repositories in Eastern Maryland. Jason Litten, Western Maryland Regional GIS Center then gave a power point presentation on CO@ technology, transport and potential repositories in Western Maryland, geologic formations potentially suitable for CO₂ storage and his research goals for CO₂ capture and use. At the request of Council President Craig Hartsock, Senator George Edwards, reported on the efforts of the State of Maryland's Marcellus Shale Gas

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Task Force. The Senator discussed the best management practices under development and a report likely in August 2014 on the Task Force findings. Gas drilling activity will likely start in 2016 after a two year water quality study is in place. The laws and regulations to be recommended by the Task Force will ensure that the environmental impacts from gas development and production are minimized.

Council President, Craig Hartsock adjourned the meeting for lunch at 12 PM.

The meeting reconvened and was called to order at 12:50 p.m.

Dean Joe Hoffman provided an overview of the Frostburg Grows project and introduced Dan Fiscus FSU Interim Project Coordinator and the newly hired Project Coordinator, Corey Armstrong. Dan gave a power point presentation on the current status of the project construction. Dan also discussed a possible joint FSU/WMRC&D work day on the project site.

WMRC&D Staff Reports;

Mark Goldbach gave a brief project and administrative update. A Draft WMRC&D 2013 Annual Report was presented to the Council. Dean Joe Hoffman complimented staff for the excellent annual report.

Laura Michael, Rhonda Kratochvil and Gary Reeves gave updates on their work at the Materials Testing Lab and associated environmental studies work for the MDNR PPRP.

Gary Aronholt gave a power point presentation on his efforts with fire prevention, planning, outreach and fire suppression activities.

Council President, Craig Hartsock called the Council business meeting to order at 2 PM.

Old Business;

Craig Hartsock called the roll of voting members and determined a quorum was **not** present in order to conduct council business. Since an official business meeting could not be held, Craig and the Council members had a general discussion regarding the need to approve the council meeting minutes from March 27, 2013, (tentatively approved) and council officer nominations (suggested to remain with the existing officers for another year as follows;)

President	Craig Hartsock
Vice President	Roger Troxell
Secretary/Treasurer	Ed Null
Assist. Secretary/Treasurer	Betty Myers

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Craig identified a request from Janet Keene, Evergreen Heritage Center Foundation for a letter of support for a grant that she is submitting to the Rural Maryland Council (Craig offered to prepare the letter of support).

Council member Jeff Barclay presented to the Council a comparison of leasing materials testing laboratory and office space in the Allegany Business Center to the existing space in the Allegany Environmental Lab. Paul Petzrick notified the Council that any changes in the AEL lease need to be conveyed to the AEL Interim Director, Ray Morgan within the next few weeks.

New Business;

The next scheduled Executive Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 21, 2013 at the Western Maryland RCD office.

The next Council Quarterly Meeting will be held on September 18, 2013 at the Allegany College of Maryland in Cumberland MD.

Dean Joe Hoffman also offered to the Council the opportunity for Council meetings to be held at the FSU's Compton Science Center Conference room and identified the Evergreen Heritage Center as having suitable meeting space for a future Council Meeting. Council President Craig Hartsock, thanked Dean Hoffman for making these suggestions.

There being no further business, the council business meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.