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Western Maryland Resource Conservation and Development Council
Quarterly RC&D and Council Meeting Minutes
December 11, 2013

Council President Craig Hartsock called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. at the Western Maryland Cooperative Extension Research and Education Center's meeting room in Keedysville, MD. In attendance was Craig Hartsock (Allegany SCD), Roger Troxell (Frederick SCD), Ed Null (Carroll County), Jeff Barclay (Allegany County Commissioners), Paul Shogren (Garrett SCD), Willie Lantz (Garrett County), Laura Michael (WMRC&D), Mark Goldbach (WMRC&D), Gary Reeves (WMRC&D), Kalina Gipe (WMRC&D), and Gary Aronhalt, (WMRC&D).

Guests included Charlotte Davis (Rural Maryland Council), Paul Kazyak (MDNR), Dean Joe Hoffman (Frostburg State University), Corey Armstrong (Frostburg State University), and Louise Potter, (Frostburg State University),

Council President, Craig Hartsock welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance. Craig then noted that the Council received new correspondence from the Garrett County Forest Conservancy District Board thanking the WMRC&D Council for our financial donation in support of students to attend the Natural Resources Career Camp.

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

Charlotte Davis, Executive Director of the Rural Maryland Council (RMC), presented a power point presentation on the RMC an independent state agency within the Maryland Department of Agriculture. The RMC, a non-partisan agency was established in 1993 and serves 18 rural counties. The Council operates out of the MDA Building in Annapolis with state appropriated funding. The Council administers a small grants program with \$167,000 in grant funding per year. A wide variety and diversity of partnership projects are funded with these grants that range from about \$5,000 to \$25,000 per project. Grant applications can be submitted in early April and are approved by July 30, of each year

Charlotte stated that they are in the process of developing the 2014 Executive Board of the RMC. Under state statute the RC&D Council's in Maryland are each allotted a seat on the Board. Board member responsibilities include participation at quarterly meetings and supporting RMC activities such as the annual conference, the Legislative Luncheon and issues forums. Charlotte encouraged a WMRC&D council member to participate on the RMC Board.

Dean Joe Hoffman introduced Corey Armstrong, Frostburg Grows Project Coordinator who gave a power point presentation on the current status of the Frostburg Grows project and related progress to date. Corey provided an overview of project status including the Fall, October 15th

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Open House, high tunnel construction activities; seed collection and stratification; volunteer efforts; a planned Spring 2014 Open House; shade tree production; tomato, cucumber and pepper production; composting activities; high tunnel hoop house workshops; and surface water collection activities to date.

Directly after Corey's presentation, Dean Joe Hoffman emphasized the need to continue to work on seeking additional grant funding for the Frostburg Grows project as the American Rivers Grant is scheduled to expire in November 2014.

Council President, Craig Hartsock presented the 2013, Western Maryland RC&D Conservation Award (named in recognition for Paul Edwards) to Willie Lantz. Craig presented a framed award certificate and framed Western Maryland landscape print to Willie. Craig cited that Willie has been a WMRC&D Council At Large member for almost 10 years and most recently offered his leadership and expertise towards the successful endeavors of the Frostburg Grows project. Willie's participation on the Council has been most appreciated and his wealth of agriculture related knowledge has been a tremendous public service.

WMRC&D Administrative Assistant, Kalina Gipe, gave a power point presentation to the Council on the possibility of setting up a Facebook account for the Western Maryland RC&D. Kalina offered her assistance with establishing, operating, monitoring and managing this Facebook account.

Gary Reeves gave a power point presentation on his work in the Materials Testing Lab and most recent activities with moving from the Appalachian Environmental Lab space, the Sunnyside Mine entrance buffer boulder project, and a proposal to American Rivers on utilizing river sediment at the Frostburg Grows site.

Laura Michael gave a power point presentation and update on her work with the Jennings Run Project; support for the Sunnyside Mine project, writing assignments for the MDNR PPRP; assisting Dr Laravie at FSU's Compton Science Center with a shale CO2 project, work with Chevron to obtain permission for access to core samples; the Winding Ridge Report 20 year analysis; and coordination with Georges Creek Watershed Group.

Craig adjourned the meeting for lunch at 12:05 p.m.

Craig reconvened the meeting and called it to order at 1:00 p.m.

Gary Aronhalt gave a power point presentation including an update on his Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) development work, community outreach and upcoming activities.

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Council Member Business Meeting:

Craig Hartsock called the roll of voting members and determined a quorum was present in order to conduct council business.

Minutes from the September 18, 2013 Quarterly Council Meeting were approved as distributed.

Old Business:

Council member Paul Shogren presented an update on the Washington Elm project. Paul announced that the project has a new name; the Maryland Heritage Tree Project and now includes Tulip Popular, Whye Oak and the Washington Elm tree. Paul presented a handout to council members defining this newly named Maryland Heritage Tree Project.

Mr. Shogren announced his support that the WMRC&D council provides financial support (\$500 donation) towards helping students attend the 2014 Natural Resources Career Camp. Paul suggested that \$100.00 for each 5 counties in Western Maryland be submitted to the camp host the State Forestry Board. A motion was unanimously passed by the Council to provide this support.

New Business:

A motion to add a Frostburg State University, At Large Council Member to the WMRC&D Council was passed unanimously by the Council. Dean Joe Hoffman identified Dan Fiscus to represent FSU and serve in this capacity. Dan Fiscus is now an official WMRC&D Council At Large Member.

Willie Lantz then initiated discussion towards the goal of making the Frostburg Grows a self-sustaining project. Willie explained that it will take several years for this to happen and funding earned on the project location will go back into supporting the project operating costs. Willie suggested that WMRC&D continue to serve as the financial host and incubator for the project with the long term goal to eventually turn this responsibility over to another non-profit organization solely devoted as the project owner and operator. A motion was unanimously passed to amend the existing agreement between WMRC&D and FSU to reflect this purpose.

The council unanimously passed a motion to have our new Administrative Assistant, Kalina Gipe develop a Facebook page for the WMRC&D as she proposed in her presentation.

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Willie Lantz initiated another discussion on how the WMRC&D might be able to help with implementing the state's new nutrient management regulations. Willie thought that an opportunity might exist for a group of soil conservation district leaders to help intermediate regulations. Discussion ensued that guidelines and/or policy need to be further developed to answer the many existing questions. Council President started that some sideboards are needed prior to WMRC&D being successfully involved.

Willie announced that Garrett College will host a Nutrient Management conference on January 16, 2014.

The next scheduled Executive Council Meeting will be held on February 12, 2014 at the WMRC&D Office in Hagerstown.

The next Council Quarterly Meeting will be held on March 12, 2014 at either the Allegany College of Maryland or at the FSU's Compton Science Center. Dean Joe Hoffman offered to look for an available meeting room at FSU.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.