



1260 Maryland Avenue, Suite 103 • Hagerstown, Maryland 21740
Phone: 301-671-1800 • Fax: 301-671-1800
Website: www.wmrcd.org

Western Maryland Resource Conservation and Development Council
Quarterly RC&D and Council Meeting Minutes
March 12, 2014

Council President Craig Hartsock called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. at the Frostburg State University's Compton Science Center, in Frostburg, MD. In attendance was Craig Hartsock (Allegany SCD), Roger Troxell (Frederick SCD), Ed Null (Carroll SCD), Dan Fiscus (Frostburg State University), Paul Shogren (Garrett SCD), Laura Michael (WMRC&D), Gary Reeves (WMRC&D), Kalina Gipe (WMRC&D), Gary Aronhalt, (WMRC&D) and Mark Goldbach (WMRC&D).

Guests included Julianna Albowicz (US Senator Barbara Mikulski's Office), Robin Summerfield (US Senator Ben Cardin's Office), Harry Swartz (Five Aces Breeding LLC), Dean Joe Hoffman (Frostburg State University), Corey Armstrong (Frostburg State University), Jason Litten (FSU's GIS Mapping Center), Joe Mills (MDE, AMLD) and Eric Schafer (MDE, AMLD).

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

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

Mr. Harry Swartz retired University of Maryland Professor and owner of Five Aces Breeding LLC, presented a power point presentation comparing tomato production at Frostburg Grows and in Northern Mexico. Mr. Swartz addressed many aspects of the tomato production process including how peer review provides quality control in Mexico and little food science is involved in Mexico. The economics of tomato production was compared for the two areas including growing conditions, yield levels, profits, labor, costs, water usage, and many other production factors. Mr. Swartz identified the potential for Frostburg Grows as very good with the extended growing season that will be provided resulting in greater yields. Mr. Swartz also discussed berry production and that specialty crops including proprietary products are very successful.

Dan Fiscus and Corey Armstrong gave a joint power point presentation on the current status of the Frostburg Grows project, City of Frostburg involvement, Frostburg State University assistance and summarized progress to date. This progress includes work towards a Frostburg Grows Business Plan, a Marketing Plan, providing electricity to the project site, and planning for aquaculture use within the project.

Dan identified that the project has been nominated for the "National Climate Leadership Award" and was recognized for the "Maryland 2014 Sustainable Growth Award". Progress towards Lavender propagation, a training workshop scheduled for May 2-3, 2014, grant application proposals submitted and planning towards a Spring Open House. Dan also identified the need

1260 Maryland Avenue, Suite 103 • Hagerstown, Maryland 21740
Phone: 301-671-1800 • Fax: 301-671-1800
Website: www.wmrcd.org

for a new MOU between FSU and WMRC&D after the existing agreement expires November 1, 2014.

WMRC&D staff reports followed with Gary Reeves and Laura Michael providing a joint power point presentation including a quarterly update of their activities. Laura identified current research activities as the Jennings's Run Limestone Leach Bed project; work on PPRP reports, Sunnyside Mine research, Winebrenner Run Benthic Study and Stream Sealing.

Gary reported on his work towards the design for a Frostburg Grows Radial Well Collection System, constructing a prefabricated building material for a science lab on the Frostburg Grows project site, Winebrenner Run Stream Sealing and Benthic Study.

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.

WMRC&D Administrative Assistant, Kalina Gipe, gave a power point presentation to the Council on the success of the newly established Western Maryland RC&D Facebook account. Kalina also discussed the logistics of setting up a Pay Pal account to accept donations on the Western Maryland RC&D web page. Subject to Council approval, Kalina offered her assistance with establishing, operating, monitoring and managing the Pay Pal account.

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

Mark Goldbach provided a brief overview of current project and employee status, and a financial expenditure report for the Frostburg Grows grant.

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 December 11, 2013 Quarterly Council Meeting were approved as distributed after a discussion about Willie Lantz's motion from that meeting for WMRC&D to serve as "financial host and incubator" for the Frostburg Grows project. It was not clear if this motion also made WMRC&D liable for the sale of produce from Frostburg Grows. After discussion, Ed Null initiated a motion for Mark Goldbach to continue to research liability insurance costs and tax implications if WMRC&D takes on the responsibility for the sale of produce. Roger Troxell seconded this motion and it the Council passed it unanimously.

1260 Maryland Avenue, Suite 103 • Hagerstown, Maryland 21740
Phone: 301-671-1800 • Fax: 301-671-1800
Website: www.wmrcd.org

Old Business:

Council member Paul Shogren and Francis Zumbrum “Champ” presented an update on the Washington Elm project also known as the Maryland Heritage Tree Project. Paul requested a \$100.00 donation from WMRC&D towards the development of 600 bifold brochures that will promote the Maryland Heritage Tree Project. A motion was unanimously passed by the Council to provide this support.

New Business:

The council unanimously passed a motion to have our Administrative Assistant, Kalina Gipe develop a Pay Pal donation account for the WMRC&D website as she proposed in her presentation.

The next scheduled Executive Council Meeting will be held on May 7, 2014 at the WMRC&D Office in Hagerstown.

The next Council Quarterly Meeting will be held on June 12, 2014 at the Western Maryland Cooperative Extension Research and Education Center, in Keedysville, MD.

There being no further business, President Hartsock adjourned the meeting at 1:45 p.m.