



1260 Maryland Avenue, Suite 103 • Hagerstown, Maryland 21740  
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**Western Maryland Resource Conservation and Development Council Meeting  
Quarterly RC&D and Council Meeting Minutes  
Allegany College of Maryland  
Continuing Education Building, Room CE-20  
March 16, 2016**

Council President Craig Hartsock called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. at the Allegany College of Maryland, in Cumberland, MD. In attendance was Craig Hartsock (Allegany SCD), Ed Null (Carroll SCD), Roger Troxell (Frederick SCD), Willie Lantz, Dan Fiscus and Corey Armstrong (Frostburg State University), Jeff Barclay and Adam Heavener (Allegany County SCD), Paul Shogren (Garrett County), Paul Petzrick (MDNR PPRP), Laura Michael, Gary Aronhalt, and Mark Goldbach (WMRC&D).

Council President, Craig Hartsock welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending the meeting.

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

Paul Shogren initiated a discussion regarding the list of employees distributed prior to the council meeting. Paul suggested that employees provide feedback to the council on the work they complete. After Council members discussed this suggestion, Paul initiated a motion that we send a letter to partner agencies employing WMRC&D staff encouraging them to attend a Council Meeting once annually and present a brief report on employee accomplishments. The motion was approved unanimously.

Paul Shogren then provided an informational report on the U.S. Navy's "Beef Tallow for Biofuel Project". The U.S. Navy is working with the USDA to render 7.7 million gallons of beef fat for use as an alternative biofuel by the US Navy.

Paul Shogren discussed some suggested measures for the WMRC&D to support the State Of Maryland's "Call Before You Cut" and "Wood Energy" programs. After discussion a motion was passed unanimously for the Council to discuss with Jonathan Kays (hopefully at the next Council Meeting in Keedysville in June) how WMRC&D can best support these programs. Some of the suggested measures included sending letters to each County Forestry Board, purchase and distribute program pamphlets, and link WMRC&D website to these program websites.

Paul Shogren then led a discussion on the "Honey Bee Population Decrease" issue. The Council pointed out that the USDA, NRCS has a position in place to improve pollinator habitats and the University of Maryland has also hired a honey bee specialist/entomologist to work on this problem. Paul Petzrick also informed the Council that MDNR PPRP is considering habitat for

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pollinators along power line right-of-ways in Maryland. It was suggested that during the next Quarterly Council Meeting in June, a subject matter expert be invited to the Council meeting to provide an informational presentation on the honey bee population decrease issue.

The Frostburg Grows (FG) tag team of Corey Armstrong, Dan Fiscus and Willie Lantz provided a power point presentation on the current state of the Frostburg Grows project. Corey detailed the successful completion of the rain water collection project funded by the Chesapeake Bay Trust grant. Currently 40,000 gallons of water have been collected for the 2016 growing season. Winter storm damage (buckled hoops) resulted in 4 of the 6 high tunnel hoop houses being damaged from snow load on the plastic sheeting during the winter.

Preparations for the 2016 growing season are underway with seeds and seedlings being readied for planting. Tree seedling sales are expected this year. FG is expanding into the classroom at Mountain Ridge High School and with 3 classes at Frostburg State University. The goal for 2016 is increased production and sales by working with FSU's Chartwell's cafeteria food service provider, food banks, churches, non-profits, schools and the City of Frostburg. The City of Frostburg has offered a one acre parcel of city land, currently being used as a horse farm at no cost to FG for food production purposes. The parcel has water and electricity on site and could be used for growing vegetable plants outside of hoop houses, using traditional farming methods. Corey reported that volunteer hours have increased from 1,550 hours in 2014 to 1,687 in 2015.

Dan reported progress on the proposed Western Maryland Food Council funded by the Town Creek Foundation Grant. Three meetings have been held in Allegany, Garrett and Washington Counties. A Food Council Mission is now in place and 7 goals are under development. This project will include a food assessment with research data of food systems in place, the use of GIS to develop maps of food production systems.

Willie, identified the Food Council's next step is to continue gathering information, develop a plan and formalize membership on the Food Council. A second grant from the Town Creek Foundation has been proposed for another year to help with developing marketing.

At 12 noon, Council President, Craig Hartsock adjourned the Council Meeting for the lunch break.

At 12:45 PM Craig then reconvened the council meeting for staff reports.

Gary Aronhalt gave a presentation with a Poster on his work with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Forest Renewal Initiative/Mine land/Warbler Grant. This spring, Gary has a project planned at the end of March to plant 20,000 trees in Garret County, install a fence on private land to protect tree seedlings, work with volunteer groups from Jennings High School for an April 8<sup>th</sup>, tree planting day. Gary reported that his current grant with the NFWF expires at the end of June,

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2016. Gary's duty station is the Potomac/Garrett State Forest located outside of Oakland, Maryland.

Laura Michael, reported that she has a new office in the Western Maryland Regional GIS Center at FSU. Laura gave a power point presentation on Mount Savage Coal Mine Subsidence issues/problems. Laura is working on 3 final reports for PPRP. Laura reported that the ABC site on FSU's campus will require extra grouting to fill subsurface mine voids before the property can be developed. Also, the Jennings Run Leach Bed project will require some additional fill rock at the end of the leach bed, work with MDE to monitor water quality, vandalism of the access road gate.

Laura identified several opportunities to work with the GIS Center to assess and plan for repair of mine subsidence along the Western Maryland Scenic Railroad. This ongoing mine subsidence is the result of mine voids migrating up toward the land surface. The Western Maryland Scenic Railroad is a major economic contributor to the region and has unfortunately been closed due to the dangers presented by this mine subsidence along the rail road.

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

At 1:35 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  
Ed Null  
Roger Troxell  
Jeff Barclay  
Willie Lantz  
Paul Shogren  
Dan Fiscus

Minutes from the December, 2015 Quarterly Council Meeting were approved without any changes.

#### **Old Business:**

No old business.

#### **New Business:**

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President Hartsock introduced discussion regarding the proposed DRAFT Council Operating Budget for FY 2017. Craig asked Council members to review this budget and defer further action till the June, 2016 Quarterly Council Meeting.

President Hartsock initiated discussion to appoint a new board member, Mr. Scott Shank, to the Council to represent Washington County. A motion was passed unanimously to appoint Mr. Shank to the Council.

President Council appointed Jeff Barclay to lead the nominating committee for the election of officers. Jeff will report on this at the June Quarterly Council Meeting.

A motion was made to donate \$75.00 to the Allegany Soil Conservation District for their 75 anniversary summer picnic celebration. The motion passed unanimously.

The next Council Quarterly Meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 15, 2016 at the University of Maryland's Western Maryland Research and Education Center in Keedysville, MD. The Executive Council was scheduled to meet in Hagerstown on Tuesday, May 10, 2016.

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