

Garrett County  
Allegany County  
Washington County  
Frederick County  
Carroll County



Garrett Conservation District  
Allegany Conservation District  
Washington Conservation District  
Frederick Conservation District  
Carroll Conservation District  
Catoctin Conservation District

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## **Western Maryland Resource Conservation and Development Council Meeting Quarterly RC&D and Council Meeting Minutes September 10, 2014**

Council President Craig Hartsock called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. at the Frostburg State University, CCIT Building, Room 397, 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), Jeff Barclay (Allegany County), Willie Lantz (Garrett County), Laura Michael (WMRC&D), Gary Reeves (WMRC&D), Gary Aronhalt, (WMRC&D) and Mark Goldbach (WMRC&D).

Guests included Joe Mullinex (Allegany Business Consulting), Dean Joe Hoffman (Frostburg State University), Paul Petzrick (MDNR PPRP), Adam Heavener (Allegany SCD), Ben Sowers (Catoctin SCD), Corey Armstrong, Nathan Bennett (Frostburg Grows) and Jane Karethy (AmeriCorps).

Council President, Craig Hartsock welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance and recognized guests attending the meeting. Craig also thanked FSU for allowing the Council to use this newly opened building and meeting room.

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

Mr. Joe Mullinex, CPA, Allegany Business Consulting presented his findings from his annual financial review of WMRC&D. Joe distributed his report with findings from his audit including recommendations for improvements. President Hartsock thanked Joe for his presentation.

Mr. Corey Armstrong, provided a power point presentation with on-the-ground status of the Frostburg Grows Project. Corey introduced Jane Karethy, new AmeriCorps member who will be working with the Frostburg Grows Team. Corey discussed the Frostburg Grows Team work with Allegany County Public Schools, STEM program, Senator Ben Cardin, Bishop Walsh Church Group, Tamarack and Red Spruce trees seed collection, a Bio Ring Tree Planter Project, Allegany County Solid Waste Management Board, site electricity status, upcoming volunteer workday, John Hopkins student volunteer work, shade tree structure issues, city yard waste, FSU Geography Dept. weather station, the Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative Conference, work with FSU food service provider Chartwells and Phase II of the Frostburg Grows Project.

Council Member Dan Fiscus gave a brief history of the Frostburg Grows Team Super Heroes including Corey, Paul, Willie and the many volunteers who have made significant contributions toward this project. Dan discussed the Chartwells "Eat-Learn-Live" initiative that is consistent with the Frostburg Grows Project, Phase II, scheduled October 3, 2014, HTHH training

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workshop, ARC approval for the “Multi-Purpose Building” to be constructed on the Frostburg Grows Project lands,

**Council Member Business Meeting:**

At 11 AM, Craig Hartsock called the roll of voting members and determined a quorum was present in order to conduct council business.

Minutes from the June 12, 2014 Quarterly Council Meeting were approved as distributed.

**Old Business:**

No old business.

**New Business:**

President Hartsock introduced discussion regarding two USDA NRCS partnership proposals with WMRC&D to implement the Farm Bill. The first proposal is towards entering into a cooperative agreement to implement Comprehensive Nutrient Management Planning. This proposal includes WMRC&D hiring 4 positions including a biologist, planner, technician and project administrator to work towards successfully implementing CNMP goals and objectives. Council members passed a motion to support this proposal by unanimous vote.

President Hartsock then initiated discussion towards another USDA NRCS partnership proposal with WMRC&D in support of the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP). This project includes WMRC&D providing support with services for WRP easement acquisition needs including survey work, environmental reviews and other needs in support of the NRCS’s clear easement acquisition needs. Council members passed a motion to support this proposal by unanimous vote.

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

The next Council Quarterly Meeting will be held on Wednesday December 10, 2014 at University of Maryland’s Cooperative Education Research Facility in Keedysville, MD.

There being no further business, President Hartsock adjourned the council business meeting at 11:30 AM.

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WMRC&D staff reports followed with Gary Reeves power point presentation on his work on PPRP research, work with Wyoming Coal Ash, his need for a building to hold the materials testing lab and associated equipment, and his success with a virtual office.

Laura Michael provided a power point presentation including a quarterly update of her activities. Laura identified her activities on the CEIR-17, the Jennings's Run Limestone Leach Bed project; work on PPRP reports and monitoring activities, and the Wine Brenner Run Benthic Study and Stream Sealing.

Gary Aronhalt providing a power point update on his new job with work on the Western Maryland Forest Renewal Grant including proposed accomplishments, partners involved, GIS analysis and warbler habitat identification.

Craig adjourned the meeting for lunch at 12:00 Noon.

Craig reconvened the meeting at 1:00 p.m. with the council departing FSU for a field trip to the Frostburg Grows Project site. Dan, Corey and Willie gave a tour of the project site including very informative presentations on the shade tree house, composting area, high tunnel hoop houses, storage buildings, vegetable production, water, electricity status and answered questions from the Council members and guests. The field trip was concluded at approximately 2:30 P.M.