

Sustainable Monocacy Commission meeting

Thursday, October 28, 2021

Members present: Charles Eirkson, Gary Magnuson, Lonnie Ropp, Kim Stewart, Andy Celmer, Matt Moran, Councilmember Jerry Donald. (Peter Sicilia joined the meeting around 8pm)

Members absent: Alderman Roger Wilson, Bill Allen, Glenn Dunham

County Staff: Tim Goodfellow

Tim announced that meetings of County boards and commissions can now occur indoors at Winchester Hall, but without members of the public. Facial coverings are required for members attending the November and December 2021 SMC meetings in Winchester Hall. Tim will inquire about the possibility of having a video connection for those SMC member who wish to participate virtually, instead of coming into Winchester Hall.

Lonnie formally began the video meeting began at 6:30pm with a review of the August 2021 meeting minutes. Two edits were proposed (removal of Andy Celmer as motion maker on July 2021 meeting minutes, adding “so strategies can be developed to improve the River’s water quality” to the top of page 2). Unanimous approval.

Matt Moran described the edits he has made to the SMC logo. His computer was not functioning properly, so he could not display the latest logo draft during the video meeting. A hard copy of the draft logo will be presented at the November 2021 meeting.

Lonnie Ropp asked about the Lefty Kreh memorial that the Potomac Valley Fly Fishers is planning to erect in Frederick. Lonnie offered to have the PVFF member, Andy Meckelburg, speak at the Carroll Creek Rotary Club. Tim will contact Andy Meckelburg and extend the invitation.

Tim stated that the recommendations contained in the 2019 River Management Plan could be used to develop a work plan, or identify activities or study areas for the SMC. Some of the recommendations in the 2019 Plan are general statements of support for best practices. Tim asked each SMC member to identify and prioritize his/her top 3 recommendations from each chapter and bring to the next SMC meeting for discussion.

Gary mentioned that the most current information on the River is needed to begin a plan of action or work plan. Gary mentioned the August 2021 report, *Climate Response and Resilience*, from the Climate Emergency Mobilization Workgroup contains such current data. Gary also mentioned the MDE’s 2018 Integrated Report on Surface Water Quality that lists both the Upper and Lower Monocacy River Watersheds having thermal impairments (and nutrient, bacteria, sediment impairments).

SMC members stated that climate change and planetary warming have impacts to the River and its tributaries, and that

Tim offered to provide a general summary of the *Climate Response and Resilience* report to highlight recommended actions for overall watershed health. Lonnie stated that a review of the Climate report should be done with a focus on and linkage to the health of the River and the watershed. Lonnie stated that tasks or actions to address River health and climate change should also be measurable and achievable, and include a consideration of fiscal impact.

Awareness of the River, and ways to increase awareness, was discussed. Engagement with school students who are involved in the Trout in the Classrooms program in Frederick County was identified. SMC members agreed that trash clean-up events along the River or roads adjacent to the River would benefit the environment and could foster awareness and appreciation for the River. Matt Moran specifically mentioned Greenfield Road as a potential candidate for a SMC clean up event. Councilmember Donald stated that signs should be placed on the bridges for paddlers to see and assist with locational awareness on the River.

Submitted by Tim Goodfellow