



**Sustainable Monocacy Commission**  
Thursday, March 23, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.  
Winchester Hall, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Meeting Room  
12 East Church Street, Frederick, MD

**MINUTES**

Members present: Bill Allen (Chair), Chuck Eirkson, Gary Magnuson

Members present virtually: Lonnie Ropp (Vice Chair), Matt Moran, Andy Celmer

County Staff: Kimberly Gaines, Karin Flom, Andrew Stine

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The Sustainable Monocacy Commission's March 23, 2023, meeting was called to order at 6:46 p.m.

Chair Bill Allen opened the meeting with a review of the February 23, 2023, meeting minutes. Gary Magnuson requested that the fourth paragraph in the minutes be revised to reflect a reference to the Hood College "open house attendance list" and that the following sentence of that paragraph be revised to indicate that the Commission encourages litter control "near the river" to be a higher priority. With these corrections noted, Chuck Eirkson motioned to approve the February 23, 2023, meeting minutes, as corrected, and Gary Magnuson seconded. Unanimous approval.

The next agenda item was the introduction of Andrew Stine, Livable Frederick Principal Planner. The Commission requested that Andrew circulate his contact information via email to the members.

Following the introduction, the renewal of membership terms was discussed. Members with terms up for renewal in 2023 were directed to submit a cover letter and resume to Joyce Grossnickle at Frederick County. The deadline for applications is March 24, 2023. Kimberly Gaines requested an extension of the application window via email to account for the fact that members have been out of the country and that the notification renewal email did not reach some members of the Commission.

The Commission then held the Election of Officers for the 2023 – 2024 Term. Andy Celmer nominated Gary Magnuson as Chair for the upcoming term. Gary Magnuson nominated Andy Celmer as Vice Chair. The commission voted unanimously to approve the slate of officers.

The next agenda item was a review of the Sustainable Monocacy Report for Frederick County Maryland, 2022. Karim Flom opened the discussion, indicating that the requested changes to Page 11 that addressed the Soil Conservation District language had been amended. Gary Magnuson suggested two amendments to the following paragraphs. The first was to make the 6<sup>th</sup> paragraph on the page a footnote to provide additional emphasis to the text and to address the relationship of the subject matter to the topic heading. Gary also suggested that the sentence referencing the loss of agricultural land be revised to indicate that it is "a growing concern."

Andy Celmer asked for the Commission's input regarding a graphic circulated via email addressing pollution contributions to the Chesapeake Bay that could be included in the final report. He has contacted Heather Hutchinson from the Catoctin and Frederick Soil Conservation Districts to inquire about sources of a graphic for this data and the potential to secure such a graphic specifically for the Monocacy River. He will inform the Commission of her response. The Commission decided to delay the publication of the report for a period of one month to allow time to see if such a graphic could be prepared.

Bill Allen expressed an interest in having Heather Hutchinson speak before the Commission on agricultural / cover crop programs currently under way at the Catoctin and Frederick Soil Conservation Districts.

Chuck Eirkson indicated that he would work on some brief additional language for the report addressing improvements in agricultural practices that the farming community is making to be better stewards of the watershed. Karin Flom will email the most up-to-date version of the report in Microsoft Word to Chuck for his use. Kimberly Gaines requested that the deadline for edits be set on April 6, 2023, to allow time for publishing prior to the next meeting.

Lonnie Ropp raised concerns regarding data attributing pollution to various land use sectors that cannot be completely confirmed. The Commission indicated an intent to only publish data for which the source and accuracy can be verified.

Kimberly Gaines presented the Commission with the revised access point map prepared in cooperation with Frederick County GIS staff. Gary Magnuson requested that street addresses be added to the map where possible, and this request was seconded by Chuck Eirkson. Gary Magnuson also asked staff to inquire about potential updates to the map prepared by Parks and Recreation to indicate the future access points list as well as the potential for production of additional maps.

Kimberly Gaines notified the Commission that the video production office with the County has expressed interest in producing a 3-minute video segment as well as a few shorter segments for airing on Channel 19 on the subject of the Monocacy River. Samples of videos produced by the County will be forwarded to the Commission for review. Staff requested that the Commission consider ideas for airing in concert with the Outreach Subcommittee.

Gary Magnuson shared information related to the April 16, 2023, clean-up day which will be held in concert with the International Mountain Bicycling Association. Information regarding sign-ups was provided by handout. Gary also shared information about a discussion with Kayce Heister, who has organized prior Monocacy River clean-up events, about scheduling up six in the water and riverbank clean-ups starting in the summer 2023. The Commission discussed how best to incorporate/work with Kayce and indicated a willingness to invite her to the April meeting. Gary will contact Kayce regarding an appearance before the Commission.

Chair Bill Allen discussed the Frederick County Farm Bureau Smart Soil Farm Day Tours that will be occurring in the late summer or early fall of 2023. Additional information will be provided to the Commission when available.

Gary Magnuson briefly discussed the upcoming May presentation by Don Dorsey with Frederick County and indicated that the topic will focus on mitigation measures currently under consideration by the County with regard to addressing TMDL's in the Monocacy River watershed. Gary also shared information related to CE Fitzwater's Transition Team related to resiliency and measures to address the increasing number of extreme participation events.

With no other business, the meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.