

POTOMAC WATERSHED ROUNDTABLE
Quarterly Meeting – October 7, 2022
Held Virtually Via Microsoft Teams Platform
Meeting Summary

Voting Members/Alternates

Penny Gross, Potomac Watershed Roundtable Chair, Fairfax County
Woody Hynson, Potomac Watershed Roundtable Vice Chair, Westmoreland County
Deidre Clark, John Marshall SWCD
Ellie Coddling, Fairfax County
John Flannery, Loudoun SWCD
Amy Jackson, City of Alexandria
Chuck Koch, Tri County City SWCD
Karen Pallansch, Alexandria Renew
John Peterson, Northern Virginia SWCD
Will Lintner, Prince William SWCD
Robert Pickett, Northern Neck SWCD
Greg Prelewicz, Fairfax Water

Advisory Members/Alternates (Non-Voting)

Kirsten Conrad, Virginia Cooperative Extension
Curtis Dalpra, ICPRB
Rebecca Shoemaker, Virginia DEQ

Presenters

Kambiz Agazi, Director, Fairfax County Office of Energy and Environmental Coordination
Joseph Haamid, Resource Agricultural Specialist, Prince George's Soil Conservation District
Kim Rush Lynch, Urban Agricultural Conservation Planner, Prince George's Soil Conservation District

Interested Parties

Nicki Bellezza, Fairfax Water
Lynda Ramirez-Blust, Jennifer Horn Landscape Architecture
Heidi Bonnaffon, Metropolitan Washington COG
Renee Grebe, Nature Forward
Christine Howard, Metropolitan Washing COG
Don Lacquement, Northern Virginia SWCD
Elizabeth Lonoff
Daniel Moore, Virginia DEQ
Ashley Palmer, Northern Virginia SWCD
Marissa Roland, Virginia DCR
Heather Shackley, Northern Virginia SWCD
Pam Tinker, Mother Nature Company
Elizabeth Ward, Green Risks
Willie Woode, Northern Virginia SWCD
Jacob Zielinski, Virginia DOF

Call to Order and Introductions

Ms. Gross called the meeting to order at 10:02 am and welcomed all to the meeting. She noted that the agenda had been sent out to participants before meeting. In lieu of introductions, Ms. Gross encouraged all to view the Microsoft Teams list of participants, available on screen.

Minutes—July 8, 2022

The minutes of the July 8, 2022 meeting of the Potomac Watershed Roundtable had been distributed in advance of the meeting. Ms. Gross asked if there were any corrections or additions. Hearing none and following a motion by Mr. Peterson and seconded by Ms. Clark, the minutes of the July 8, 2022 meeting were approved by voice vote. Will Lintner abstained from the vote.

Updates from the Roundtable Chair

Ms. Gross provided several updates related to water in the region, including information on her recent presentation at a forum sponsored by the Metropolitan Washing Council of Governments (MWCOCG) and her participation in the Local Government Advisory Committee meeting, which was held recently in Shepherdstown, West Virginia. Ms. Gross also noted that the Chesapeake Bay Report was released last week about the health of the Chesapeake Bay. She suggested that perhaps it is time to have another water summit in the region as the last one was two decades ago. She suggested that perhaps it is time to talk about resilience, growth, and the issues of climate change and to work with partners around the region to plan for the next several decades.

Mr. Prelewicz noted that Fairfax Water recently held its first ever Water Summit on September 29, 2022. It was well-attended on focused on issues of importance to Fairfax Water and its wholesale customers.

Updates from the Potomac Council Chair

Ms. Gross asked Mr. Peterson to report on the Potomac Council meeting held this morning at 9:00 am. Mr. Peterson reported that members reviewed the financial report for the third quarter of 2022 at the meeting. Also, the council reviewed the draft revised roundtable bylaws and commended their approval and adoption to the roundtable. The Potomac Council will be similarly reviewing its own bylaws in the coming months. Finally, Mr. Peterson reported that the council will hold a meeting on December 4, 2022, as a part of the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation District's Annual Meeting in Roanoke. The agenda for that meeting will include nomination and appointment of council officers. The Potomac Council has also agreed to sponsor a portion of the annual meeting with a donation of \$250.

Update on PWR Bylaws Review

Ms. Gross noted that a Bylaws Task Force of the Potomac Council and Potomac Watershed Roundtable has reviewed and updated the current Potomac Watershed Roundtable bylaws. A draft of the bylaws, as revised by the task force, had been circulated to the roundtable in advance of today's meeting, with suggested changes noted in red ink. Ms. Gross and Mr. Peterson reviewed the changes that had been made and answered questions from roundtable members.

A motion to approve the bylaws as amended by the Bylaws Task Force, with the understanding that Article 5 would be reviewed, with the goal of reducing its length, was made by Mr. Peterson, and seconded by Ms. Jackson. Ms. Gross called for additional discussion. Hearing none, the motion was approved by voice vote.

Ms. Gross noted that she will work with Mr. Woode and Ms. Shackley to reduce the length of the administrative section as directed by the roundtable. She expressed her appreciation to the Bylaws Task Force and members of the roundtable for their efforts and contributions.

Presentations

Promoting Conservation & Food Security Through Urban Agriculture

Kim Rush Lynch & Joseph Haamid,
Prince George's Soil Conservation District

Ms. Gross introduced the first of today's speakers, Kim Rush Lynch and Joseph Haamid from the Prince George's Soil Conservation District and provided some background on urban agriculture in the region.

Ms. Rush Lynch provided an overview of the Prince George's Soil Conservation District's involvement in urban agriculture, past and present, as well as some demographic information from Prince George's County, Maryland. She used PowerPoint to share some of the benefits of urban agriculture as well as some specific information about their project, the Urban Farm Incubator at Watkins Regional Park. Ms. Rush Lynch introduced her colleague, Joseph Haamid, to provide specifics on the Urban Farm Incubator project. Mr. Haamid continued the presentation and emphasized all the relationships that had to be built and nurtured for this project to be a success. Ms. Rush Lynch and Mr. Haamid explained the project to the group and provided names of the partners that are on site and examples of the work that is being done. Ms. Rush Lynch expressed her appreciation to the National Association of Conservation Districts and other partners for support of the project.

Ms. Rush Lynch and Mr. Haamid thanked the Potomac Watershed Roundtable for the opportunity to speak today. A copy of their presentation is available on the roundtable website: [Meeting Materials \(potomacroundtable.org\)](https://www.potomacroundtable.org). She encouraged members to reach out directly to her and to Mr. Haamid with any questions: karlynch@co.pg.md.us and joseph.haamid@md.nacdnet.net.

Ms. Gross thanked Ms. Lynch and Mr. Haamid for their presentation and entertained questions from the group. What followed was a robust discussion about the projects specifically discussed and urban agriculture in general.

Charge Up Fairfax: Expanding Access to Electric Vehicle Charging in Common- Interest Communities
Kambiz Agazi, Fairfax County Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination

Ms. Gross introduced the next speaker, Kambiz Agazi, Director of the Fairfax County Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination (OEEC). Mr. Agazi used PowerPoint to brief the roundtable on the work on of the OEEC. He then shared information about the Charge Up Fairfax program. Charge Up Fairfax is intended to work with homeowners' associations and condo associations—or "common interest communities"—which own common parking areas, to help overcome the challenges faced by electric vehicle owners in these communities in finding safe and convenient charging stations.

A copy of Mr. Agazi's presentation is available on the roundtable website: [Meeting Materials \(potomacroundtable.org\)](https://www.potomacroundtable.org).

(Ms. Gross was called away by a family emergency just before the end of Mr. Agazi's presentation; Mr. Peterson led the remainder of the meeting in her stead)

Mr. Peterson thanked Mr. Agazi for his presentation and entertained questions from the group which were answered by Mr. Agazi.

Updates from Roundtable Members

Mr. Peterson asked if there were any further announcements from roundtable members. Hearing none, and on behalf of Ms. Gross, he thanked all for their attendance and engagement in today's meeting. He noted that the next meeting will be held on Friday, January 13, 2023.

Adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 am.