

**MD 21230 Notice of Public Hearing on the Tentative Determination to Issue Stormwater Permit for Prince George's County (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System)** Wednesday, June 5, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. at the **City of Laurel Municipal Building, 8103 Sandy Spring Road, Laurel, MD 20707**. comment period ends June 27, 2013. questions concerning the permit, please contact Mr. Ray Bahr at 410-537-3545.

Marian Dombroski, RA, LEED AP, Director of Friends of Quincy Run Watershed  
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 Cheverly, Md 20785 District 5, 27 year resident Prince George's County

*(These comments were presented at the Public Hearing June 5, 2013 and are submitted in writing today for record. By reference, we endorse the comments of the Natural Resources Defense Council.)*



I am a registered architect, crew coach, and row daily on the Anacostia River about one mile from my home. Every-day during season, hundreds of young people boat on the Anacostia every day. Out of concern for the health of our residents and encouraged by the commitment of our governor, I established the Friends of Quincy Run - a citizens group working to restore and protect the health and livability of our watershed. Quincy Run is a tidal tributary which enters the Anacostia at the Bladensburg Waterfront Park, flowing under the new bike path which Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar dedicated last year. It is one of our many tributaries which must be restored to health.

- Last year we celebrated the 40th anniversary of the Clean Water Act - one of the most significant pieces of legislation for the health of Americans - which promoted the idea that everyone has the right to clean, pure water. Governor O'Malley echoed that theme when he declared that the goal for Maryland's waterways are "swimmable and fishable." Our MS4 permit will determine, to a large extent, whether or not Prince George's County will reach that goal. We urge you to recognize the urgency of your actions and put first the health and rights of our citizens. We deserve the strongest possible permit. Every day I see people fishing on the Anacostia, something I used to do with my dad as a young girl. It sickens me to know that people are taking those fish home to share with their families. Our river, which once supported a strong fishing industry, now represents a major health hazard. We can change that as the governor promised to do.



- Fishing and Boating go on every day of the week on the Anacostia. These should not be potentially hazardous activities. Our waterways are our most important natural features. Poor development practices continue to degrade and deform them undermining our health, prosperity, and property. We must retrofit our developed land with green infrastructure to eliminate pollution, trash, and devastating run-off. Our grey infrastructure must be replaced.

- As an architect practicing for more than 25 years, I know that sound site design and planning are critical to a successful project. The techniques of **Environmental Site Design** have been shown to protect aquatic resources, produce healthy and inviting environments, and create new employment opportunities. Our new permit must ensure that our county is developed using ESD techniques, and must be clear about its own programs for limiting discharge using green infrastructure. Only 8% of our county's waters meet water quality standards. This is a crime which can be stopped.



- Time is running out for Marylanders - we have a commitment to meet. We want our permit to be a blueprint for achieving our goals by mandating water quality milestones, and requiring extensive monitoring of our aquatic resources to ensure the milestones are being met. We cannot afford the cost of poorly regulated development and inadequate action.

- Finally, we must recognize that maintaining our investment is essential. A well trained work-force with clear maintenance programs mandated in the permit will achieve this. With a strong MS4 permit, an equitable Pollution Reduction Fee, and an effective incentive program, Prince Georgians will have the tools we need to build and re-build our county as it should be. Our citizen groups will continue doing our part to make our waters healthy. Please give us the permit we need.