

HARFORD COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD

DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY – April 16, 2019

Members Present: Paul Gartelmann, Dennis Kirkwood, Sally LaBarre, Tami Imbierowicz, Lynn Davis, Michael Charlton

Ex-officio Members Present: Julie Mackert, Matt Kropp, Paul Magness, Jeff Schoenberger

Review / Approval of March 19, 2019 Meeting Summary

A motion to approve the March 19th meeting summary was made. The motion was seconded; the Board unanimously approved the meeting summary.

Harford County Soil Conservation District's Agricultural Update – Mr. William "Bill" Tharpe

Mr. Tharpe is the District Manager for the Soil Conservation District (SCD), hosted by the County's Agricultural Center. He opened his presentation with an overview of the role of the SCD in the County. The SCD is a political subdivision of the state government that aims to prevent soil erosion, protect water quality, and conserve resources.

To accommodate these goals, soil conservation plans are put in place to provide planning and technical assistance for the agricultural communities. Best Management Practices (BMPs) identified in these plans include the use of specific waste storage structures, grassed waterways, watering facilities, stream crossings, and cover crops. Enforcement for lack of BMPs occurs through the County's Agricultural Center and may potentially involve Maryland's Department of the Environment (MDE).

Mr. Tharpe shared a few facts that are not-so-well known to members outside of the agricultural communities. For instance, there are a few small produce farms in Harford County that are certified organic dairy farms, and some are certified to produce organic hay. Another lesser known fact is that farmers in the County are not allowed to spread organic matter on fields until after March 1st, no matter what the weather may be like. Another topic was the State of Maryland's use of funds for cover crops to help with limiting erosion and to improve water quality. The State currently has 21 million dollars available for farmers to use cover crops, and approximately \$525,000 of funds were used in Harford County for this practice.

Departmental Updates

Matt Kropp reported that Arbor Day was coming up on April 19th, 2019 to be held at Harford Community College. Approximately 140 trees will be planted and citizens will be offered free trees for participating. Mr. Kropp also reported that County received a State grant to assist the County in the 2020 Census efforts.

Julie Mackert reported that the Health Department has been working with the Bay Restoration Advisory Council, with the purpose of applying funds to assist with public sewer connections in areas of failing septic systems. The Health Department is moving forward with monitoring several locations throughout the County where people may swim, even though the County has no

official bathing beaches. Tests will occur from May through Labor Day and be posted online and social media.

Paul Magness reported on the Edgely Grove stream restoration project which should be under construction in June of this year and completed in the Fall.

Jeff Schoenberger reported that the Bynum Run restoration is complete. The bioretention and tree planting will occur at the Courthouse in Bel Air. Harford Streams program is running from Memorial Day through Labor Day. DPW is also starting a pilot program for accepting food scraps at the Scarboro facility.

New Business

Tami Imberiwicz reported that there was a Phase III WIP meeting on May 6th at Harford Community College from 1:00pm – 3:00pm.

Paul Gartelmann reminded the group of the Conowingo Tour visit on May 14th at 9:30am. The May 21st EAB meeting will be cancelled.

Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 7:50pm.