

HARFORD COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD

APPROVED MEETING SUMMARY – April 18th, 2023

Members Present: Jaclyn Koehn, Sally LaBarre, Paul Gartelmann, Roland Beckman, Lynn Faulkner, Michael Charlton, Daniel Spiker, Sarah Coleman, Veronica Cassilly

Ex-officio Members Present: Terry Hanley, Matt Kropp

Welcome / Introductions

Jackie Koehn welcomed the EAB. Everyone introduced themselves.

Chairperson / Vice-Chair Discussion

Matt Kropp said that each member of the EAB represents different factions of the county. He also said that the board must elect a vice-chair at the next meeting and members should think about if they are interested. The vice-chair will run meetings if Jackie is unavailable. The Vice-Chair must be open-meeting certified.

Review and Discussion of EAB role / future meeting topics

Matt Kropp began the discussion by explaining the rules and purpose of the EAB. He explained that there is no compensation for being on this board. If you miss three meetings in a row, your membership shall be terminated. One of the main purposes is to review EPA/DNR, Health Dept, and Chesapeake Bay program recommendations. Presentations are usually scheduled for each meeting, along with updates from local agencies. One annual field trip is usually scheduled per year with the EAB. Another purpose is the board giving feedback on county-proposed plans. There is an annual report requested by the County Executive and County Council. The board will also review and provide feedback on anything requested by the County Executive.

Matt Kropp requested that the board send topic and field trip ideas to Jackie Koehn and himself. The idea of re-visiting past topics was discussed because there are new members and new science. Some recent topics were discussions led by Harford County representatives, presentations by local environmental scientists, and field trips to local wildlife societies. Sally LaBarre suggested a trip to Harford Community College. Matt Kropp suggested talking about bills that were recently passed at the state level and now must be addressed at the local level. Other topics discussed include GIS and sea level rise, funding with inflation reduction, and Eden Mill Nature Center. Sally LaBarre suggested Mr. Glenn Dudderar as a source for this group for reading materials and maybe a speaker. Tom Horton was mentioned as a potential speaker.

Ms. Cassilly mentioned the group should focus some attention on green infrastructure and land use planning. She noted that it is important for the group to learn the county code and forestry regulations to properly advise the county executive. Mr. Hanley noted that advisory boards and the environment are important to the county executive. Ms. Koehn mentioned there will be new county materials to review soon such as the comprehensive plan update to HarfordNEXT, comprehensive

zoning, and the green infrastructure plan. Mr. Kropp mentioned a presentation about the planning / environmental regulatory codes in Harford County may be helpful for the EAB. In HarfordNEXT, the land-use map is particularly important as it highlights land use intensities which determine future zoning decisions. Mr. Charlton noted that Maryland regulations about stormwater runoff are very strict compared to Pennsylvania's. Ms. Cassilly noted that the Bush River is polluted despite its entire watershed being contained inside Maryland. The board agreed a presentation or reading materials about the new Forest Conservation Act (Senate Bill 526) would be valuable.

Departmental Updates

Mr. Schoenberger from the Department of Public Works reported construction for the stream restoration and stormwater management upgrade project at Church Creek Elementary will be starting soon. The Office of Recycling will be participating in the Earth Day Celebration at Dublin Park (formerly the Grove) on Saturday, April 22, 2023, from 10am-2pm. The event is sponsored by the Harford County Master Gardeners. The next household hazardous waste (HHW) collection is scheduled for Saturday, May 13th, 2023, from 8am-noon. Document shredding (limit to 4 boxes) will also be available. This event is for residential customers only and will be held at Harford Mulch & Compost Facility at 3139 Scarboro Road. Farmers of Harford County will be able to drop off used tires at the Harford Waste Disposal Center the week of May 15-19, 2023. Businesses and individuals are not eligible to participate. The collection is a joint effort between the Harford County DPW, the Harford County Farm Bureau, the Maryland Farm Bureau, the Maryland Department of the Environment, and the Maryland Environmental Service.

Mr. Hanley from Parks and Recreation reported that there will be a new eel ladder at Eden Mill dam. The ladder was given to Harford County Parks and Recreation from the state of Maryland at no cost. Mr. Hanley said that eels having access to the upper parts of Deer Creek will help with water quality. The Oakington Peninsula master plan has begun. There will be trails constructed from Havre de Grace to the peninsula.

Plans for phase 3 of the Ma and Pa Trail have begun. This trail will go from the detention center to Forest Hill. Soon the trail will continuously travel from Annie's Playground to Forest Hill. There will be a meeting next month will stakeholders from DNR to extend the Greenway Trail.

Mr. Kropp reported that there is a new Forest Conservation Act proposed by the state of Maryland – Senate Bill 526. He will send out reading material. Planning and Zoning hosted a successful Arbor Day. There was a great turnout and over 130 trees were planted.

New Business

A motion was made the start the meetings at 6:00pm instead of 6:30pm. The motion was seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Environmental Advisory Board meetings will now be held between 6:00-7:30pm.

Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 7:56 pm