

## HARFORD COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD

### DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY – Jan 15, 2019

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Members Present: Paul Gartelmann (via telephone), Doug Kopeck, Roland Beckman, Veronica Cassilly, Sally LaBarre, Michael Charlton, Lynn Davis

Ex-officio Members Present: Julie Mackert, Matt Kropp, Scott Kearby (in place of Joe Siemek), Paul Magness

Review / Approval of October 16, 2018 Meeting Summary

A motion to approve the October 16<sup>th</sup> meeting summary was made. The motion was seconded; the Board unanimously approved the meeting summary.

Financial Assurance Plan – Mr. Scott Kearby, Department of Public Works

Mr. Kearby began the presentation by handing out an informative paper to each group member providing details about the Financial Assurance Plan (FAP). The FAP comes as a result of revoking mandatory stormwater remediation fees in 2015. The purpose of the FAP is to outline how stormwater runoff and the associated financial obligations will be handled by Harford County. Stormwater treatment(s) must comply with the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) requirements. The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) posts FAPs on their website, provides an annual report to the governor and the Maryland General Assembly, and decides the adequacy of the FAPs.

Harford County expects to change and modify their 2018 FAP over the coming years as a planning document. The FAP will maintain that permit requirements exceed those established by the Clean Water Act. To do this, the County has increased funding and staff numbers to initiate additional water quality practices and programs such as the Watershed Stewards Academy, consulting and personal services, and contracting work for the design and building of projects. A portion of the recordation tax has also been put toward the Watershed Protection & Restoration fund.

The FAP states that 20% of untreated impervious surface area (11,094 acres) should be restored, based on records starting from 1991. The County is working to reduce this baseline requirement. When restoration requirements are met, the County earns credits. 4.9% credit is awarded for Capital projects (stream restoration, tree plantings, etc), 0.5% for septic system upgrades and/or connection to public sewer, 2.7% for annual septic pumping, and 12% for nutrient trading with County wastewater treatment plants.

Following the presentation, Ms. Cassilly inquired about the various credit amounts. Mr. Kearby clarified that credits awards are outlined in the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Credit Manual, which is based upon the Chesapeake Bay Model.

Mr. Kropp then asked if the Best Management Practice credits of the MS4 permit are helping or hindering the amount of credits earned. Mr. Kearby confirmed that new guidelines may actually be helping to earn credits, based on comparisons to the Chesapeake Bay Model and what has

been observed from County data. Mr. Kearby also stated that the County FAP is needed every two years, and the County's MS4 permit expires in December 2019, but it's term is for 5 years.

Ms. Davis inquired about MS4 projects outside of the development envelope, and discovered that the Soil Conservation District funds those projects and the Agricultural District earns the credits.

Ms. LaBarre asked if the states within the Bay Watershed were working together to accomplish a decrease in stormwater runoff. In fact, the Chesapeake Bay Committee tracks such reductions in a "report card" while the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) enforces reduction standards if WIP requirements are not being met.

#### EAB Work Items – 2019

Mr. Gartelmann brought up topics that he felt the EAB should look into for 2019. His topics include parks and open space, solid waste / energy, potential expansion of development envelope, water quality issues for Harford. Other members brought up the topics of how Harford is doing in the Agricultural sector with regards to meeting water quality improvements, and the issue of maintaining our existing forests / invasive species. The group will also explore the possibility of a tour of the Conowingo Dam.

#### Departmental Updates

Ms. Julie Mackert reported that several sewer petitions have been introduced by the County Council, and will be voted on in the coming months. Julie also reported that the Harford Health Dept. has been given an extra \$200,000 in Bay Restoration Funding to assist with individual connections to public sewer. Harford County has received over \$500,000 from the State to assist with this effort.

Mr. Paul Magness reported that the Department of Parks and Recreation submitted their annual program to DNR. He also reported that the State has approved Harford County's Land Preservation Parks and Recreation Plan. Parks and Recreation is also working with the Department of Planning and Zoning on the 2019 Arbor Day planting.

Mr. Matt Kropp reminded the EAB, for anyone interested to continue to serve on the Board, to complete the application and return it to Ms. Jen Davis. Mr. Kropp also reported that the Draft Green Infrastructure Plan has been posted on the County's webpage the last few months. Comments have been received from the public and Planning and Zoning is in the process of incorporating the comments into the Draft Plan.

#### New Business

None.

Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 7:24pm.