

HARFORD COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD

FINAL APPROVED MEETING SUMMARY – July 16, 2019

Members Present: Paul Gartelmann, Sally LaBarre, Tami Imbierowicz, Roland Beckman, Jackie Koehn, John Lloyd

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

Citizen: Mr. Terry Long

Review / Approval of April 19, 2019 Meeting Summary

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

“Tidewater”- a short film documentary by the American Resilience Project

Members watched this short film which documents the Hampton Roads area of Virginia and its vulnerability to sea level rise. This issue has been affecting the military’s readiness and overall national security. This region has the highest concentration of military assets in our country. The film documents the difficult challenges ahead with needed infrastructure repairs for the military and local governments. The film gave some examples of the community working with the local, state, and the federal government to address climate change and sea-level rise.

There was a healthy discussion from the EAB members on the film and this topic. Topics such as the control of development along coastlines, values of real estate on or near waterbodies, and stormwater management for new development were discussed. Mr. John Lloyd mentioned that he would have a discussion with the Senior Commander at Aberdeen Proving Ground to see if the EAB could learn more about what the military is doing to address sea level rise in Harford County. Ms. Jackie Koehn mentioned that there are many various coastal resilience grants that are available for local governments to apply that attempt to address this concern.

EAB members also discussed other climate change issues such as intensity of storms. The EAB members suggested that the group continue to look into matters related to this topic.

Departmental Updates

Mr. Matt Kropp reported a message from Mr. Paul Magness (Dept. of Parks and Recreation) that the Emily Bayless Graham Park will be begin later this month.

Ms. Julie Mackert reported that the Health Department has begun the recreation water sampling in the County. Even though the County has no official bathing beaches, the Department will monitor for bacteria at County recreational water sites such as Kilgore Falls, Wilson’s Picnic Area, Hills Grove Picnic Area, Mariner Point Park, and Flying Point Park. Ms. Mackert also mentioned that Mountain Christian Church had its third public meeting in Perry Hall regarding the church’s plans to build a wastewater treatment plant. The existing system is failing and the

proposed system would be utilizing the most advanced technology for a system of its size. There have been issues raised by Baltimore County citizens and government regarding the impacts to the Little Gunpowder.

Mr. Jeff Schoenberger reported that there would be another Hazardous Waste Day August 6th from 8:00am – noon at the Harford Waste Disposal Center. The “Harford Streams Summer Adventure” program runs through Labor Day, and there is a Poker Run this weekend. These programs encourage citizens to enjoy our streams and other natural areas while winning fun prizes. There will be a public hearing regarding Harford County’s MS4 permit and the ability to have nutrient trading on August 22, 2019.

New Business

Mr. Paul Gartelmann brought up the August meeting and whether or not the EAB should cancel the meeting due to summer schedules. The EAB decided not to meet in August. The next meeting will be September 17th, 2019.

Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 8:12 pm.