

HARFORD COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD

APPROVED MEETING SUMMARY – July 21, 2020

Members Present: Sally LaBarre, Jackie Koehn, Paul Gartelmann, Roland Beckman, Dennis Kirkwood

Ex-officio Members Present: Paul Magness, Joe Siemek, John Resline, Matt Kropp

Review / Approval of June 16, 2020 Meeting Summary

A motion to approve the June 16th meeting summary was made. The motion was seconded; the Board unanimously approved the meeting summary.

Update on WIP III and Agricultural Initiatives – Mr. Quintin Cornwell, District Manager at Harford County Soil Conservation District (SCD)

Mr. Cornwell introduced himself as the new District Manager of the SCD, replacing Mr. Bill Tharpe. He was excited to announce that the SCD just celebrated their 75th anniversary, having been established in 1944.

The SCD targets three main sources of nutrients: nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment. Mr. Cornwell stated that all nutrient sources were reduced below previous levels. However, it appears that some of the 2025 WIP goals may not be met (especially phosphorus) they set to achieve for WIP III standards. In addition to reducing the source of nutrients, the SCD also monitors the conservation methods that are applied, for which goals are also set in WIP. These methods fall into two categories: agronomic and non-agronomic conservation technical methods.

The agronomic methods are monitored over a short term period or annually. Some examples include cover crops, incorporation and transportation of manure, dairy precision feeding, chicken litter amendments, and soil and water conservation.

The non-agronomic methods are structural practices that have their functions monitored over a cumulative timeframe or over a longer term. Some examples include agricultural drainage and stormwater management, animal waste management, crop rotation, forest and grass buffers, pasture management and land retirement, and stream or wetland restoration.

Mr. Kirkwood mentioned that the number of conservation practices in use are increasing, most likely due to farmers taking the offered incentives to utilize these practices.

Departmental Updates

Mr. Magness of Parks and Recreation stated that he is expecting approval from the State Highway Administration (SHA) to advertise and put out to bid segment two of the Ma and Pa trail. He also stated that there was an exciting land acquisition in the works around the Havre de Grace / Aberdeen area which should be formalized soon.

Mr. Resline from the Health Department announced that August 4th will be the date when local citizens can visit the Ripken Stadium in Aberdeen for COVID-19 testing. He also mentioned that water quality testing will take place at Rocks State Park every other week in effort to monitor the water where citizens kayak, tube, etc.

Mr. Siemek of DPW presented the new Deputy Director of the Highways and Environmental Sustainability Division to EAB members, Steve Walsh. Mr. Walsh has retired from working with Baltimore County Public Works to work in his home County.

Mr. Kropp from Planning and Zoning had no new announcements, but stated that DPZ remained “open” to the public, having virtual meetings and live-streamed public events to keep business moving forward as normally as possible.

New Business

Mr. Gartelmann stated that the EAB would take the month of August off.

For September’s meeting, Mr. Magness will be updating the members of the EAB on the status of County park projects and future goals for County Parks and Recreation.

Mr. Kropp stated that he has been working with Mrs. Kristen Kirkwood of the Harford Land Trust to present at an upcoming EAB meeting, most likely in October 2020.

Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 7:28 pm