

## HARFORD COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD

APPROVED MEETING SUMMARY – January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022

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Members Present: Sally LaBarre, Jackie Koehn, Dennis Kirkwood, Lynn Davis, Michael Charlton, Tami Imbierowicz, Lynn Faulkner

Ex-officio Members Present: Paul Magness, Matt Kropp, John Resline, Jeff Schoenberger

Welcome (Introduction of new EAB member Ms. Lynn Faulkner)

The EAB members individually introduced themselves to Ms. Faulkner. Ms. Faulkner described herself as a retired nurse who has interests in various environmental issues such as climate change. Lynn is a master naturalist, and volunteers at various nature centers.

Review / Approval of October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Meeting Summary

A motion to approve the October 19<sup>th</sup> meeting summary was made. The motion was seconded; the Board unanimously approved the meeting summary.

Working Towards Creating a Healthier Harford County, Ms. Bari Klein, Executive Director - Healthy Harford

Ms. Klein began the presentation by giving statistics of Harford County's Health. Harford County is currently ranked 10<sup>th</sup> out of 24 Maryland's jurisdictions in Health, with the average life expectancy of 79.0 years. The top three causes of death in the County in 2019 are heart disease, cancer, and COVID19. Cancer rates are a little worse in Harford County compared to the State, and about 2/3 of County residents are overweight or obese.

Smoking, alcohol, and drug and alcohol intoxication death rates are higher in Harford County compared to the State average. Suicide rates are higher in the County compared to the State, and in 2019, 18% of students reported that they had seriously considered suicide in the past year.

Eating healthy foods, having physical activity, not using drugs and alcohol excessively, having meaningful social connections, and managing stress are all actions we can do individually. Collectively, assuring healthy food access, community gardens, and promoting Farmers Markets are actions we can support. Creating a more active community, including bike and pedestrian access to our local parks and roadways are also extremely important. Supporting Mental Health initiatives through various programs such as the Klein Family Harford Crisis Center, and the Harford County Trauma Institute are becoming increasingly more important in our community.

Departmental Updates

Jeff Schoenberger stated that February 8<sup>th</sup> would be a County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day, that will be held at 3139 Scarboro Road, Street MD 21154. He also gave updates on various stream restoration projects at Still Meadow and Heavenly Waters Park.

Mr. Magness announced that the latest Land Preservation Parks and Recreation Plan (LPPRP) update for 2022 is expected to be presented at the March 2022 EAB meeting. He also gave updates on the MA&PA segment 2 (to be opening in May 2022), and Segment 3 is being reviewed at SHA and will hopefully be placed out-to-bid then end of 2022.

Mr. John Resline reported that the recent cyberattack (December 4, 2021) of the State's Health Department has impacted his office, to where many employees must share computers. He also reported that wet-season perc tests applications began January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022.

Mr. Kropp stated that the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Code and Program is likely to be introduced to the County Council this Spring. He will present the highlights of the changes to the EAB around that time.

### New Business

There was general discussion about the hybrid format (using both Teams and in-person) of the EAB, and it was agreed by all that this format worked well and will be used at the next meeting.

Future meeting topics were discussed, including the topic of microplastics. This was studied at the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center. Matt agreed to follow up with that topic idea.

### Adjourn:

Meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm