

HARFORD COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD

APPROVED MEETING SUMMARY – February 15th, 2022

Members Present: Sally LaBarre, Jackie Koehn, Lynn Davis, Michael Charlton, Tami Imbierowicz, Lynn Faulkner, Paul Gartelmann, Roland Beckman,

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

Public Present: Ms. Pamela Pape-Lindstrom

Welcome

Paul G welcomed Lynn and our guest Ms. Pamela Pape-Lindstrom.

Review / Approval of January 18th, 2022 Meeting Summary

A motion to approve the January 18th meeting summary was made. The motion was seconded; the Board unanimously approved the meeting summary.

Harford County Tree Canopy Assessment, Ms. Emily Wiggans, Chesapeake Conservancy

Emily began by giving a brief overview of the project, since this project was previously briefed on it 6 months ago. The main objective of the study is to assess how the County's tree canopy has changed, where it has changed, the best places to target for planting new trees, and how the County is fairing with it's 2% increase goal that was stated in the 2016 HarfordNEXT plan.

Comparing 2013 to 2018, Harford County has had a net loss of 138 acres of tree canopy. Agricultural areas in the county have had modest gains in tree canopy, while there were declines of canopy in the development envelope (industrial, commercial, and residential zoned areas).

The final report is scheduled to be delivered to the County at the end of this March. Additionally, a web-based map viewer will be available to the public to show the various data layers.

Paul G. asked if there was a health assessment of the forests in the County. Emily responded that a forest health assessment was not part of this study, but health was examined in another study that is being completed for the State. Roland asked if ash trees were assessed in the loss, due to the recent ash borer problem. Emily responded that it was not, but certainly could be a factor of some of the loss. Sally asked about how Harford compares to other counties, Emily responded that from her recent analysis, Harford is fairing quite well compared to other counties. Michael asked about the tracking of forest conservation easements and mentioned that younger planting areas may not be showing up. Emily agreed about the younger trees not being picked up, and Matt said that all new forest conservation areas that are being platted are being tracked in the County GIS.

Departmental Updates

Jeff Schoenberger stated that the C. Milton Wright stream restoration project will be completed later this week. He also reported that at the February 8th Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day, 79 customers came and deposited 4.4 tons of waste at that event.

Mr. Magness announced that there are various “Day of Service Opportunities” in 2022. On April 5th, Harford County Parks and Recreation are offering invasive/noxious weed removal opportunities at Eden Mill and a few other County parks. Details can be found on the County’s webpage. He also mentioned a Harford Land Trust park-cleanup on April 22, 2022, at Perryman Woods.

Mr. John Resline reported that last year’s cyberattack of the State’s Health Department has continued to impact his office. He also reported that wet-season perc tests still have not begun due how dry the County has been. It is hoped that these tests can begin soon, since this is the normal time of year that the Department can complete those tests.

Mr. Kropp stated that the County will have its annual Arbor Day planting at the Scarboro Waste Disposal Center on April 15th, 2022. The event is “rain or shine” and will plant trees that were unsuccessful previously many years ago at a previous Arbor Day planting.

New Business

Paul thanked Tami for her years of membership on the EAB and welcomed Pamela as a prospective EAB member.

Adjourn:

Meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm