

HARFORD COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD

APPROVED MEETING SUMMARY – April 19th, 2022

Members Present: Sally LaBarre, Jackie Koehn, Lynn Davis, Michael Charlton, Pamela Pape-Lindstrom, Lynn Faulkner, Paul Gartelmann, Dennis Kirkwood

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

Welcome

Paul G welcomed the EAB, which most of the members were attending through Teams.

Review / Approval of March 15th, 2022 Meeting Summary

A motion to approve the March 15th meeting summary was made. The motion was seconded; the Board unanimously approved the meeting summary.

Harford County Critical Area Code and Program Update – Mr. Joel Gallihue, Chief Long Range Planning, Harford County Department of Planning and Zoning

Mr. Gallihue explained that the State of Maryland has recently updated the State's tidal wetlands and shorelines throughout the State. The previous tidal wetland maps are from 1973. Changes to shorelines and tidal wetland boundaries have made small changes to the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area, which is measured 1000' from tidal wetlands and shoreline areas.

Mr. Gallihue gave an overview of the 3 land use designations in the Critical Area (Intensely Developed Areas, Limited Development Areas, and Resource Conservation Areas). He then showed slides of the areas that have had slight changes. He explained that State has notified all the affected property owners in the County, and that there was a public meeting.

Mr. Gallihue explained how the Critical Area Code has also been changed to follow the State's Model Ordinance. Definitions were updated, violation procedures were streamlined, fee-in-lieu, and mitigation rates were updated or simplified.

Harford County 2022 Hazard Mitigation Plan Update -Mr. Matt Kropp, Dept. of Planning and Zoning & Mrs. Linda Ploener, Dept. of Emergency Services

Mrs. Ploener explained how Harford County is due to update the current Hazard Mitigation Plan by July 2022. This is a multi-jurisdictional plan that includes the three municipalities. To remain in good standing, and to be eligible for disaster assistance and any federal disaster related grants, the local jurisdiction must have an approved Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Mrs. Ploener summarized the timeline of the update of the Plan, which began back in January of 2021. There were many rounds of meetings with all appropriate Departments and Agencies, including MDEM. COVID-19 limited direct public engagement; however, attempts were still made by having a booth at Bel Air's Comprehensive Plan Update meeting and discussing the Plan update with the public.

Mr. Kropp explained how the County reviewed the State's recently updated 2021 Hazard Mitigation Plan and updated the County's hazards and reviewed the County's ability to respond. Over the last 5 years, COVID-19 (Public Health Emergency) has been the major new challenge. Extreme temperatures and Soil Movement have been added for Harford County. New planning and regulatory programs have been included (Nuisance Flood Plan, Green Infrastructure Plan, and Dual Bridge Closure Plan). EAB members discussed the growing importance of extreme weather events.

Mr. Kropp wrapped up the presentation by discussing the County's Floodplain Management Program, and the mitigation efforts that continue. The County has been very successful in targeting repetitive loss properties for acquisition/demolition. In May of 2019, a repetitive loss property on Conowingo Road was successfully mitigated with a HMGP grant. The County continues its participation in the Community Rating System (CRS) which rewards citizens with discounted flood insurance due to enhanced outreach and regulations at the County level.

Departmental Updates

Jeff Schoenberger reported that the Arbor Day Tree Planting that was held on April 15th was a success. He stated that there will be a Household Hazardous Waste and Document Shredding on May 7th at Scarboro.

Mr. Magness reported that the new 1.2 segment of the Ma and Pa trail, that connects Williams Street and the new parking lot at North Avenue, will officially open Saturday April 23rd. The final 1.6-mile segment between North Avenue and Blake's Venture in Forest Hill is expected to be completed sometime in 2024.

Mr. John Resline reported that the Health Department is scheduling Spring Rabies Vaccination Clinics on Sunday April 24 at Susquehanna Hose Company, and Sunday May 1 at Aberdeen VFD, and Jarrettsville VFC. He also stated that wet-season perc tests have finally started.

Mr. Gallihue reported that the Baltimore Metropolitan Council has begun a study to look at improving bike/pedestrian accessibility between Aberdeen and Havre de Grace. There is also a study to identify a trail connection between the Harford Community College and the Ma and Pa.

New Business

Matt stated that the EAB has previously provided review / comment on the Critical Area Code and Program during past revisions and updates. The Department would like to have a similar review and letter for this update.

Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm