

Howard County Environmental Sustainability Board

Draft Minutes – February 11, 2016

7pm-9pm, Robinson Nature Center, Columbia, MD

Attendees	Association
Olivia Farrow	ESB
Tom Paxton	ESB
Betsy Singer	ESB
Catherine Strawley	ESB
Chein-Chi Chang	ESB
Cathy Hudson	ESB
Kelly Hensing	ESB
John Dove	ESB
Ed Wilson	ESB
Jim Caldwell	OCS
Lindsay DeMarzo	OCS
Bill Mahoney	OCS
Elissa Reineck	OCS

7:05pm – Acting Chair Cathy Hudson welcomed the board and initiated a round of introductions for the benefit of new board member Kelly Hensing. Kelly owns a small Farm in Dayton, MD. She will replace Cathy on the board but Mark Southerland will Cathy’s position of Vice Chair.

7:15 - The Board was asked by the Department of Recreation and Parks (DRP) to give feedback on their Pesticide Use Policy, especially as it relates to the use of neonicotinoids. The board found the policy to be generally prohibitive of neonicotinoids and that the level of prohibition was probably appropriate, though they have some feedback for DRP.

Noting that an exception exists, permitting the use of neonicotinoids on DRP properties that are leased by farmers, the board requests to find out how many acres of HC parks are in agriculture.

The board suggested that the policy be forwarded to the Department of Public Works in order for them to consider adopting the policy, though their use of pesticides is somewhat less frequent than DRPs.

The board also suggested that part of the policy could be an increased commitment to habitat uplift for pollinators in HC parks, recognizing that these efforts already exist but could be expanded upon.

7:50 – Betsy Singer briefed the Board on some of the environmental bills being considered this legislative season in Annapolis.

8:15 – Directors Report – Jim Caldwell, OCS Director

- Jim has been going to meetings with local stormwater administrators to discuss the potential benefits of nutrient trading in order to drive down the cost of complying with the Clean Water Act.
- The County is creating an Agriculture Subcabinet which will include people from outside of the County government.
- Lindsay DeMarzo is moving forward with the Patrick Farm project.
- Jim and James Zoller met with the Horizon Foundation and received a commitment to continue to fund the program for the next 3 years, at their current level of support. James is looking into creating a non-profit to accept donations to the Roving Radish. The program is jumping from 150 to 200 meals per week this year.
- The Energy Task Force continues to meet and an internal energy group is going to convene to discuss actions that can be taken by the County to reduce energy use and develop cost savings.