

Howard County Environmental Sustainability Board Meeting
Robinson Nature Center - Columbia, MD
December 14, 2017
7pm-9pm

Attendees

Chris Tsien	ESB
Kelly Hensing	ESB
John Dove	ESB
Christine Conn	ESB
Joanne Heckman	Sierra Club
Mark Southerland	ESB
Bill Mahoney	OCS
Betty Decker	SSMD
Carolyn Parsa	SSMD
Chein-Chi Chang	ESB
Olivia Farrow	ESB
Julie Costantino	OCS
Matt Hoover	OCS
Nancy McAllister	ESB
Ed Wilson	ESB
Elliott Campbell	MDNR

Summary

7:09 PM – Mark opened the meeting and had everyone introduce themselves.

7:15 PM – Elliott Campbell from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources started his presentation on Accounting for Maryland’s Ecosystem Services. Ecosystem Services are “benefits gained by people from the environment.”

He gave an outline of the topic which included Ecosystem Services, history of changing land-use in Maryland, accounting for Ecosystem Services methodology, and results and applications. Ecosystem Services consist of Provisioning Services, Regulating Services, Cultural Services and Supporting Services.

He displayed a map of landcover from 2010 which had stats from 1973 and 2010. In 1973 Maryland landcover was 45% forest, 40% agriculture, and 10% impervious and in 2010 it was 42% forest, 33% agricultural and 22% impervious. Land-use change from 1973 to 2010 created a loss of \$16 billion in natural capital value.

Accounting for Maryland's Ecosystem Services uses established models from USGS, USFS, MD DNR, US EPA to quantify the ecosystem services. It assigns a dollar value to individual ecosystem services, by using the "eco-price" methodology. Ecosystem services currently considered are air quality improvement, carbon sequestration, groundwater recharge and surface water protection, nitrogen removal, wildlife habitat and biodiversity, and stormwater mitigation. He displayed slides of each individual ecosystem's eco-price for the state of Maryland.

- Air Pollution Removal \$149 Million per year
- Carbon Sequestration \$271 Million per year
- Groundwater Recharge \$1.26 billion per year
- Surface Water Protection Benefits \$247 Million per year
- Nitrogen Uptake \$402 Million per year
- Wildlife Habitat and Biodiversity \$2.6 Billion per year
- Flood Prevention and Stormwater Mitigation Benefits \$3.1 billion per year
- Agricultural Benefits \$1.75 Billion per year
- Ecosystem Services total \$8 billion per year in Maryland

This application can be used for considering ecosystem value when selecting investments and evaluating a return on investments such as conservation, restoration, tradeoffs with Green and Grey Infrastructure and Climate Change mitigation strategies.

Next steps include creating a Chesapeake Bay ecosystem value, finalizing an online tool for the public to calculate ecosystem services, collaboration with partners at larger and smaller scales, analyze DNR programs effects on ecosystem services and analyze climate change scenarios for their impacts on ecosystem services.

For more information regarding ecosystem services you can visit:

<http://dnr.maryland.gov/ccs/Pages/Ecosystem-Services.aspx> .

7:45 PM – Bill gave an update on outreach efforts for Howard County's Green Infrastructure Network. A major piece of this outreach will be PowerPoint presentations to different stakeholder groups about the value of ecosystem services and the importance of keeping healthy habitat hubs connected to one another, via a Green Infrastructure Network, to preserve ecosystem services.

The purpose of the Green Infrastructure Network is to preserve and enhance a network of the most ecologically valuable lands in Howard County. This network of ecologically valuable lands benefits plants, animals, and other organisms, but also benefits humans through health, economic, and quality of life impacts.

Bill presented a version of his PowerPoint presentation, which will be modified to be relevant to the specific stakeholder groups he presents to. OCS will also work with the Robinson Nature Center and other local resources so they can reach a wider public audience. OCS and MDNR expressed interest in a cooperative effort to assess the value of Ecosystem Services within Howard County's Green Infrastructure Network.

8:36 PM – Mark explained Tim Lattimer’s idea of Sustainable Convergence which was presented in November’s meeting. He asked everyone to review the presentation that was sent out to the board.

8:40 PM – Chris spoke about Walk Howard which has sustainability goals in it. The idea is to reduce internal combustion transportation needs by increasing walking trails. The focus is in more urbanized areas to improving access to walking trails. The vision is to have a connected pedestrian network that is safe and convenient.

8:45 PM – Mark stated the proponents of the proposed Howard County Bikeway requested the board’s support for the plan. The board decided that the best way to show its support is by drafting a letter.

Possible Spring Field Trips include:

- Oxford Square
- Opti Field trip

Mark advised that Antony Justin, of Howard Hughes, is going to present his bird friendly study during January’s board meeting. There is a bill being authored to propose a few small changes to the HC Green Neighborhoods Program which includes adding a credit for bird safe building.

Mark went over the attendance of the last couple board meetings. He stressed the importance of having a good turnout and wanted to know how it could be improved. Mark reviewed the Howard County policy of attendance with the board.

John, Chris and Christine advised that they are certified to meet the board’s requirements regarding the Open Meetings Act.

9:00 PM – Meeting Adjourned