

Howard County Environmental Sustainability Board Meeting  
Robinson Nature Center, Columbia MD  
5/12/16  
7-9pm

#### Attendees

Name	Affiliation
Jim Irvin	DPW Director
Chris Tsien	ESB
Tom Paxton	ESB
Olivia Farrow	ESB
Mark Southerland	ESB
Georgia Eacker	ESB
Ned Tillman	ESB
Ed Wilson	ESB
Catherine Strawley	ESB
Betsy Singer	ESB
Kelly Hensing	ESB
Jim Caldwell	OCS
Bill Mahoney	OCS

#### Minutes

7:05pm

Chair Ned Tillman started the meeting by welcoming guest Jim Irvin, Director of HC Department of Public Works.

Mr. Irvin spoke about sustainability issues that related to the work of DPW, including but not limited to:

- The need for increased public education on issues such as the food waste program, yard waste collection protocol, and the availability of opportunities for the public to provide input into county planning.
- Road salt and the County's plan to rebuild the truck tracking system to help monitor salt application.
- The Complete Streets Program, noting that there is a 15 minute presentation available. Several board members expressed interest in inviting the appropriate person to deliver that presentation at a future meeting.
- DPW's imminent hiring of a contractor to do indoor air quality testing for at least 2 schools. The results of this work can be presented to the ESB's Mold Task Force when reports are produced.

In response to the ESB Chair asking how the ESB can best assist DPW with sustainability challenges and initiatives, Mr. Irvin outlined the 3 following challenges:

- 1) Stormwater Management Funding – Howard County needs to figure out how to drive down program costs which will include finding creative solutions to streamline permitting processes.
- 2) Zero waste initiatives – This concept has many practical challenges. Howard County made much more money on recycling in the past but the market for recyclable materials has significantly changed. There may be value in accepting a near zero waste movement since cleaning up the last 10% of waste may be as expensive as cleaning up the first 90%.
- 3) Water and sewer – There is currently no great solution for disposing of bio solids. MD regulations make spreading bio solids difficult in some instances. There exists potential to increase the amount of effluent that could be reused for cooling and irrigation systems.

8:00 pm

The Board discussed which reports should be reviewed by the Mold Task Force and began preliminary conversations about what the appropriate level of detail should be in the Task Force's report to the County Council.

8:40 pm

Director's report:

Elissa Reineck is taking over staffing duty for Energy Task Force due to the original staffer having accepted employment outside of the County.

Progress on the Patrick Farm stream restoration project has slowed due to concerns about overlapping easements.

Roving Radish will begin the last week of May. This year boasts two new pick up locations, an increased number of kits per week and the launch of an effort to source veggies and proteins from local producers to local restaurants, which will require some sort of a certification on behalf of the restaurants who want to advertise that they are selling local food through this program.

The stormwater contractors for nonprofit property project are moving forward. A variety of projects and upgrades should lead to credit for 34 acres of treated impervious surface.

READY is now doing maintenance on 27 County properties.

RainScapes has 159 participants treating 2.7 acres and has paid 82k in reimbursements.

9:00pm

Meeting Adjourned

---