

Meeting Minutes
 Howard County Environmental Sustainability Board
 Howard Building – Ellicott City, MD
 7-9 PM
 August 25, 2016

Name	Affiliation
Betsy Singer	ESB
Georgia Eacker	ESB
Chris Tsien	ESB
Ed Wilson	ESB
Mark Southerland	ESB
Ned Tillman	ESB
John Dove	ESB
Kelly Hensing	ESB
Paul Lin	ESB Student Representative
Chein-Chi-Chang	ESB
Olivia Farrow	ESB
Jim Caldwell	OCS
Bill Mahoney	OCS
Elissa Reineck	OCS
Sara Good-Chanmugam	OCS Student Intern
Joel Hurewitz	Public
Rich Scissor	Public
Cheryl Arney	Public
Marco Kathuria	Public

7:00 pm

Board Chair Ned Tillman welcomed the meeting attendees and introduced new Board member Paul Lin who is the new student representative. Each attendee then briefly introduced themselves.

One of the guests, Joel Hurewitz, reported that he has submitted a letter to ESB regarding noise issues at Merriweather and that he has a meeting with County Council staff on Sept 20th. Another guest, Marco Lathuria said that he is looking into the Ellicott City flood as a potential case study.

7:10 pm

The board discussed the appropriate response to CR31-2016, the County Council’s request for ESB to review indoor air quality studies done for HCPSS.

Chris Tsien summarized what is in the mold report that was recently obtained from the DPW consultant. He suggested that as a follow up, we find out if there are DPW or other County representatives such as from the Health Department or their consultants that ESB should talk to.

Jim Caldwell agreed that OCS would follow up on finding out if there are other people ESB should talk to in order to gather more information. Jim also pointed out that it would be good to have data from a

control or other reference point besides just the schools in the report. The report has no comparison with other buildings, including homes, that people occupy on a regular basis.

Ned Tillman pointed out that national averages might also be a helpful comparison.

The group agreed that more time is needed to review the report, follow up with these questions and produce a report to County Council. Ned will request a one month extension.

7:30 pm

Bill Mahoney presented information about the Green Infrastructure Network. The PowerPoint covered background information about GIN and the concept of ecosystem services. Bill is trying to build a concise presentation explaining GIN using factors that will appeal to a wider audience. Money, health and quality of life may resonate with more people than environmental factors only.

Bill presented background information on different studies that have been done to quantify the monetary value of ecosystem services. It is a difficult task, but there have been some efforts to quantify the value of wetlands, forests, biodiversity, pest control and more. Bill used the example of the connection between the invasive plant Japanese Barberry with Lyme's disease to show how balanced ecosystems have better health outcomes than unbalanced ecosystems.

Bill asked for help and leads on the best way to communicate the benefits of GIN and making the data relevant to Howard County.

Feedback from the Board included:

- What is the "ask"? What action do you want as the result of the education?
- What are the resources available for the project?
- Use pictures, stories and statistics.
- Some people will respond to stories, some to numbers.

8:00 pm

Jim Caldwell presented preliminary information about what has been learned so far about the Ellicott City flood on July 30th. Jim showed a map of the watershed and described the hypotheses of what happened in each of the 4 tributaries leading to downtown Ellicott City.

The information is largely anecdotal at this point. There are plans to have consultants run models of certain parts of the watershed related to the flood.

8:30 pm

The Board reviewed the winter 2015 ESB recommendations to the Howard County Administration. Jim reviewed the four major points that were in the recommendations.

Agriculture: Roving Radish is going well and doing close to 300 kits per week. More grants may be sought to support the subsidized meal kits. The Horizon Foundation is helping the program set up a

non-profit that will be able to accept grants. Other agriculture ideas will be explored after the Roving Radish season is over.

Energy: The Energy Task Force will wrap up and submit a report by December 2016. Each sub-committee is preparing draft recommendations. The PACE program was put in place since the 2015 recommendations.

Water Quality: Jim has been involved in meetings regarding the possibility of nutrient trading in Maryland. Jim also reported that the Patrick Farm project received the needed easement approval from the MALPH board and the project can move forward.

Green Infrastructure: Bill's presentation covered most of the efforts so far. ESB was instrumental in getting GIN started. Now the next step of education is underway.

8:50 pm

Ned Tillman began closing the meeting and asked if any Board Members had other items to report:

Georgia Eacker reported that the Watershed Stewards Academy was starting in early September. Georgia also said that Leadership Howard County has chosen WSA as a project this year. They will help with promotion and marketing.

Mark Southerland reported that the Commercial Stormwater Solutions group was going well and having good discussions.

There will be no September meeting since the usual September date is only two weeks away. The group will meet on October 13th at the Robinson Nature Center, 7-9pm.
