

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

Attendees

Name	Affiliation
Matt Hoover	OCS
Elissa Reineck	OCS
Christie Conn	ESB
Jim Caldwell	OCS
Sonia He	Public
Paul Lin	ESB
Georgia Eacker	ESB
Mark Southerland	ESB
Kelly Hensing	ESB
Ed Wilson	ESB
Tom Paxton	ESB
Chris Tsien	ESB
Mike Naylor	DNR
Nancy McAllister	ESB

Summary

7:05pm

Mark opened up the meeting and gave the floor to Mike Naylor from DNR. Mike started out by passing around a water chestnut which is a current issue DNR is facing. Mike has been with DNR since 1994 and has worked various jobs within the Department, such as diving in the Patuxent River, accounting and working on the oyster program. He is currently working on the aquatic invasive species. Mike stated that 42% of endangered species are due to invasive species and stated many problems are due to water quality.

He gave a brief history of the Water Chestnut that initially started in 1859. In 1923 there was a two acre patch in the Potomac River and by 1933 10,000 acres were estimated in the Potomac. He stated that it is currently returning in places that they were eliminated in the 50's and 60's.

Mike advised of an issue of Zebra Mussels spreading extremely rapidly. He stated within two years they spread through all of the Great Lakes.

DNR just completed a plan for Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). They are doing a MD lakes survey to assess AIS distribution. They have enacted an internal policy to decontaminate any gear or vehicles used, after a job is completed. DNR is communicating the clean, drain, and dry message to educate

boaters. They are trying to update their warning signs so the issue will be more clearly stated and posted.

His goal with Howard County

- 1) Education – Signage
- 2) Prevent the use of live bait
- 3) Remove boat ramps or adopt boat policy similar to Baltimore County.
 - a. In Baltimore County you can't use a boat in other water for that year.

He wants to raise awareness in Howard County of the issue of invasive species.

AIS introduction – How some invasive species get into our waterways.

- Live bait trade
- Aquarium trade
- Fish stocking
- Water gardening
- Research & monitoring
- Live sea food
- Religious practices

Mike mentioned that a current issue is with Hydrilla which has benefits and costs to different users. He stated that once an aquatic invasive species is entered into the state that there is no real way to stop it. Mark also mentioned that AIS is hard to control in the area because of online sellers on E-Bay and other types of online markets. Mark stressed that education is the biggest key to prevention.

7:44pm

Mark gave an update on the Bikeway Plan and advised that the County Executive Allan Kittleman supports the plan. He also let the board know that Allan Kittleman also supports the Energy Task Force recommendations and supports the recommendation of a full time Energy Manager position within the county.

7:47pm

The topic of Downtown Columbia was brought up. A new glass building is being built and there is a concern of bird strikes. Mark had the idea of forming something like Lights Out Baltimore which is an organization of the Baltimore Bird Club striving to make the city safe for migratory birds. Nancy is going to present to the bird club the idea of volunteers to complete a survey regarding bird strikes.

7:58pm

Paul Lin and Sonia He presented an idea to have a Howard County Environmental Symposium for HC High School students to attend. The objective of the conference is to have a better grasp of environmental knowledge, networking between students and schools, and to highlight environmental achievements. The event is going to be held on 4/20/17 with a time to be determined. The goal is to have thirty to fifty Howard County high school students attend the symposium.

Power Point Spectrum activity – Provide students a better grasp of environmental knowledge, practice and activism.

Rotating stations/Potential booths

- READY
- Sierra Club
- Robinson Nature Center
- Chesapeake Natives
- MD Association of Outdoor Education
- Howard County Conservancy
- Patapsco Heritage
- NASA

School Projects – Rotating Stations 2

- Provide Inspiration and models for environmental projects at school
 - Wants to implement on-line books for this

School Projects – Rotation Stations 3

- Student Speakers
 - Invite student leaders to speak

Post Conference/Long Term Goals

- Encourage cross-school collaborations
- Contact lists
 - Head of Environmental group student leaders
 - Teachers
- Written accords
 - Stating the county collaboration

- Seeking for help
 - Internship and volunteer opportunities

The reason they presented this to ESB is because they are looking for a potential keynote speaker recommendations and publicity for the event.

They are going to create a team of students from all high schools and no specific organization is going to run it. They are going to have information and forms on google drive so they can be updated periodically. Mark liked the idea of the Symposium and the ESB decided they would help promote the event.

8:24pm

Jim advised there were thirteen separate proposals for the EC Master Plan. He also stated development regulation is going to be discussed at a number of public input meetings next month.

8:27pm

Mark went over ideas for the 2016 Annual Report Summary and started a discussion to find out what the group thought should be included in it.

8:45pm

Director's Report

The Ellicott City Staircase received the BUBBA award.

There will be a 20 minute clean-up on 4/20/17 and on 4/19/17 Allan Kittleman is going to start the clean-up and issue a challenge.

The Chesapeake Bay Trust has issued all HC grants to local groups for a total of 165k.

Septic Savers has been started and so far has twenty-two participants.

On 4/29 Rachel Beebe from the Office of Community Sustainability is going to have a Rain Gardens for Clean Water tour. The tour will highlight a few community members that have participated in Rain Gardens for Clean Water (formerly CleanScapes Communities) and had a rain garden put on their property. They will show off their rain gardens and answer questions regarding the installation and the continued maintenance of the rain gardens.

Roving Radish is going to start back up on 4/20/17 and will offer two vegetarian meals, along with the two standard meals each week. He advised that the meals can't be mixed and matched, but if someone wanted to they could purchase both types of kits.

In the middle of May the Howard County Farms website is going to be introduced.

Howard EcoWorks will be a 501C3 starting 7/1 and will house the READY program.

OCS put in three grant applications to DNR:

- Patrick Farm
- Bump Out – Patapsco River Road
- Bio-Retention Center

8:55 pm

Meeting Adjourned