

Held on-line and by phone through Webex  
Meeting login info: ([Webex info](#))

November 12, 2020  
7pm-9pm

### Attendees

Christine Conn	Environmental Sustainability Board (ESB)
Ann Strozyk	ESB
Olivia Farrow	ESB
Kelly Hensing	ESB
Chris Tsien	ESB
Nancy McAllister	ESB
Amber Butler	ESB
Brooke Abercrombie	ESB
Larry Liebesman	ESB
Josh Feldmark	Office of Community Sustainability (OCS)
Lindsay DeMarzo	OCS
Ashley Traut	Greater Baltimore Wilderness Coalition (GBWC)
Kim Drake	Columbia Association Climate Change Committee
Mark Southerland	Guest
Matthew Hoover	OCS
Marissa Olszewski	Rec & Parks: Robinson Nature Center
Kevin Porter	Guest

### Minutes

7:04 PM – Ms. Conn began the meeting and had everyone who was in attendance introduce themselves.

**1.) Greater Baltimore Wilderness Area Partnership (GBWC): Lindsay DeMarzo (OCS) and Ashley Traut ([GBWC](#))**

Mr. Traut gave a background of the [GBWC](#). They started in 2015 and it involves seven counties and Baltimore City. They are led by a senior advisor coordinator and a fifteen-member steering committee.

Ms. DeMarzo advised that Howard County's OCS and the GBWC received a grant to triple the rate of tree planting over the next three years. They are going to use current green infrastructure plans and GBWC's resiliency map to identify sites. Their goal is to increase trees planted from 2500 to 7500 in Howard County. Please click [here](#) for more information.

**2.) Meeting Minutes – September 10, 2020 & October 8, 2020**

September 10, 2020 Meeting Minutes vote. No changes or corrections. Mr. Liebesman motioned to approve, and it was seconded by Ms. McAllister. All members in attendance approved the September 10, 2020 Meeting Minutes.

October 8, 2020 Meeting Minutes vote. No changes or corrections. Ms. Farrow motioned to approve, and it was seconded by Ms. Strozyk. All ESB members in attendance approved the October 8, 2020 Meeting Minutes.

**3.) Director's Report – Office of Community Sustainability: Josh Feldmark**

Mr. Feldmark advised that they have started the work groups for the two resiliency projects that they received grants for from MEA. One project is combined heat and power at the detention center and the other is a microgrid at the George Howard Complex. Please click [here](#) for more information about the projects.

The Howard County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) now have half a dozen trained Climate Change Professionals, including the director.

A draft of the Forest Con Manual has been released. It is up for review and they had a presentation last week. It will probably go before the Howard County Council in January or February.

**4.) Committee Updates**

A sub-committees list was sent out to the Board and the list was shared during the meeting. The board reviewed the list and updated it. It was asked that each committee come up with a mission statement. A couple goals of the discussing the committee list was to give ESB members the opportunity to join a committee and to give Howard County residents the opportunity to join a committee too.

Legislative Committee update – The Howard Community College and ESB are going to host its Annual Legislative Breakfast. It will be held on January 12, 2021 from 8:00am to 9:30am.

Diversity & Equity committee – They have had a couple meetings and have been focused on figuring out what they want to do. They are planning on having meetings once a month. A couple objectives so far are figuring out how to engage more diverse communities in environmental sustainability issues and how to get resources to communities that are underserved by nature, food, energy and other sustainability resources. They are discussing the possibility of having some type of forum in the Spring.

Resiliency committee – They have had a couple meetings and plan on having monthly virtual meetings. Their focus right now is on gathering and analyzing information on resiliency in Howard County. A couple areas they are focusing on right now is on stress populations and low-income populations that are facing threats.

**5.) Announcements**

Ms. Farrow gave an update on the Planning Advisory Committee. She stated they were doing their own little focus groups and they are providing feedback.

Ms. McAllister spoke to Curtis Bennett, the Director of Equity and Community Engagement for the National Aquarium, and he advised her he is willing to meet with the ESB during a future meeting.

It was advised that Ms. Verghis's term ended in May and they need a new student representative. Mr. Feldmark advised that an interested student should submit a letter of interest and a resume'.

Mr. Liebesman advised of a November 20<sup>th</sup> webinar Ms. Conn will be involved with. It is a panel of four and it is sponsored by Climate X the Climate Exchange. Ms. Conn is going to talk about Maryland's work in the Green Infrastructure Network (GIN). Here is a [link](#) of the recorded seminar.

The Maryland Water Monitoring Counsel will have their annual conference virtually on Dec 3 and 4<sup>th</sup>. The theme is Clean Waters, Healthy Humans: The Environmental Prescriptions. ([Link](#))

Ms. Drake advised that Columbia Association Climate Committee has a couple openings and they are looking for people interested. She said to let her know if they know of anybody or any organization that would be interested.

Meeting adjourned at 8:39pm