

Howard County Environmental Sustainability Board Meeting  
Robinson Nature Center – Columbia, MD  
November 8, 2018  
7pm-9pm

### Attendees

Jim Caldwell	OCS
Olivia Farrow	ESB
Ann Strozyk	ESB
Georgia Eacker	ESB
Nancy McAllister	ESB
Carolyn Parsa	SSMD/Sierra Club
Mark Southerland	ESB
Bob Marietta	HCC
Beth Decker	MAEOE
Matthew Hoover	OCS

### Minutes

7:13 PM – Mark Southerland started the meeting and began a discussion on road salt. This was brought up, because Georgia Eacker attended a salt presentation at the Watershed Improvement Network (WIN) meeting. About 50% of salt is generated by people and businesses who are not under the government. Many places that apply salt are privately owned businesses that are trying to clear parking lots and sidewalks, so their businesses are not affected during snowstorms. The counties are getting trained by the state highways on how to apply salt more efficiently. Some of the issues with salt is that it corrodes and in rural areas they have had high salt content in drinking wells. Mark wants to know if anyone wants to research road salt. Some board members are interested in researching it, but with other obligations they can't commit to it now. Mark advised that the board will revisit this topic at a future meeting.

7:26 PM – Beth Decker from the Maryland Association for Environmental & Outdoor Education (MAEOE) was introduced by Mark. Beth currently manages Project Learning Tree for MAEOE. MAEOE is the leading organization for environmental education. In 1999 MAEOE started the formal recognition of the Green Schools. MAEOE Mission statement: *"The Maryland Association of Environmental and Outdoor Education encourages, engages, and empowers our community to understand, responsibly use and promote the natural world."*

Beth went over the Green School application. It has three parts, which are Systemic Sustainability, Student Driven Sustainable Practices and Community Partnerships. Systemic Sustainability includes such things as environmental education and professional development. Some Student Driven Sustainable practices are water conservation, energy conservation and solid waste reduction. Community

Partnerships is the ongoing sustained partnerships with groups that are active in the school. There are over 600 Green Schools in Maryland and Howard County has 51.

Beth mentioned the Maryland Green Center Award, which is a way to recognize and honor a facility's efforts in implementation of environmental design, best management practices and community engagement. Howard County currently has two Green Centers, which are the Howard County Conservancy and the Robinson Nature Center.

Beth went over a workshop that MAEOE conducted in Salisbury at the Ward Museum. She wanted the teachers to have a curriculum and didn't want the conference to be all inside. Maryland Coastal Bays came in and went over their restoration projects. One topic they covered was bird collisions and one of the activities they did was kayaking. She displayed pictures of the children learning inside and outside, which displayed how the education came full circle.

The 2019 MAEOE conference this year is Full Steam Ahead: Expanding the Potential of Environmental Education. The conference will be from February 7<sup>th</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup> and it will be held in Towson. The conference is about preparing kids for the future. For more information regarding MAEOE you can visit their website at <https://maeoe.org/>.

8:06 PM – The Green Award update was provided by Ann Strozyk. Information was sent out to the board regarding the award. Ann wanted to know if there was any feedback and none was provided. It was discussed that the Howard County Conservancy would present the award and partner with the Environmental Sustainability Board (ESB). The award funds are being provided by an anonymous donor. The board asked Jim Caldwell if it would be okay for them to be involved with the award and he stated he doesn't think it would be an issue. The award will be voted on during December's board meeting. If passed, advertising for the award will begin in the spring and Beth from MAEOE offered to help advertise the award.

8:15 PM – The Director's report was provided by Jim Caldwell. He stated there wasn't much new to report because of the change coming on December 3. Howard County will have a new county executive, Calvin Ball, and five new council members. The Ellicott City flood plan has been put on hold, because of the change too. Jim advised that Calvin Ball has mentioned environmental sustainability in his interviews, since winning the election. Jim said he is working with Leah Miller, the Office of Community Sustainability Energy Manager, on a policy for Solar on farms in Howard County.

Mark wants to introduce the board to the council and will contact them to see if he can set up a meeting.

8: 25 PM – Committee updates

The Plastics committee report was provided by Ann. On December 10, they are going to attend a

meeting for the Columbia Association. They currently have some teachers and students involved with the committee.

The Bird Building Collisions committee gave an update. They are focusing on energy efficiency too and are working with a group that creates policies. They met with John Byrd of Howard County Recreation & Parks and he said they wanted to make Bird Building Collisions an initiative.

8:30 PM – Roundtable

Clive Graham from the Department of Transportation is attending a future meeting.

In February of 2019, Mark's board term ends.

Bob Marietta advised that the next new building for Howard Community College will be the Mathletics building and it is supposed to be completed in five years.

8:35 PM – Meeting Adjourned.