

Minutes
Educational Advisory Committee (EAC)
26 February 2018 - 2:00 - 4:00 pm

In Attendance:

Bruce Taliaferro, Education
Ken Fisher, Forestry
Richard Matlick, Property Owner
Gary Shafer, Property Owner
Sarah Duck, Marketing
Gary Aronhalt, Watershed Coordinator
Julie Bortz, DNR/ Administrative Council

Absent:

Willie Lantz, Agriculture
Lauren McCann, Business
Logan Marks, Recreation
Bob Sutton, Property Owner

Welcome /Opening Remarks:

Gary Aronhalt announced that **Willie Lantz, Lauren McCann, and Bob Sutton** reported that they would not be present for the meeting.

Gary Aronhalt announced that the next meeting would also be at the Garrett County Health Department. The speakers will be Steve Sherrard (Garrett County Health Department) and Patrick Hudnall (Garrett County Department of Public Works). The topic will be septic and sewerage systems in Garrett County.

Introductions:

Julie Bortz is a Biologist with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources - Resource Assessment Service. Julie is also represents DNR on the Administrative Council.

Presentations:

Julie Bortz presented a PowerPoint presentation about water quality and biological monitoring efforts conducted by DNR. She stated that DNR's annual monitoring started in 2009 and included only mainstem sites. DNR will maintain 4 mainstem sites, but has now added several nearshore sites. She also explained the use of continuous monitoring equipment in the lake and tributaries. The new equipment will monitor several parameters every 15 minutes. Julie displayed and discussed some of the preliminary results from the monitoring effort. Julie concluded her presentation with a request for feedback from the committee and stakeholders.

Richard Matlick presented a summary of the watershed program in Anne Arundel County. He mentioned that the program has a large budget supported by taxes. He mentioned that the program works with local schools and he was able to attend some events with his grandchildren. He stated that outreach efforts in the Chesapeake Bay Area have led to better public understanding of the issues and what is being done regarding monitoring efforts. He mentioned the availability of outreach materials and referenced the “Science of Stormwater” literature as an example. Richard referenced the wide use of catch ponds around the Bay as a measure to manage stormwater.

Administrative Council Update

Gary Aronhalt stated that there were no updates on the water appropriation permit from MDE. He stated that he had presented a summary of the Administrative Council’s activities in 2017 to the Garrett County Commissioners on 5 February 2018. Julie updated the committee on a new mapping initiative underway at DNR. The new tool will be based on the “Eyes on the Bay” website and should be released soon. She also mentioned an upcoming zebra mussel monitoring plan being prepared at DNR.

Eyes on the Bay website: <http://eyesonthebay.dnr.maryland.gov/>

Gary Aronhalt provided responses to previous questions to the Administrative Council:

Ken Fisher: Can the Administrative Council establish a timeline for their prioritized goals?

Response: The Administrative Council can suggest/ recommend timelines but not establish them. It is up to the agencies that adopted the plan to determine if and when a specific goal is implemented.

Several Volunteers: Can the Administrative Council provide a list of the top 3 priorities?

Response: The goals are in order of highest priority, the top 3 are the first 3.

Meeting Conclusion

Gary Aronhalt stated that the agenda item concerning Real Estate/ Business Outreach would need to be postponed again because the presentations and question/ answer session ran longer than expected.

Questions for the Administrative Council:

Gary Aronhalt asked if there were any questions to be presented to the Administrative Council. There were no questions.

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