

## Meeting Minutes (Draft)

Wicomico County Natural Resources Conservation Advisory Committee – February 8, 2022

Committee: Judith Stribling Alyssa Hastings Jared Parks Aaron Cooper Doug Stephens Will Dyer  
John Groutt Bill McCain Guest: Mark Whitelock Support: Jesse Drewer (Wicomico PZCD)

Previous Minutes were approved.

### **New Business/Invasive Species Funding Updates**

Ms. Stribling directed question to Mr. Whitelock regarding the Weed Coordinator position and the status of filling the position. The applications received did not have what they were looking for and position has been re-posted. The budget also has to be reset; however, once set up the program has the potential for becoming self-sufficient and will not need funding from the County.

Clarification of where the Weed Coordinator will fit into was discussed of whether in the Department of Public Works or Department of Agriculture. Mr. Whitelock shared that the Department of Public Works fulfills the mechanical part by supplying the equipment. The Weed Coordinator role has been more on call in the past. Ms. Stribling posed to the committee that a need for additional funding may be necessary to have an actual Invasive Species Program with strong partnerships as well as someone hired in the role who can also write grants. Helpful to also have a Coordinator who will be able to monitor the PRISM database. The funding allocated will have to be secured to insure available for the position when hired. Ms. Stribling suggested that Mr. Whitelock is added to the next PRISM steering committee meeting on February 17, 2022.

### **Recycling**

Mr. Whitelock reported that the lack of consistency is because most of the labor necessary for plastics was done by ten inmates from E.C.I., but slowed down because of COVID. Recycling is still happening at normal levels with everything else, except plastics. Ms. Hastings shared that Mayor Day is supportive of Delegate Brooke Lierman's legislative bill on producer responsibility for the recycling process. Projected space for the State of Maryland permit landfill is 12 years; expansion space at Brick Kiln Road is approximately 30 years; possible total of 42 years.

### **Invasive Species**

Ms. Stribling suggested a necessity for funding an Invasive Species Program for the County to protect ecosystems. She will contact Mr. Psota with supporting photographs to provide background knowledge. The Federal Government has millions of dollars for such programs, but not enough organization of which department(s) responsible for oversight. Perhaps having an intra jurisdictional program is a possibility for further discussion.

### **Update on Pirates Wharf**

Signs have been developed for a Heritage Trail with historical emphasis. Ms. Stribling noted that similar signs highlighting environmental aspects would be consistent with the Committee's goals for the park.

### **Logo**

Doug Stephens' sister has experience with this and has volunteered to assist. She is working on a logo and has come up with a mission statement.