

Minutes
Educational Advisory Committee (EAC)
25 February 2019 - 1:30 - 3:30 pm

In Attendance:

Ken Fisher, Forestry
Willie Lantz, Agriculture
Lauren McCann, Business
Bruce Taliaferro, Education
Gary Aronhalt, Watershed Coordinator

Absent:

Sarah Duck, Marketing
Richard Matlick, Property Owner
Greg Rouse, Recreation
Gary Shafer, Property Owner
Bob Sutton, Property Owner

Welcome /Opening Remarks:

Gary Aronhalt announced that **Sarah Duck**, **Richard Matlick**, **Greg Rouse**, **Gary Shafer**, and **Bob Sutton** had reported that they would not be present for the meeting.

Administrative Council Update

Gary Aronhalt announced that Jim Torrington, Director of Permits and Inspections, had retired and his department and staff would now fall under the direction of Debbie Carpenter, Director of Planning and Land Management. **Gary** explained that the Comprehensive Plan was on hold due to staffing changes with the County's contractor. A new project manager is in place and progress has resumed. The Sign Committee will present to the Planning Commission on 6 April 2019. **Gary** also announced that there were no students interested in the marketing internship at Frostburg State University. The university will solicit for the intern again during the summer semester. **Gary** announced that the dates for the Brookfield stakeholder meetings were set and the first meeting would occur on 28 February 2019. **Gary** reminded the EAC that Jim George now represents MDE on the Policy and Review Board in addition to the Administrative Council. **Gary** announced that DNR had submitted the zebra mussel report for review and anticipated a release date in mid-March.

Survey:

Gary Aronhalt displayed the survey on the projector screen and distributed **Julie Bortz's** revisions to the EAC. The EAC provided responses to the questions:

- Question 1: The EAC recommended eliminating the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choices for each information source and adding website links for the items listed.
- Question 2: The EAC recommended removing the word “not”. There was discussion regarding residency in adjacent counties and the EAC recommended asking participants to submit the zip code of their primary residence.
- Question 3: The EAC recommended adding the word “watershed” at the end of “Deep Creek Lake”. The EAC recommended adding categories for “Environmental Issues”, “Recreational Activities”, and “Property Information”. Environmental Issues would include Water Quality, Fish Monitoring, Aquatic Vegetation, and Shoreline Erosion. Recreational Opportunities would include Boating Regulations and Access. Property Information would include Real Estate and Buffer Strip Regulations.
- Question 4: No suggestions
- Question 5: No suggestions
- Question 6: The EAC suggested adding an additional question asking which seasons visitors come to Garrett County.
- Question 7: The EAC suggested adding “Own Property” to the response choices and removing the text “If you do not own property in Garrett County”.
- Question 8: No suggestions
- Question 9: The EAC recommended adding the word “watershed” at the end of “Deep Creek Lake”.
- Question 10: The EAC recommended adding the word “watershed” at the end of “Deep Creek Lake”. There was also some discussion whether this question was needed.

The EAC asked for an explanatory paragraph to advise respondents how the information would be used and why the Administrative Council was conducting the survey. **Gary Aronhalt** stated that the email entry option will need to be relocated to another location on the site in order to ensure that responses are confidential.

Outreach Proposal:

Gary Aronhalt distributed a sample outreach planning document. The committee suggested waiting for the survey results before planning outreach and education objectives.

Meeting Conclusion:

Gary Aronhalt asked if there were any questions for the Administrative Council. **Willie Lantz** asked **Gary Aronhalt** to clarify the roles and responsibilities of the Educational Advisory Committee. **Gary** stated that the purpose of the Educational Advisory Committee was to provide feedback to the Administrative Council regarding education and outreach.

The meeting was adjourned.

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