
From: roger davis <rdavis11@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, March 24, 2025 3:45 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: resolution 61-2025

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3/24/2025

Dear Council members,

Please do not pass resolution 61-2025. I am writing to convince you to never fund, authorize, or permit another stream restoration. I recommend that you request that Mark Richmond rework his proposed report to MDE by utilizing all the other methods to get mitigation credits other than stream restorations and redo the report and spreadsheets to be readable by the public. I am hoping Mr. Richmond and the Council then agree to a new public hearing on this matter as required by law.

I have heard several of you say that you feel compelled to defer to the experts. I hope to convince you that you can become an expert in stream restorations. I was going to write a long letter detailing the research I have done and my observations but I realized that you would not believe me. I hope you accept my invitation to tour a variety of stream restorations that will teach you to easily spot failures and quickly understand how they are making the Bay and our local environment worse.

One reason I believe that MDE cannot be trusted to honestly evaluate stream restorations is an interaction I had with the MDE Secretary Serena McIlwain. I showed the Secretary a video of a stream restoration contractor in Howard County installing a large rock wall in a stream. The backhoe was digging mud out of the bottom of the stream and dumping the mud in the water. This is illegal and contributes tons of sediment and pollutants to the water. The Secretary's assistant who is an attorney gave me his card and asked that I email him a copy of the video, which I did. I asked him not to give Howard county my name since I have been subjected to years of retribution by the highway department for my criticisms of stream restorations. He agreed and acknowledged receipt of my video. I have never heard back from him and the contractor continued the work for another week. A Howard County engineers truck was there every day I visited. The law requires that the contractor set up a "pump around" during the work so that the work is done in a dry stream bed to avoid pollution. "Pump arounds" are obviously very expensive things to do, so this contractor saved a lot of money.

The Chesapeake Bay Program also cannot be trusted. I was told years ago by a hydrologist from Frostburg that the numbers from the CPB models about how much sediment, nitrogen and phosphorus are removed by stream restorations are "all made up". This was confirmed years later when the CBP's own Inspector General criticized them for claiming improvement to the Bay that was based on their models without data to back it up. Recently the CBP released a major report on why the Bay was not improving after decades of work, the Comprehensive Evaluation of Systemic

Response (CESR). In this 130 page report the phrase “stream restoration” was mentioned two times! The “experts” are asleep at the wheel, or worse they refuse to evaluate one of their most common practices. Please do your own research and do the right thing.

Thank You,

Roger Davis

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From: roger davis <rdavis11@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, March 24, 2025 5:01 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: comments on 3/24/25 worksession and stream restoration

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Dear Councilmembers,

I watched your work session today. At 27:30 Mr. DeLuca says that they are now focusing on pond repairs. In the Southmeadow Ct. project at Centennial Lake there are two separate projects. The larger Project is the repair of the large pond that feeds directly into Centennial Lake. The other part of the project which I object to is a dry pond that is located up the hill from the large wet pond. This dry pond receives stormwater from Southmeadow Ct. and a swale behind the houses on that street. This pond has not been maintained so the overflow device has for years allowed any rainwater that enters this pond to immediately drain out which has caused an eroded gully to form down the hill from this pond. Instead of fixing this pond which is the ecologically superior practice to reduce the flow of stormwater during storms, the County has chosen to abandon the pond and build a stream restoration in the middle of the length of the pond and continue the stream restoration down the hill to extend the length of the project to get more credits. So now there is a stream restoration where the wasn't even a stream, they call it an ephemeral stream. The county gets rewarded with extra credit for not maintaining and then abandoning a pond that could hold more water than hundreds of rain gardens. It is not too late to have them stop work before they start building the stream restoration.

Thanks,

Roger Davis

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