

COMMISSION ON THE ENVIROMENT MINUTES
Potomac Building
Minutes of January 7, 2009

COE Members present were Barne Wheeler, Chairman; Caroline Miller, Troy Hansen, Judy Gilman, Marta Kelsey, Larry Hartwick, and Susan Blake. Bill Shreve and Daryl Calvano, were absent. Others present were Sue Veith and Paul Waxman.

1. **Call to Order:** Mr. Wheeler called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.
2. **Discussion & Approval of December Meeting Minutes:** A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of December 3, 2008 as presented.
3. **Continuing Business:**
 - 3.1. **Review of Environmental Concern Survey Results:** Mr. Wheeler stated that, with the group's approval, he would have Mr. Burch remove the survey from the website. The group agreed.
 - 3.2. **Discussion of Surveys & Summarization:** Mr. Wheeler explained his analysis of the surveys and submitted his findings. Ms. Blake explained her analysis of the surveys and submitted her findings. Mr. Wheeler stated he likes Ms. Blake's pie chart and stated he would like to see a graphic representation of the findings posted on the COE's web page, accompanied by appropriate supporting text. Ms. Veith recommended one large pie chart with the main topics then show breakout charts for each main topic which states all the individual issues.
 - 3.3. **Survey Conclusions & Follow-Up Actions:** The Commission reviewed the main topics. After discussion the Commission agreed on four (4) main topics: 1) Pollution of our Waterways; 2) Critical Area Concern; 3) Encouraging Low Impact & Sustainable Development; and, 4) Protection & Preservation of Native Species. After further discussion, the inclusion of a 5th category of "Other" was agreed to, which would contain other comments not easily falling into the 1st four. Mr. Wheeler stated after the results are finished being compiled we need to post it to the website and email it to the persons promised. Mr. Wheeler stated the results also need to be forwarded to the Commissioners. Susan Blake volunteered to compile and categorize the results into these five categories and come up with accompanying graphics and text.
 - 3.4. **March 14th COE Forum:**
 - 3.4.1. **Forum's Relationship to Survey:** Mr. Wheeler asked if we should make this survey and its findings part of the forum. After discussion, it was decided to schedule a meeting, after the forum, with the persons who wanted to be a part of this. It was decided to have structured break out sessions to be advertised before hand. Ms. Kelsey stated she would check on the space available at the Higher Education Center to do this.
 - 3.4.2. **Other Details:** Ms. Blake stated a sign is needed this year and that table and chairs were an issue last year. Ms. Veith stated she would take care of the food. Ms. Blake stated she would work on contacting the vendors however she would need to hand this off to someone when she leaves town. Ms. Gilman agreed to work with Ms. Blake. Mr. Hansen stated he would take care of the advertising. It was decided to hold the forum from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Ms. Blake

stated she would look into the banner signs. Ms. Veith stated she would work on the flyer for the forum. It was decided the logo would be 2009 Living Green Expo. It was decided to have door prizes however not as many as last year, the number 6-8 seemed to the group to be the right number being awarded at each half-hour during the forum. Mr. Hartwick stated he would work on the door prizes. Mr. Wheeler said he would see if SMECO would provide two free energy audits. Ms. Veith said she would compile two brochures of how to save by living green. These could be used as two of the prizes.

3.5. LUGM Critical Area Update. Not discussed at this meeting.

3.6. Wind Turbines in Your Neighbor's Yard: Mr. Hartwick stated the Commissioners passed this text amendment December 13, 2008 to allow small wind turbines of 100 feet or less to be allowed in all zoning districts, and that he considered the issue closed.

3.7. Menhaden Status: Mr. Wheeler stated Mr. Calvano had discovered that the envirothon is not the appropriate venue to undertake such a study. Mr. Wheeler recommended that the Menhaden Project be moved to the inactive list for the time being. The group agreed.

3.8. Fluorescent Bulb Disposal Status: Mr. Wheeler stated Mr. Calvano called SMECO and found out that fluorescent bulbs should not be thrown in the regular trash either before or after they burn out. Mr. Hartwick stated Home Depot will take these bulbs for recycling. Mr. Waxman stated this is a perfect example of not thinking things through. Mr. Waxman stated we are encouraging everyone to purchase CFL's however there are very few places to dispose of them. It was the consensus of the Committee to post information on the website pertaining to safely disposing of CFL's. Mr. Wheeler stated he would contact Mr. Tarr regarding the bin for CFL's at the transfer station and report back at the next meeting.

4. New Business:

a. Departure Discussion for Frank Allen & Steve King: Mr. Wheeler asked if the Committee should do something to recognize both members. It was decided to further investigate doing something for both members. Mr. Wheeler said he would undertake an initial investigation into some form of memento, which, if approved, the group decided could be presented at the forum.

b. Cistern, Septic & Solar Initiatives: The group decided to take no action on these items.

5. Announcements: Ms. Veith announced a Saturday meeting regarding Energy in St. Mary's County and a Green Building Series of Classes being held beginning January 12, 2009.

6. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.