

**COMMISSION ON THE ENVIROMENT MINUTES**  
**Commissioners Conference Room**  
**Minutes of March 5, 2008**

COE Members present were Barne Wheeler, Chairman; Marta Kelsey, Troy Hansen, Susan Blake, Sandy Neville, Bill Shreve, Daryl Calvano, Caroline Miller, and Larry Hartwick. Others present were Sue Veith, Keenon James, Michael Wayman, and Paul Waxman. Members absent were Frank Allen.

- I) **Call to Order:** Mr. Wheeler called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.
- II) **Discussion & Approval of February Meeting Minutes:** A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of February 6, 2008 as amended.
- III) **Continuing Business:**
- a. **Business & Other Recycling Issues –** Mr. Wheeler stated this came about because somebody raised the issued that local businesses have no way to recycle. Mr. James, Chairman of St. Mary's County Solid Waste Advisory Committee stated it is cost effective for a commercial business to take garbage to a recycling center. Mr. James stated while we would love to take on every commercial business in the County our primary focus is the small businesses in the County. Mr. James gave an overview of SWAC, County recycling program and operations, County business recycling resources, developing a waste reduction program, recycling for facility operations, and recycling information resources.
- Mr. James stated SWAC is a citizen's advisory group that reviews legislative requirements, critiques the current system, participates in the recycling planning process and makes periodic reports to the Board of County Commissioners on their findings.
- Mr. James stated the County recycling program was established in 1992. Since that time the program has been expanded. Mr. James stated at this time plastics coded 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7; plate glass or mirrors, paint cans or aerosols, carbon paper, soiled food-beverage boxes, milk cartons and restroom waste paper are not currently accepted.
- Mr. James explained County businesses are allowed to bring their recyclables to County convenience centers, as long as the volume is not too great. If a business has a large amount of recyclables it is recommended that the business contract with a commercial service provider, as is currently done by large firms such as Wall Mart, Target, Lowes, etc.
- Mr. James stated to develop a waste reduction program we would target issues like conducting a waste assessment, set waste reduction goals, develop a reuse and recycling plan, educate and train employees and monitor and evaluate the progress. The benefits to business recycling are the enhanced public image, reduced use of landfill space, reduction in solid waste disposal expenditure, and a possible source of revenue.
- Mr. James stated after recyclables have been collected locally, they are transported to material recovery facilities in Prince George's County and/or Howard County. These facilities have the ability to sort "single stream" recyclables. Single stream recycling is a recycling process in which materials are collected, all mixed together, with no sorting required by individual recyclers.

Mr. Wheeler asked how the COE could help with Solid Waste Committee. Mr. James stated the CEO could help by encouraging children and adults to recycle. Also encourage people to show with recycling in mind. Mr. Wheeler asked if there was any information

that the COE could place on their website. Mr. James stated he would query the SWAC to determine if they felt something should be placed on the COE website.

Mr. James, when questioned, stated that recycling activities do not generate revenue for the County. Instead, recycled solid waste disposal costs less than non-recycled. So, the recycling program does serve to reduce the overall County's solid waste disposal costs.

- b. **Discussion of CEO Letter for APF** – Mr. Wheeler asked for comments and corrections to the letter. After corrections a motion was made and seconded to approve the letter with the amendments. Mr. Wheeler stated he would speak with Mr. Jeff Jackman regarding when the most appropriate time for sending the letter would be.
- c. **Update on Water Supply Concerns** – Mr. Wheeler stated the WPTF discussed Mr. King getting together with Charles and Calvert County for a round-table discussion to highlight items that we feel haven't been discussed correctly. Mr. Shreve stated the upper Patipsco aquifer is very near the management level in the LaPlata area. As a result, Mr. Shreve stated that MDE has stopped issuing any more appropriation permits in that area. Mr. Shreve said that he would find out what actions Charles County was planning to take in the areas where the management level has been reached. Mr. Calvano also said he would find out what's happening in that area from a Health Dept. perspective. The group agreed that no further action should be taken until we had a better understanding of exactly what was happening in Charles County – the only place where Management Level issues are actually present now.
- d. **Response to Concerned Citizen Environmental Concern** – Mr. Wheeler stated he contacted Katharine McCarthy from DNR regarding the concern and at the bottom of the agenda is a proposed response to the concerned citizen. After discussion and amendments it was decided to amend the email, send it again to all members for finalization. Afterwards, the email response would be forwarded to the concerned citizen.
- e. **Update on Large Commercial/Industrial Water Use** – Mr. Wheeler stated he spoke with Mr. Kasraei and they have informally adopted the approach that they used with Morgantown for every large industrial commercial use. Mr. Kasraei wants to make the Morgantown concept formal rather than informal and they would like to use our letter in support of this concept. Mr. Wheeler stated that that was why the Letter was forwarded.
- f. **Gray Water Issue.** Mr. Wheeler stated there are three different kinds of gray water systems: 1) those provided by a sewage treatment plant, 2) those provided by a housing or commercial development not serviced by a treatment plant, and 3) those provided for individual homes. Mr. King does not want to have the second type approved until we have the right wording in the Plumbing Code and that engineering design for those systems are satisfactory Ms. Veith disagreed with Mr. King stating those types of systems are used all over this country; they are just not used here. Mr. Shreve stated that, if you look at shared systems in the county, Mr. King is concerned that these shared systems will have to be operated by METCOM therefore he wants to make sure the proper engineering is done prior to being transferred to METCOM for management. It was the consensus of the commission first to send a letter to the Plumbing Board Supporting the gray water concept and requesting that the plumbing code be modified to accept use of gray water designs. The COE would defer any further action until the results of the Plumbing Board action were known.
- g. **Go Green! Save Gr\$\$n Forum** – Mr. Wheeler stated he believes we need to thank all the donors. Ms. Blake stated she would email Mr. Wheeler the contact list for the donors. Mr. Hartwick stated he would email Mr. Wheeler his list of donors. Mr. Wheeler stated we will send thank you letters to all the donors, exhibitors and to Blue Wind. Mr. Wheeler

stated everybody commented on the food. Ms. Blake stated a letter should also go to Chris Burch and my dad (Richard Blake) for all his work. Mr. Wheeler also recommended a letter being sent to the Chamber of Commerce, Maryland Bank and Trust, John Richards, and Karen Everett. Ms. Kelsey stated she would draft a letter and email it to Mr. Wheeler. Ms. Blake recommended including in the letter a thank you for being so accommodating to the changing of the forum date due to the weather. It was recommended to discuss items for next year at the April meeting.

**h. Land Subsidence Update – Next Meeting**

**i. Critical Area Study**

**1. Handout of CA Power Point Presentation –** Ms. Veith handed out the PowerPoint presentation for the commission to review for the next meeting. Ms. Veith stated next months meeting will be televised for this presentation. Mr. Wheeler stated the commission could go through the rest of this list first on next months meeting.

**2. CA Review by LUGM – Next Meeting**

**3. Discussion on Content and Approach for COE Study – Next Meeting**

- **Critical Area Commission**
- **Existing Zoning Rules**
- **New Rules Needed**
- **Obtaining Rule Variances**
- **Inspection Process**
- **Enforcement Process**
- **Violation Penalties**

**j. How to Accomplish – Next Meeting**

**IV) New Business:**

**a. Table of Equivalent Dwelling Units Advisory Committee – Next Meeting**

**b. Public Health Hero –** Mr. Calvano explained the public health hero form. Mr. Calvano stated he would be nominating the Commission on the Environment. The commission discussed nominations including Chris Burch. Mr. Calvano stated the nominations are due by Friday.

**c. Oyster vs. Menhaden Restoration Initiative – Next Meeting**

**V) Announcements:** Ms. Kelsey stated Earth Day is coming up and recommended the COE get name tags. After discussion a motion was made and seconded to get name tags for the members. The motion passed unanimously.

**VI) Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.