

**COMMISSION ON THE ENVIROMENT MINUTES**  
**Potomac Building**  
**Minutes of June 3, 2009**

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

I) **Call to Order:** Mr. Wheeler called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

II) **Discussion & Approval of November Meeting Minutes:** A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of May 6, 2009 as written.

III) **Continuing Business:**

- a. **Thank you Letter Status:** Mr. Wheeler stated all the "thank you" letters have gone out except the one for the Girl Scouts as Mr. Hansen is still trying to obtain the correct address. Ms. Blake stated she would find out which troop number it is and send the information to Ms. Stuckert for preparation.
- b. **Environmental Concern Survey Summit:** Mr. Wheeler stated he has discussed the survey information with Chris Burch. Mr. Wheeler asked if there are any objections to the information, hearing none, stated he would have Mr. Burch post this information to the website. Mr. Wheeler explained the second chart to be posted to the website. The Committee reviewed the overview written by Mr. Hartwick regarding the study methodology and two additional surveys taken at the Green Living Expo and at Earth Day. Ms. Kelsey noted two typos in the overview.

Mr. Wheeler stated he sent a letter to Bob Boxwell asking if he could find two facilitators for the summit. The group confirmed that Pollution of Waterways & Encouraging Low Impact and Sustainable Development would be the summit's focus. The plan is to hold one topical discussion (e.g. Pollution of Waterways) in the morning and one in the afternoon and Mr. Wheeler asked if we need to have a wrap up session. Ms. Kelsey recommended a session after both workshops and then a session to pull both workshops together at the end. Ms. Veith stated you don't have to have an overall session at the end, but that you did need to have a wrap up for session A and one for session B.

Ms. Blake asked what the intent of the two sessions is. Mr. Wheeler stated the hope is that each topic would produce a prioritized list of initiatives or action items the summit participants feel need to be addressed. The COE would then prepare a briefing session for the County Commissioners to formally present the findings and recommendations.

Mr. Wheeler stated the summit will be held at the Higher Education Center from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and asked if lunch would be served. Ms. Blake stated there are restaurants in the area that people could utilize during a break. Ms. Veith recommended bringing a bag lunch be stated in the advertisement.

- c. **COE Annual Report:** Mr. Hansen stated he could have this emailed out to everyone for reviews and discussion at the July meeting.
- d. **Trash & Litter:** Mr. Hansen asked that this item be moved to the inactive list.
- e. **SMECO and Tree Cutting:** Mr. Wheeler stated the question is should SMECO be required to do some higher level of consideration of tree cutting in the critical area buffer. Mr. Shreve asked if SMECO is required to do mitigation. Ms. Veith stated there are guidelines that are handled at the State level and she is unsure of their requirements. Ms. Kelsey stated she would like to see their guidelines and make sure they are adhering to them. Mr. Wheeler stated he would contact Tom Russell to obtain a copy of the guidelines.
- f. **Critical Area Update:** Ms. Veith stated staff is still working on reviewing all the revisions. Ms. Veith gave an overview on growth allocation. Ms. Veith stated she would forward to the Committee information regarding the public meetings for growth allocations and critical area laws.
- g. **Comprehensive Plan Discussion:** Mr. Wheeler stated this document was passed out at the last meeting and asked what the Commission needs to do in regards to this document. Ms. Veith stated if you have comments regarding the plan they need to be brought forth at one of the two public hearings scheduled. The group agreed to review the draft Comprehensive Plan and discuss it at the July meeting.

**h. Other:** None

**IV) New Business:**

**a. WPTF Meeting and Planned Actions:** Mr. Wheeler updated the Committee on the Water Policy Task Force discussion on the use of grey water in non-MetCom areas. Mr. Wheeler stated the general consensus of the Task Force is that there are standards out there for the use of grey water systems. Mr. Wheeler stated the Task Force is now reviewing better ways to utilize rain water. Mr. Wheeler stated Habitat for Humanity is utilizing rainwater in five of their proposed homes, and that the WPTF will explore what their role in this effort should be.

**b. Green Building:** None

**c. Special Acknowledgement Update:** Mr. Wheeler stated he will draft the letter for Steve King and present it to the committee for review at the July meeting.

**d. Menhaden Update:** Mr. Wheeler stated he called the Chesapeake Bay Laboratory in Solomon's Island to discuss the menhaden. Mr. Wheeler stated they confirmed that the menhaden is the only fish in the Chesapeake Bay that has the same algae filtering function as the oyster. He plans to include mention of the Menhaden at the October Summit.

**e. Other:** None

**V) Announcements:** None

**VI) Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m.