

COMMISSION ON THE ENVIROMENT MINUTES
Patuxent Building Conference Room
Minutes of October 1, 2008

COE Members present were Barne Wheeler, Chairman; Caroline Miller, Larry Hartwick, Troy Hansen, Frank Allen, Marta Kelsey, Daryl Calvano, and Susan Blake. Members absent were Bill Shreve, and Sandy Neville. Others present were Chris Burch and Jada Stuckert.

- I) **Call to Order:** Mr. Wheeler called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.
- II) **Discussion & Approval of November Meeting Minutes:** A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of September 10, 2008 as amended.
- III) **Continuing Business:**
 - a. **Menhaden project – Update on Actions –** Mr. Hansen stated he was a little disappointed that this was presented to the middle school teachers rather than the high school teachers and that there was only a 15 minute presentation given. Mr. Hansen stated the teachers will get back to Ms. Rochow with their decision and Ms. Rochow will let us know. Mr. Wheeler stated if Ms. Rochow cannot make this happen, he would like to look at other avenues. Mr. Hansen stated he would send an email to Ms. Rochow to gather the decisions. Mr. Hartwick stated if this project is going to be picked up it will be by the Tech Center Environmental Studies group. Mr. Hartwick stated another interested group may be St. Mary's College. Ms. Blake stated she had volunteered to contact the Chesapeake Bay Foundation for possible funding for scholarship opportunities. Ms. Blake stated she forwarded the letter to Mr. Hansen who revised the letter. Ms. Blake stated she would look into a proper contact and get the letter sent.
 - b. **Update on Environmental Concern Survey -** Mr. Wheeler stated he has posted the survey on the web-site under the "what's new" link as well as under "hot topics" link. Mr. Wheeler asked if we want Mr. Burch to place a link on the main greensomd.com page. It was the consensus of the Commission to post on the main page of greensomd.com. Mr. Burch reviewed several different scenarios concerning the posting of the survey and letter on the website. After discussion Mr. Burch requested all the information be forwarded to him for proper posting. Mr. Wheeler stated he re-wrote the survey letter and asked for possible corrections.
Mr. Wheeler stated he would like Ms. Kelsey to maintain the master list of responses to the survey. Ms. Kelsey agreed. Mr. Wheeler stated he made some corrections to the environmental survey and asked for additional input.

Mr. Wheeler stated he has contacted the Enterprise, County Times, and St. Mary's Today who are all expecting the letter and survey. Mr. Wheeler read a list of 41 persons being emailed the survey. The Commission altered the list by removing and adding contacts. The Commission set the final return date for December 1, 2008.
 - c. **Update on Building Permit Investigation –** Mr. Wheeler stated to his knowledge you cannot find on the County website where someone has filed for a building permit or not. Mr. Wheeler stated there are two ways to find out if a building permit is active on a property being calling the LUGM office or email the building permits office at LUGM. Mr. Wheeler stated this could be done without filing a formal inquiry. Mr. Wheeler asked if this information should be offered as a "hot topic" on the web page. After discussion it was decided not to post this information on the web page.
 - d. **Climate Change Follow-Up & Actions Needed –** Mr. Wheeler stated per the last meeting it is clear the Commission would like to have a presentation however it was unclear as to whom should give the presentation and which side the Commission should

take. Mr. Wheeler stated he would like to have a list of the top ten things people can do to off-set climate change. After discussion it was the consensus of the Commission to wait for the results of the environmental survey before continuing with this project or scheduling a presentation.

- e. **Solid Waste Issues** – Mr. Wheeler stated after speaking with Mr. Waxman, the quorum and membership issues have been solved. Mr. Wheeler stated he is concerned that the transfer station does not have disposal methods for florescent light bulbs. Mr. Wheeler stated he tried to dispose of a television set at the other transfer station and was told to just place it in the trash. Mr. Wheeler recommended writing a letter concerning the lack of disposal methods for florescent light bulbs and large electronic equipment to be sent to the County Commissioners. Mr. Waxman agreed to draft a letter for COE review.

f. **Rapid Transit for County** – Mr. Allen stated he spoke with a Charles County Commissioner who stated there is some opposition to bring this down to St. Mary's County. Mr. Allen stated he also spoke with Commissioner Mattingly who stated he is not in favor of bringing a rapid transit system to St. Mary's County. Mr. Allen stated there is a study being conducted now and should be done in a couple months. Mr. Allen explained Mr. Roy Dyson is in favor of a light rail system, which is slower than the rapid transit. Mr. Allen stated even with the experiment of a light rail system it would still be six months before any action is taken.

g. **Green Building Subcommittee – None**

h. **LUGM Critical Area Update - None**

IV) New Business:

a. **Mission for WPTF – Potable Water Conservation, Gray Water Legislation & Other Measures - None**

b. **Web Page Improvements** – Mr. Wheeler asked for ideas and/or recommendations.

c. **Other - None**

V) Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.