

**COMMISSION ON THE ENVIROMENT MINUTES**  
**Potomac Building \* Room 14**  
**Minutes of November 5, 2008**

COE Members present were Barne Wheeler, Chairman; Marta Kelsey, Susan Blake, Bill Shreve, Frank Allen, and Larry Hartwick. Others present were Sue Veith and Paul Waxman.

- I) **Call to Order:** Mr. Wheeler called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.
- II) **Discussion & Approval of October Meeting Minutes:** A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of October 1, 2008 as amended.
- III) **Continuing Business:**
- a. **Menhaden Project Update:** Mr. Wheeler stated he spoke with Ms. Margarita Rochow today who promised she would report back to the Commission by December.
- b. **Update on Environmental Concern Survey:** Mr. Wheeler stated notice of the survey was sent to St. Mary's Today, The Times, and The Enterprise. Mr. Wheeler stated to date five responses have been received. Mr. Wheeler asked if we should send out an email reminding groups of the survey deadline. It was the consensus of the Commission to send out an email reminder in the third week of November.
- c. **Solid Waste Issues:** Mr. Wheeler stated the recycling of televisions and fluorescent light bulbs seems to be an issue and asked if a letter should be sent and if so to whom. Mr. Waxman stated the issue lies with the conversion to digital TV in February. Mr. Waxman stated there would be a big push for persons to purchase a new digital TV this Christmas. Mr. Waxman stated there would be an influx of older console TV's being disposed of and the landfill does not accept them at this point without a fee. Mr. Wheeler stated he would research the recycling of TV's and try to find out if anyone is accepting old TVs. Mr. Wheeler stated he is hesitant to write the letter if there is simply no one willing to accept them.
- Mr. Wheeler stated his landfill says it accepts fluorescent light bulbs but the container is locked all the time. Mr. Waxman stated part of the concern is keeping the light bulbs in tact. Ms. Veith stated the whole purpose of recycling these bulbs is to keep the mercury contained. Mr. Waxman stated that we need to find out what other people are doing to recycle and contain these bulbs. Ms. Veith stated as these CFL's are considered hazardous waste she feels they should be accepted only on hazardous waste day at the landfill. Mr. Hartwick stated he and Mr. Waxman have been working on the "Best Management Practices" information and recommended this be updated for CFL's. Mr. Hartwick stated he could bring this to the Commission in December.
- Ms. Veith stated LED's are now being made that are replacements for screw in light bulbs and T8 tubes and suggested the recommendation be made to the County Commissioners that when the re-lamping is done throughout the County buildings the Commissioners use the LED's. Ms. Veith stated they are a lot more expensive however they last 11 years and have an 80% electricity savings. It was the consensus of the Commission to conduct some additional research on the web in order to perhaps find a Cost/Benefit Analysis that provides a cost and benefit comparison of LEDs over 11 years vs. traditional light bulbs.
- d. **LUGM Critical Area Update:** Ms. Veith stated staff has reviewed all the changes and updates have been made based on staff comments. Ms. Veith stated the word processing problems are being dealt with now. Ms. Veith stated the draft version would be sent to the legal department and other groups in December. Mr. Wheeler asked if

there was an easy way to find every section of the Ordinance that references the Critical Area. Ms. Veith stated no there is no comprehensive way to do this as the standards and language are written throughout the ordinance. Mr. Wheeler asked if there is research they can do to be able to better interpret the Critical Area changes. Ms. Veith stated Chapters 40, 41, 71, and 72 of the Zoning Ordinance would be useful as they are the main chapters dealing with the Critical Area.

**IV) New Business:**

- a. **Wind Turbines:** Mr. Hartwick stated currently the Zoning Ordinance does not address Wind turbines therefore they are prohibited in St. Mary's County. Mr. Hartwick stated the text amendment being reviewed by the Planning Commission and the County Commissioners right now should be reviewed and weighed in on by the Commission on the Environment. Mr. Hartwick stated there are potential height, noise, and nuisance issues. Mr. Hartwick stated the American Wind Energy Association drafted a model ordinance and gave copies to the members.

Ms. Veith stated the draft text is online and recommended the Commission review the text. It was requested that Jada Stuckert email the members the link to the draft text amendment.

- b. **Posting for the COE Web Page:** Ms. Kelsey recommended listing some Green Holiday tips on the greensomd.com website. It was recommended to add carbon credits. Ms. Veith recommended sending a letter to the editor listing some of these items. Ms. Kelsey stated she would take care of this as well as coming up with a more detailed list for the website.
- c. **COE Membership:** This item was discussed in executive session just prior to adjournment.
- d. **Cistern, Septic & Solar Initiatives:** Mr. Wheeler stated he would find the proper documentation regarding this item and email it out to the members. Mr. Allen stated this is a time sensitive issue. Mr. Wheeler stated this item can be discussed at the December meeting.

**V) Inactive Issues:**

- e. **Climate Change**
- f. **Green Building Subcommittee**
- g. **Rapid Transit for the County**
- h. **Building Permits**

- VI) **Announcements:** Ms. Blake stated she received a citizen concern regarding the Evans Hotel. Ms. Blake asked how the Evans can build their hotel in the former parking lot so close to the water. Ms. Veith stated they were granted a variance and have been required to follow strict guidelines for storm water management and creating a buffer between the hotel and the water.

- VII) **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m. The next meeting will be held December 3, 2008.