

COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENT MINUTES
Potomac Building
Minutes of January 6, 2010

COE Members present were Barne Wheeler, Chairman; Caroline Miller, Susan Blake, Troy Hansen, Mike Thompson, and Daryl Calvano. Members absent were Larry Hartwick, Sandy Neville and Bill Shreve. Sue Veith was also present.

- I) **Call to Order:** Mr. Wheeler called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.
- II) **Discussion & Approval of December Meeting Minutes:** A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of December 2, 2009 as amended. The motion passed.
- III) **Continuing Business:**
- a. **Environmental Concern Survey Initiatives**
Mr. Wheeler stated there are ten individuals who are interested in providing their opinions as well as eight organizations.
1. **Finalization of initial set of initiatives and descriptive headers**
Mr. Wheeler asked that the Commission finalize the definitions and review the list of initiatives to be forwarded to these individuals and organizations. Ms. Veith recommended a different definition for sustainable stating she could email the proper definition to Ms. Blake. The Commission reviewed and revised the 23 initiatives on low impact development as well as the 28 initiatives on pollution of waterways.
2. **Determination of time frame for completion and intermediate steps**
Mr. Wheeler recommended Ms. Blake make the suggested corrections and forwards the amended version to all the members. Mr. Wheeler stated he would draft an email that would transmit the initiatives to participating organizations and individuals and forward it to the members for review. After incorporating comments, he would dispatch with the initiatives.
- b. **Annual COE Expo discussion and update on combination with Plumbing Board**
Mr. Wheeler stated this item will be deferred to the next meeting where a member of the Plumbing Board will be present for this discussion. Ms. Blake recommended holding the expo every other year rather than annually. Mr. Wheeler stated we can discuss this with the Plumbing Board at the next meeting.
- c. **COE/SWAC Integration Update**
Mr. Wheeler stated the Commissioners will be deciding on the integration at their January 19th meeting. Mr. Wheeler stated the Commission's comments were forwarded to the legal department and each comment was addressed in the proposed charter. Ms. Veith stated the by-laws would have to be signed by the Committee, the County Commissioners, and the Legal Department. ***Mr. Calvano made a motion to accept the by-laws and approve them as submitted and Mr. Hansen seconded. The motion passed by a 6-0 vote.***
- d. **Rain Water Collection System Update**
Mr. Wheeler stated he sent an email to Mr. Kasari asking him to provide us water conservation initiatives that would be useful to us as well as requesting funding for the rainwater collection system. Mr. Wheeler stated he awaiting a response.
- e. **Metcom Task Force**
Mr. Wheeler stated this task force seems to be discussing whether to have the County or the Developer determine when and where water and sewer services are installed. Mr. Wheeler stated Jacki Meiser is concerned that if the County makes this determination the cost will be split among all county citizens rather than the developer paying the cost of installation. Ms. Veith stated the best planned communities in Maryland have had the County pay for the installation and expansion of water and sewer services to drive development. Mr. Wheeler stated Ms. Meiser may come forward and ask for support from the Commission on some of the issues developed.
- f. **Election of COE Chair and Vice-Chair**
Mr. Wheeler stated the election of officers is coming up in May according to the by-laws.
- g. **Green Building Update**

Mr. Wheeler stated he is unsure if Ms. Neville is going to continue as a member of the COE. Ms. Veith stated she spoke with Ms. Neville today who stated she is unsure if she will continue as a member of the COE. Mr. Wheeler stated he will be in contact with Ms. Neville regarding her membership.

IV) New Business:

a. Earth Day

Mr. Wheeler stated Earth Day is scheduled for April 18th from noon to 4:00 p.m. and the COE will have a booth.

b. Committee on Watershed Stewardship

Mr. Wheeler stated he does not feel we need a separate sub-committee as the Commission already discusses pollution of waterways. The group agreed that for now the Commission as a whole would undertake this stewardship.

V) Announcements

Ms. Veith stated its budget time again and we need to decide if we are going to request funding for well monitoring this year. Ms. Veith recommended not asking for the funding this year stating if a person wants to seek out the grant and apply for it and manage it that's okay however she is not willing to do this. Mr. Wheeler indicated that this initiative had mostly been proposed by the Maryland Geological Survey so they could get better data on private well usage. The Commission agreed that they should not be the ones asking for funding of this effort.

VI) Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:59 p.m.