

COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENT MINUTES
Potomac Building
Minutes of February 3, 2010

COE Members present were Barne Wheeler, Chairman; Marta Kelsey, Troy Hansen, Sandy Neville, Caroline Miller, Larry Hartwick, and Mike Thompson. Members absent were Susan Blake, Bill Shreve and Daryl Calvano. Others present were Jada Stuckert, Dwight Mason of the Plumbing & Gas Board, and 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 January 6, 2010 as amended.
- III) **Continuing Business:**
 - a. **Annual COE Expo Discussion**

- 1. Plumbing Board Presentation on Combining Efforts**

Ms. Stuckert gave an overview of the Plumbing & Fuel Gas Board (PFG) Annual Expo stating it doesn't make sense to hold two separate events on the same topic within a couple months of each other. Ms. Stuckert provided a comparison of the 2009 vendors for the PFG Expo and the COE Forum stating the PFG Expo had 20 vendors and the COE Forum had 23 vendors in 2009 out of which only 5 were the same. Ms. Stuckert stated by combining forces we could possibly double the amount of vendors not to mention we can split the cost of the expo by utilizing two budgets. Ms. Stuckert stated the PFG Board utilized the Tech Center Catering Program to cater their last event. Ms. Stuckert stated the PFG Board paid \$200 for a spread of finger sandwiches, fruit trays, vegetable trays, pigs-in-a-blanket, mini meatballs, a dessert tray, coffee, tea, water, and fruit punch. Ms. Stuckert stated there were even 13 servers present.

Mr. Wheeler asked when and where the PFG Expo was held. Ms. Stuckert stated early October and the PFG Board utilized the Tech Center in Leonardtown the past two years. Ms. Stuckert stated the PFG Board is flexible on the date and location. Mr. Wheeler asked if the PFG Board has staff members who help plan this expo. Ms. Stuckert stated the PFG Board appoints a subcommittee to make decisions. Mr. Wheeler asked who plans the layout, food, schedules vendors, etc. Ms. Stuckert stated she handles all the arrangements at the direction of the subcommittee. Mr. Wheeler asked if Ms. Stuckert would be available to handle the arrangements for this joint expo/forum. Ms. Stuckert stated she would be available for the joint expo/forum.

Mr. Hartwick stated he has attended both of the PFG Expos and noticed there was a great deal of organization. Mr. Hartwick stated it makes sense to combine efforts which will only make each event stronger. Ms. Kelsey stated she is concerned that the room may be too small for the amount of potential vendors. Ms. Stuckert stated the Tech Center has a beautiful entry way which could be utilized as well as classroom space however the PFG Board is not dead set on utilizing the Tech Center. Mr. Wheeler asked if the PFG Expo had an MC for announcements. Ms. Stuckert stated yes, the Chairman of the Plumbing Board made announcements. Mr. Wheeler asked if Ms. Stuckert is imagining dual MC's. Ms. Stuckert stated she feels this is a very flexible event and dual MC's would be welcomed.

Ms. Kelsey recommended getting the dimensions of the room to see how many tables we can fit in the room. Mr. Hartwick stated he could do this and provide the information to the COE members as well as the PFG members. Mr. Wheeler asked if the COE members wanted to combine efforts. **Ms. Kelsey made a motion to combine the two events and Ms. Neville seconded. The motion passed by a 7-0 vote.**

Mr. Wheeler asked when the first joint expo should be held. Ms. Stuckert stated she could check availability dates for late August/early September of different locations and compare this to the availability of the catering and provide this information to the Commission. Ms. Veith recommended sending out one single letter explaining to the vendors that the COE and PFG Boards have combined forces for this event and sends it to all the vendors for each Board.

- b. Green Building Update**

Ms. Neville stated we have been very successful in networking. Ms. Neville stated unfortunately today's meeting including the geothermal presentation had to be canceled due to the weather. Ms. Neville stated the interest in the Green Building forum is rapidly expanding which should make for a very large forum/expo this year. Ms. Neville

asked if there is money in the budget to provide some refreshments at the meetings. Ms. Veith stated she would have to look at the Commissions budget.

c. Rain Water Collection System Update

Mr. Wheeler stated he contacted Mr. Kasraei for funding who has stated there is no money and MDE does not allow "purple pipes" in homes. Mr. Wheeler stated apparently the Plumbing Code and the MDE code have a discrepancy. Mr. Wheeler stated David Kelsey is going to obtain a sample design for a household rainwater collection system as well as finding out which municipalities in MD are allowing rainwater collection systems for use in households. Mr. Wheeler stated Mr. Downs will take the sample design plat and run it by the Plumbing Board to make sure there are no issues.

d. Metropolitan Commission Task Force Study

Mr. Wheeler stated this is a legislatively directed study of Metcom's procedures and policies. Mr. Wheeler stated the Task Force seems to be struggling with what the real issues really are; however, the report is due in June. The report was directed by the State Legislature and not the Commissioners, so their role has not been large so far.

e. COE Charter & COE/SWAC Integration

Mr. Wheeler stated Deputy County Attorney David Weiskopf requested some changes to the by-laws and asked that the COE review them. **Mr. Hartwick made a motion to approve the by-laws as amended and Ms. Kelsey seconded. The motion passed by a 7-0 vote.**

f. Environmental Concern Survey Initiatives

- 1. Discussion of Responses to Waterway Pollution Initiative.** The group made wording changes.
- 2. Discussion of Responses to Low Impact & Sustainable Development Initiative.** The group made wording changes
- 3. Discussion of Next Steps.** Mr Wheeler said that he would incorporate the agreed-upon changes and would send a final version out to the COE members for review. Thereafter, he would send both the Initiatives and a Spreadsheet where the initiatives could be prioritized. He suggested that all input be received by February 24. The members concurred. Mr. Hansen asked whether the COE members should also prioritize the initiatives. The members agreed that the COE & Water Policy Task Force members should be allowed to fill out the spreadsheet as well.

g. Metropolitan Commission Task Force Study – Funding New Water & Sewer Lines Not discussed.

IV) New Business:

a. WPTF Water Conservation Study

Mr. Wheeler stated Mr. Downs is going to look at the inside of a house for ways to conserve water and Mr. Roth will look at ways to conserve water outside the home. Mr. Wheeler stated the hope is to come up with a list of water saving initiatives prioritized by the amount of water that could be saved in the County. After review this list would be presented to the Commissioners and would fulfill the Comprehensive Plan requirement to determine possible water conservation measures which the County could sponsor.

b. County Aquifer Management Policy Effectiveness

Mr. Wheeler stated we have a policy that says all new wells from major users must be drilled into the Patapsco Aquifer so that the Aquia and Piney Point can be used for individual homeowners. Mr. Wheeler stated that Metcom, a major user, is required to keep water withdrawals from the Aquia and Piney Point Aquifers at 2002 levels and any increased water requirements must come out of the Patapsco Aquifer. Mr. Wheeler stated the WPTF is putting together a briefing for the County Commissioners that details whether this policy is actually helping relieve stress on the Aquia and Piney Point Aquifers and what results this is having on the deeper Patapsco.

V) Announcements. None

VI) Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.