

COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENT MINUTES
Potomac Building
Minutes of July 7, 2010

COE Members present were Barne Wheeler, Chairman; Larry Hartwick, Xavier Prines, Mike Thompson, Troy Hansen, and Caroline King. Members absent were Daryl Calvano, Sandy Neville, Marta Kelsey & Michael Guy Others present were Jada Stuckert, Gerald Davis, Paul Waxman and Jenn Ballard.

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

II) **Discussion & Approval of June Meeting Minutes:** A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of June 2, 2010 as amended.

III) **Continuing Business:**

a. **Joint Plumbing/Gas Board & COE October Expo:**

Ms. Stuckert stated Mr. Wheeler had sent the possible questions to her in advance and answered them as follows:

1. How will we process the applicants & allocate space? Applicants will be processed on a first come, first serve basis. Space allocation will be done by evaluating the timeliness of the applications, electrical outlets, and sponsorship.
2. Will there be prizes/raffles? Yes, there will be. The application includes a space to list what each vendor plans to bring for a prize, if any? Once all applications are received, we will divide the number of prizes by the amount of time we have to decide how often to raffle the prizes off.
3. Space for separate presentations, if any? At this point in time I have not prepared for separate presentations; however this is a relatively simple process if you would like me to begin this process. It was the consensus of the Commission to forgo presentations this year. Ms. Stuckert explained the continuous running of a PowerPoint presentation through the use of a projector to highlight any additional information. It was the consensus of the Commission to move forward with the formatting of such presentation.
4. MCs? As the event is not until October, I would ask that if anyone wishes to volunteer to MC they do so now. If several persons volunteer, I feel it best to draw names from a hat as we really only need two MCs for the event. It was the consensus of the Commission to utilize one volunteer from each Board to MC the expo.
5. Set up/Tear down? We will be utilizing a local softball team for the set up and tear down process which will take place between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. I will also be allowed to prep the room the day prior if necessary.
6. Registration information required – displayers and public? I have provided each of you a copy of the vendor registration form which contains all the information necessary to keep track of our vendors. Public registration of citizens attending will be done via numbered tickets available at the door of the event. We will need a minimum of two volunteers to man the entry booth at all times during the event.
7. Booth's for COE & PFG Boards? I have already allocated space for the COE and the PFG Boards at 1 table each. Please advise me if more tables will be necessary. We will need a minimum of 1 volunteer at each table.
8. Advertising? County budgets have been cut and money is tight this year. I have already begun soliciting sponsors to help pay for the advertising of the event. The PFG Board will advertise in the various newspapers. PIO will help with advertising as normal via the newspaper, radio, channel 95, and the web.

Ms. Stuckert stated to date 247 invitations have gone out via email; 20 of which have been returned undeliverable and only 1 has declined. Ms. Stuckert stated we have received 6 complete vendor forms.

b. **Green Building Update – None**

c. **SWAC Update – None**

d. WPTF Update

Mr. Wheeler stated he has obtained maps of all the wells in the County as well as use data from LUGM and Metcom. Based on the information obtained the WPTF hopes to be able to provide approximate estimates on how much water the County can save if certain conservation measures were adopted.

Mr. Wheeler also stated that three citizen members are needed for the WPTF. Mr. Wheeler asked that each member of the COE spread the word.

e. Environmental Concern Survey Initiatives Prioritization

Mr. Wheeler stated he spoke with County Administrator John Savich who feels the best way to handle this is to send the entire package to Donna Gebicki. Mr. Wheeler stated after Savich and Gebicki review the package they will decide if a briefing is necessary. The Commission reviewed the letter, two enclosures, and appendix and made a number of suggested improvements. Mr. Wheeler stated he would make the corrections and email a final copy of the report to each member tomorrow as well as to the Commissioners.

IV) New Business:

a. Discussion of how the COE can find out about upcoming important items sooner and thereby be more proactive

Ms. Ballard recommended as issues arise that the Commission contact Ms. Stuckert for information. Mr. Hansen recommended reading agenda's for each Board, Committee, and Commission which might give us a little more notice. Mr. Wheeler stated even if we do this, how would we have time to review or even comment on the issue. Mr. Wheeler asked who he should contact at LUGM that could help us be more proactive.

Mr. Hartwick stated several years ago we had Mr. Canavan come in and discuss this same item. Mr. Hartwick recommended we invite Mr. Berlage in for the same purpose. Mr. Wheeler asked if inviting Mr. Shire would be better. Ms. Ballard recommended inviting both. Mr. Wheeler stated he would invite both Mr. Berlage and Mr. Shire. Ms. King recommended an annual or semi-annual meeting with the Director and Deputy-Director of LUGM.

b. RL-T vs. 2 acre lot size in the Critical Area

Ms. Ballard stated the RL-T is a transition between the rural neighborhoods and the more protected areas of the RPD. Ms. Ballard stated the minimum lot size in the RL-T is 2 acres. Ms. Ballard stated the Critical Area Commission has commented on this matter stating having a minimum lot size and not allowing clustering defeats the purpose of the RL-T zone. Ms. Ballard stated LUGM staffs recommendation is that the minimum 2 acres lot size is fine and if a person wants to be more environmentally friendly they can go through the growth allocation process. Ms. Ballard stated the County Commissioners still have to vote on this issue. Ms. Ballard stated the 2 acre minimum lot size without clustering is a more restrictive standard than what the State currently has and the County Commissioners have already released a statement that they would not vote in favor of regulations which are stricter than the State.

Mr. Wheeler asked why you wouldn't be able to cluster development if it is more environmentally friendly. Ms. Ballard explained if you were allowed to have a business in the RL-T and developments were clustered, the business may be too close to residential areas which could cause an issue. Ms. Ballard reiterated that the County Commissioners still have to vote on this issue.

c. Contest – Low Impact & Energy Consumption Footprints & Others – None

d. Possible Study Areas - None

V) Announcements

VI) Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 a.m.