

COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENT MINUTES
Potomac Building
Minutes of September 1, 2010

COE Members present were Barne Wheeler, Chairman; Larry Hartwick, Troy Hansen, Daryl Calvano, Caroline King, Sandy Neville, Mike Thompson, and Xavier Prines. Others present were Jenn Ballard, Richard Tarr, and Paul Waxman.

I) **Call to Order:** Mr. Wheeler called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

II) **Discussion & Approval of Meeting Minutes:** The August meeting minutes were tabled to the next meeting.

III) **Continuing Business:**

a. Solid Waste Plan Update

Mr. Wheeler supplied the members with copies of the requested corrections to the Solid Waste Plan and stated Mr. Tarr would like a memo from the Commission supporting the proposed changes. Mr. Tarr stated the Solid Waste Plan was last updated in 2005 however the State revised some existing laws in respect to the Solid Waste Plan in 2009. Mr. Tarr stated the State has mandated that all counties incorporate language into the plans strategizing and indicating how the counties will manage recycling and/or recyclables at public school systems.

Mr. Tarr explained the proposed changes also include some operational changes, single stream recycling changes, fees, transfer station, etc. Mr. Tarr asked that the Commission review the proposed changes and make a decision at the October meeting. Mr. Hartwick stated the text provided by the school is out of date and would like Mr. Tarr to speak with Ms. Kim Howe to obtain the current information prior to the Commission supporting the proposed amendments. Mr. Tarr stated the public hearing is currently scheduled for September 21, 2010.

Ms. Neville brought attention to the lack of recycling containers and location of containers at County Parks and athletic fields. Ms. Neville stated the few recycling containers on these properties are not properly located to allow people to recycle. Mr. Tarr stated this is the Recreation and Parks division. Mr. Wheeler asked if the Solid Waste Plan has language for parks. ***Mr. Prines made a motion to request that DPW&T and Parks and Recreation perform an short term analysis of all County facilities of the percent of contamination in trash and recycling in current containers to see if it's below the 5% for contamination and if it is below, recommend a request to have more recycling containers versus actual trash cans and Ms. Neville seconded. The motion passed by an 8-0 vote.***

Mr. Prines stated SWAC would be holding a meeting next Tuesday to review the Solid Waste Plan. ***Mr. Hartwick made a motion to delegate to SWAC the drafting of specific comments on the Solid Waste Plan to be submitted as part of the review for Mr. Tarr and that SWAC shall submit their findings to the COE Chairman and Mr. Calvano seconded. The motion passed by an 8-0 vote.***

b. Joint Plumbing/Gas Board & COE October Expo

Mr. Wheeler stated Ms. Stuckert provided me with an update on the Expo. Mr. Wheeler stated to date we have 25 vendors confirmed, 5 of the vendors are joint, 7 are COE and 13 are from the Plumbing and Fuel Gas Board list. Mr. Wheeler stated Ms. Stuckert encourages us to spread the word about the Expo. Mr. Wheeler stated Ms. Stuckert also informed me that there will be 6 newspaper advertisements in various newspapers in the County to help spread the word. Mr. Wheeler stated this is the first time we haven't been 100% involved in the process however, Ms. Stuckert seems to be very competent.

Mr. Wheeler stated we need to decide if we are going to do anything special at our table. Ms. King recalled the COE discussing a possible questioner. Mr. Wheeler stated he would like to do this however doesn't know how to make it interactive. After further discussion, it was the consensus to have Mr. Hartwick create an interactive database for the questions using a projector.

Ms. Neville stated she attended a green forum a year ago that allowed people to write on a poster board what they do to be green and the table would take their picture and later post it to a website.

1. **Raffle Gifts:** Mr. Wheeler stated Ms. Stuckert is attempting to collect raffle items and has asked for additional help from the COE members. Mr. Hartwick stated he would contact Lowe's and Mr. King stated she would contact The Greenery.

- c. **Green Building Update:** Ms. Neville stated it has been a year since we began this and have had much success. Ms. Neville stated we will be branching off from the COE moving forward with the U.S. Green Building Counsel to be more inclusive with the region.
- d. **SWAC Update:** Next Meeting
- e. **WPTF Update:** Mr. Wheeler stated the WPTF will wait until the New Year to present their information to the County Commissioners.
- f. **Environmental Concerns & Initiatives Conclusion:** Mr. Wheeler stated the County Commissioners were briefed and all the information is on the website. Mr. Wheeler stated they all seemed to be in support however he is unsure what will come of the initiative.
- g. **Making the COE More Proactive**

IV) **New Business:**

- a. **Voting on New Member for WPTF:** Mr. Wheeler stated the WPTF has a new member by the name of Martha Holder. Mr. Wheeler provided the members with a copy of her background. It was the consensus of the COE to accept Mrs. Holder as a WPTF member.
- b. **Update on Bay Restoration & Open Air Burning:**
- c. **Bay Restoration Fund:** Mr. Calvano stated Bill 1592 was approved in 2009. Mr. Calvano stated he applied for a grant in June of 2009 \$427,000 for advanced treatment units which is Nitrogen reduction. Mr. Calvano stated to date we have awarded \$71,000 in grant monies. Mr. Calvano stated we are the first County in the State to have an advanced treatment unit.

V) **Announcements**

- VI) **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:01 p.m.