

# ST. MARY'S COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSION

MINUTES OF APRIL 21, 2003

Second Floor Conference Room, Governmental Center

**Present:** Dr. M. Martha Neal, Chair  
John J. Roberts, Vice Chair  
George Baroniak, Member  
David Deaderick, Member  
Zora Siemasko, Member  
Shirley Baldwin, Executive Secretary

## CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Neal at 2:00 p.m.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Dr. Neal added an item to the Agenda under Unfinished Business "Meeting with Commissioner President."

## REVIEW/APPROVE MINUTES

Minutes of April 7, 2003. Mr. Roberts made the motion to approve the minutes as submitted, seconded by Ms. Siemasko. Motion carried

## FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS

- Status 2001 Outstanding. Dr. Neal prepared a letter to the Board of County Commissioners dated April 11, 2003, requesting the Board remove two people from their appointed positions for failure to file FDS's for 2001.
- Status 2002 Outstanding. At this time there are 36 FDS's outstanding. The first reminder letters will be sent to those people.
- Review Session. 104 FDS's were reviewed. 96 of those reviewed were approved. Eight FDS's need additional clarification.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Advisory Opinions on Web Page Dr. Neal updated the Committee regarding our efforts to put all Advisory Opinions on the web page. The scanning done thus far was not approved by

the PIO office because the signatures were not able to be scanned. The Advisory Opinions will be scanned again using a different format which will include signatures.

- Education Program Mr. Baroniak reported the meeting with the Agriculture Land Seafood Forestry Board had been re-scheduled to April 29. This includes members of Agriculture Preservation Board and Farm Bureau. He will issue an invitation at that time for the Ethics Commission to make a presentation to the three boards.
- Meeting with President, BOCC. Dr. Neal reported on her meeting with President McKay. She felt it was a very productive meeting.
  - Membership She advised Mr. McKay that our membership is at a critical point again as Mr. Roberts' and Mr. Deaderick's terms expire in June. Mr. Roberts will no longer be able to serve; however, Mr. Deaderick is willing to continue serving. Mr. McKay advised he realized the membership is at critical point and Dr. Neal will follow up in another month if we do not hear back before then.
  - Budget. Budget for the Ethics Commission has been cut. They looked at our spending for past 2 – 3 years which was down because part of the time, there was no secretary. Mr. McKay said he would take it back to the other Commissioners. They also discussed the Commission using an outside attorney which Dr. Neal advised him was absolutely necessary in some instances. The County Attorney will be contacted where appropriate. Fiscal restraint has been and will continue to be exercised.
  - Letter to BOCC Dr. Neal advised Mr. McKay that a letter would be forthcoming requesting removal from the Boards/Commissions of two individuals who have failed to file their 2001 FDS's.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- Request for Ethics Commission Opinion. A memorandum was received from Ms. Springrose, Assistant County Attorney, regarding a request from a member of the Historic Preservation Commission to obtain an opinion from the Ethics Commission concerning an invitation he received. The individual has received training from National Trust for Historic Preservation in marketing techniques for historic properties, and he has been invited by a group of realtors to make a presentation about this subject, for which he would be reimbursed. He would like an opinion as to whether his acceptance of the invitation and reimbursement would violate the Ethics Ordinance.

Ms. Springrose was invited to attend the meeting to answer questions regarding whether he was being reimbursed for expenses or whether there was an honorarium and who paid for his training. Mr. Roberts agreed to make the phone call directly to the individual to obtain answers to these questions and bring the information back to the next meeting on May 5, and the Ethics Commission will issue an opinion at that time.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Deaderick made the motion to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Baroniak. Meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.