

**ELMS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
POTOMAC BUILDING * LEONARDTOWN, MD
12:00 P.M. JANUARY 14, 2011
Minutes**

Members present were Derick Berlage, Brad Clements, David Gailey, Bob Paul, Phil Rollins and Gayle Moreland on behalf of Pete Dunbar.

Members excused were David Heilmier, Steve Riley and Charles Cameron.

Others present were Margarita Rochow, Elms Environmental Center; Kim Howe, SMCPS; Kelly Palmer, LUGM; and Jada Stuckert, Recording Secretary.

Mr. Berlage called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

I. Approval of Minutes – 1/5/11

The meeting minutes of January 5, 2011 were approved as presented,

II. Unfinished Business

a. Discussion of Proposed Solar Photovoltaic Electric Generating Facility

Mr. Berlage stated the County Commissioners have requested a briefing on 2/15/11 for the proposed project. Mr. Berlage stated the Committee could choose to brief the Commissioners on the project and not provide a recommendation or propose a recommendation. Mr. Berlage asked for comments.

Mr. Clements stated the Elms site was originally purchased for the purpose of a power plant and this solar facility falls into the right category. Mr. Clements stated this is good for the environment, is an attractive facility and it will have a positive effect on the community. Mr. Clements stated there seems to be an interest in the educational component as well and would like to discuss the possibility of the developer adopting the Elms Center to help with time, resources, and funding at some point.

Mr. Gailey stated he is weary of providing recommendations with conditions considering this is State owned land and the State has the ultimate decision here. Mr. Clements agreed stating these would not be conditions rather strong suggestions.

Mr. Rollins stated he received an email from Mr. Riley, who could not be present today, asking questions as to the appearance of the facility. Ms. Moreland stated answers to these questions would be given in more detail at the public hearing.

Mr. Berlage stated he would be hesitant to recommend approval of the project without having citizen input. Mr. Berlage asked when the local hearing would be held. Ms. Moreland stated she is unsure at this point when the local hearing would be held.

Ms. Rochow asked if any input has been sought from the Navy. Mr. Berlage stated to date they have no problem with the facility however this has not been submitted in writing.

Mr. Berlage summarized comments from the members to possibly present to the County Commissioners stating the project seems to propose all positive aspects however attention should be paid to the educational components and special attention should be paid to buffering of the project and coordination with the Navy. The Committee recommends the County Commissioners wait until after the PSC hearing to make their final decision.

Mr. Paul made the above statement as a motion and Mr. Rollins seconded. The motion passed by a 6-0 vote.

b. Update on Hunting

Mr. Rollins stated a total of 21 permits were issued and no problems were reported to his office, therefore everything seemed to go very well during the trial period. Ms. Rochow agreed stating nothing was observed from the Educational side. Mr. Rollins stated at this point we will plan to continue with the bow-hunting being managed by Recreation and Parks.

III. New Business

a. None

IV. Next Steps

Meet with the County Commissioners on 2/15/11 to provide a recommendation regarding the proposed solar facility.

V. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:35 p.m. The next meeting is to be held on May 11, 2011.