

**ST. MARY'S COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSION**  
**St. Mary's County Potomac Building**

**Minutes of January 4, 2010**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Joseph B. Bush, Chair  
Robert W. Denning, Vice Chair  
Candace Butler, Alternate Member  
Robert E. Elwood, Member  
Elizabeth Long, Member  
Sarah Cannavo, Administrative Support

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Arthur F. Goeller, Member

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Bush at 2:05 p.m.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be held on February 1, 2010 in conference room 14 of the Potomac Building. There will be no meeting on January 18, 2010, due to the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.

The December 21, 2009 meeting was not held due to inclement weather.

**REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**Minutes for Open Session of December 7, 2009:** Mr. Elwood made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Motion seconded by Ms. Long and carried.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**Ordinance Update:** Mr. Bush received feedback from the Director of MetCom concerning the proposed Ordinance change which would require the Director to file a Financial Disclosure Statement. The current director stated that she was willing to voluntarily file the FDS, however, she questioned the legal standing of the Ethics Commission to require future Directors to file based on the current structure of MetCom in regards to the County Government.

Mr. Denning felt that the Director of MetCom should be required to file a FDS with either the County or the State and that the organization should be governed by the Ethics Ordinance and answerable to one of the two Commissions (State or County).  
Membership agreed.

Mr. Elwood asked for a copy of the Code of St. Mary's County which covered the establishment and operation of MetCom. Ms. Cannavo said she would make a copy for each member and mail it to them prior to the next meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Lobbyist:** Mr. Elwood asked the commission members to review the Lobbyist section of the Ethics Ordinance and By-Laws for discussion at the next meeting. Mr. Elwood wants to know if individuals hired to represent property owners at Public Meetings (Planning Commission, Development Review Forum, Code of Appeals, etc) should be considered Lobbyist and therefore required to register as such with the Ethics Commission.

**Regional Ethics Training:** The next Ethics Training was to be conducted by Charles County's Ethics Commission. However, recent resignation / departure of members of that commission may require another participating county take on the training. If Charles County is unable to conduct the training, St. Mary's County would be the next county on the list. Mr. Bush will contact the Charles County Ethics Commission and determine the status.

**FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS:**

Six FDS statements were reviewed. Mr. Elwood took one statement to contact the filer for additional information concerning property owned.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

A motion was made by Ms. Long to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Denning and the motion was carried. The St. Mary's County Ethics Commission was adjourned at 2:30 PM.