

COMMISSION ON THE ENVIROMENT MINUTES
Potomac Building
Minutes of August 6, 2008

COE Members present were Barne Wheeler, Chairman; Marta Kelsey, Troy Hansen, Susan Blake, Sandy Neville, Larry Hartwick and Frank Allen. Members absent: Bill Shreve, Daryl Calvano, and Caroline Miller. Others present were Sue Veith and Jada Stuckert, Recording Secretary.

- I) **Call to Order:** Mr. Wheeler called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.
- II) **Discussion & Approval of Meeting Minutes:** The minutes of July 2, 2008 were tabled to the next meeting for correction.
- III) **Continuing Business:**
- a. **Discussion of Menhaden Project with St. Mary's School Officials:** Mr. Hansen stated Ms. Margarita Rochow is currently on vacation but plans to present the major points at Leonardtown High School when she returns. Mr. Hansen stated he would report back to the Committee via email once this has been done. Ms. Neville asked if this project is being offered out to other high schools within St. Mary's County. Mr. Hansen stated he believes Ms. Rochow will offer the project to other high schools.
 - b. **Status on LUGM Critical Area Update:** Ms. Veith stated this update is still being worked on within the Department. Ms. Veith stated she was told to have a first draft to the legal department by 9/8/08 therefore it would be forthcoming to the Commission for review in late October or November timeframe.
 - c. **Review of Goals & Objectives:** Mr. Hartwick gave an overview of the data he collected during the "2008 Go Green! Save Gr\$\$n!" Forum. Mr. Hartwick stated 36.67% of people thought providing clean and adequate drinking water and restoration of the bay and wetlands was most important. Mr. Hartwick stated 12.50% of people thought too much development and the loss of farmland and rural character. Mr. Hartwick stated he took the highest scoring percentages and combined those recommendations in with the Goals & Objectives list we currently have. After discussion it was decided that Mr. Hartwick would re-group the items and present them at the September meeting. After approval, the new list would be posted to the COE's web pages.
 - d. **Better Educating the Public & Raising Awareness:** Ms. Kelsey provided the Committee with a list of St. Mary's County Clubs and Organizations to be used for the summit. Ms. Kelsey stated she would continue to add to the list. The group agreed that each COE member would, if at all possible, bring in the name, email, and contact point for at least one (1) organization to add to Ms. Kelsey's list. Ms. Veith stated a questionnaire to include top environmental concerns in the County would be useful to send to each organization on the list. Ms. Veith stated also on the questionnaire you could ask if the organization would be willing to participate in the summit. Also included in the mailing would be a promise to provide feedback to those responding. Ms. Blake volunteered to draft the questioner and send via email to all the members for any additions or corrections, prior to the next COE meeting.
 - e. **Update on Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC):** The Committee reviewed the response letter from the Board of County Commissioners regarding the SWAC quorum. After discussion it was the consensus of the Committee to have Mr. Wheeler send a friendly email to Commissioner Raley asking a few more questions. Mr. Wheeler stated he would try to get definite answers regarding the quorum change within the SWAC by-laws.
 1. **Troy Hansen's contact with County Attorney:** Mr. Hansen stated he spoke with Christy Chesser regarding SWAC quorum and making SWAC a subcommittee of the Commission. Mr. Hansen stated he felt as if a solution to the quorum issue would not be dealt with swiftly and this may be the only way to insure SWAC holds meetings regularly.
 2. **Making Money by Recycling:** Mr. Wheeler stated his wife saw a commercial advertising a company that will pick up all your recycling for free and at the end of the year you actually get paid for it. Mr. Wheeler stated the average check is \$300.00 per year. It was stated that this is probably for larger cities and not feasible for such a small county. Mr. Wheeler stated he would have his wife contact the company and see if they are interested in servicing St. Mary's County.

3. **Curbside Recycling Update:** Mr. Wheeler stated he has not yet received a response from Mr. McCloud but would keep trying. Mr. Michael Wayman stated Calvert Trash and Goody's both do curbside recycling. It was decided to combine all the lists of curbside recycling providers and post to the somd.com website.
- f. **Rapid Transit for the County:** Mr. Allen discussed a rapid transit bus for the County to connect us with Washington DC. After discussion it was decided to have Mr. Allen contact the Charles County Commissioner to see what planning has already been done. Mr. Wheeler stated this item would be place on the next agenda for further discussion.
- g. **Green Building Subcommittee Status:** Ms. Neville stated she is hoping to schedule the first meeting for sometime in the fall. Ms. Neville stated in October she will be presenting for Habitat-4-Humanity by showing the new owners how to live "Green". Mr. Wheeler stated once the final dates are pinned down to let him know and he will post this under the hot topics on the somd.com website.

IV) **New Business:**

- a. **Environmental Summit Discussion:** See discussion under III.d.
 - b. **Should Citizen Reporting of Zoning Violations be Anonymous:** Ms. Veith stated the Board of County Commissioners will not allow us to take any anonymous inquiries.
 - c. **Suggestions on Web Page Improvements:** Ms. Kelsey stated #13 on the website needs to be corrected to read "avoid washing dishes".
- V) **Announcements:** The Committee discussed the next meeting and it was the general consensus to hold the next meeting on September 10, 2008.
- VI) **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.