

St. Mary's County Government
COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENT

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July 15, 2010

Board of County Commissioners for St. Mary's County
P.O. Box 653, Governmental Center
Leonardtown, MD 20650

Dear Commissioners:

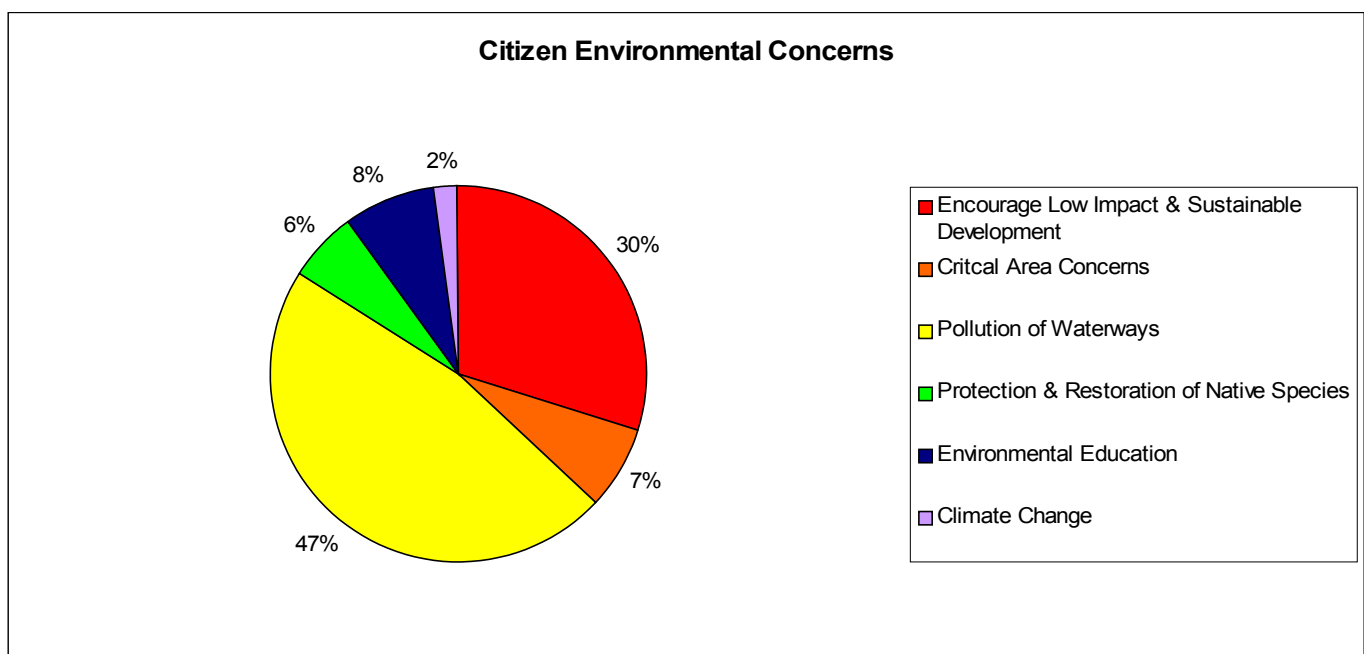
Summary:

Over the last eighteen months, the Commission on the Environment (COE) has worked to identify the primary environmental concerns of citizens and organizations in St. Mary's County and developed a set of initiatives designed to address them. In short, we concluded that pollution of our waterways and the need for low impact and sustainable development were the top County concerns. The initiatives that address these concerns are set forth in order of priority in the enclosures. We respectfully request that you direct the appropriate agencies to consider these initiatives and work towards their implementation.

Brief Background:

Identifying Environmental Concerns

In November 2008, the COE began an effort to identify the primary environmental concerns of citizens and organizations in the County. An initial survey, followed by two additional validation efforts, produced the results depicted in the chart below.



Developing Initiatives Designed to Address Concerns

As you can see from the chart, the Pollution of Waterways and Low Impact/Sustainable Development categories accounted for over 77% of the responses received. We therefore decided to limit further investigation to these two areas. We again solicited citizen and organization input to develop a list of initiatives that would address the concerns.

Prioritizing Initiatives

The initiatives for Pollution of Waterways are shown as enclosure 1, and those for Low Impact/Sustainable Development as enclosure 2. We asked respondents to rank the initiatives according to priority of importance, and the initiatives appear in the enclosures in that order. Thirty (30) respondents participated in this effort, but many of those represented organizations with numerous members. To see the details of the methodology used in our study, please see Appendix A.

Conclusions & Recommendations:

Conclusions

The Commission acknowledges that this study cannot be considered statistically significant. Nevertheless, we feel strongly that the information assembled and assessed over this eighteen- month period represents a reasonably accurate picture of County environmental concerns and the actions that County citizens and organizations believe should be taken to address them, particularly with respect to the top ten (10) initiatives in each category.

Recommendations

1. We believe every initiative, except for the first in the Pollution of Waterways category dealing with Menhaden, is within the County's capability to implement. We therefore request that you, the Commissioners, direct staff agencies to consider these initiatives and report back to you about the feasibility of their implementation. We have provided copies of this correspondence to each of the County agencies shown below. We recognize that some of the initiatives may already be implemented or in the process of being implemented; however, we did not wish to alter the original citizen lists and so listed them as received.
2. Regarding the matter of the menhaden, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) concluded, in its May meeting, that the Menhaden population in the Bay had declined significantly and directed that the allowed catch by Omega Protein be reduced from 185 to 106 tons for the next five years. Omega Protein vowed to legally contest this decision. Additionally, the Virginia Legislature, which has twice before refused to become involved in regulating Menhaden catch, might refuse to enforce the ASMFC edict. Should this be the case, we will ask for your vigorous action to defend the ruling.

Sincerely,

Barne Wheeler

John (Barne) Wheeler, Chair

Enclosures:

1. Prioritized Initiative for Pollution of Waterways
 2. Prioritized Initiatives for Low Impact/Sustainable Development
- Appendix A – Detailed Study Methodology, Environmental Concerns & Resulting Development & Prioritization of Waterways Pollution & Low Impact/Sustainable Development Initiatives

Copies Provided to:

Director, St. Mary's County Dept. of Land Use & Growth Management

Director, St. Mary's County Dept. of Public Works & Transportation
Director, St. Mary's County Health Department
Director, St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission
District Manager, St. Mary's County Soil Conservation District
Chairman, St. Mary's County Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board

Information Only Copies also Provided to:

President, Southern Maryland Electric Corporation
Chairman, St. Mary's County Development Review Forum
Chairman, St. Mary's County Planning Commission
Chairman, St. Mary's County Board of Appeals
President, St. Mary's County Chamber of Commerce
Southern Maryland Association of Realtors
St. Mary's River Watershed Association

Prioritized Pollution of Waterways Initiatives

Ranking of Initiatives

- 1 Ban Menhaden fishing in the Chesapeake Bay by all reduction boats until the menhaden population can filter the Bay in 1 month. Letters to Governor, Congressmen, VA delegation.
- 2 Establish Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans for any construction project with serious fines/consequences for non-compliance. Plans should: a) minimize accelerated soil erosion on disturbed areas; b) minimize discharge of sediment and other pollutants in storm water runoff; c) be implemented 7 days prior to beginning construction with a copy available on site; d) be dynamic and subject to modifications as conditions warrant.
- 3 Enforce regulations/requirements at development sites for the purposes of reducing runoff (i.e. soil retention fences). If finding funding for additional inspectors is the answer then it should be considered.
- 4 Encourage the use of porous paving systems for new parking lots for commercial, industrial and multi-family land uses, in addition to using bio-retention areas or other filtering systems to treat storm water. Consider offering one-time tax credits for implementing these.
- 5 Establish a County inspection team with a charter to inspect: construction site runoff, and existing storm water runoff devices. Establish procedures to require correction of deficiencies found and penalties for failure to do so.
- 6 Ban application of fertilizers containing phosphorous except where addition of phosphorous is deemed necessary by soil testing certified by state or county.
- 7 Identify County areas where soil erosion is greatest and where low impact mitigation and storm water management would provide the greatest benefit. Implement practices to correct identified problems.
- 8 Require new septic systems be installed with best available technology.
- 9 Increase programs to re-plant shorelines above and below waterline in a sustainable manner.
- 10 Reduce runoff from residential areas by providing educational outreach on the harmful effects of runoff and on things that homeowners can do to reduce their impact on our waterways, such as landscaping techniques and changes in behaviors (lawn practices, car washing, dog walking, dumping household chemicals or automotive fluids).
- 11 Increase water quality monitoring stations to monitor progress of pending mitigation efforts.
- 12 Require septic system information packages be issued for all home purchases. Require purchasers to sign a statement acknowledging that they understand the requirements and obligations of living in a home with a septic system.
- 13 Ensure oversight of agricultural nutrient and sediment management plans.
- 14 Establish an integrated pest management program for all County properties (utilize application of natural and/or biodegradable products during the pest stages when most beneficial in lieu of applications of harmful herbicides and insecticides).
- 15 Promote "Bay Wise Landscaping", especially with coastal residents [<http://baywise.umd.edu/>.

- 16 Create a county "Adopt a Stream" program to include water monitoring, cleanup, and restoration programs in the effort to promote stewardship of waterways.
- 17 Establish horizontal setbacks for fenced livestock pastures to tidal waters.
- 18 Establish mandatory septic system inspections every 3 years and pump out if necessary.
- 19 Appeal to marinas and boater supply stores to post public education signs on how to have less impact while recreational boating.
- 20 Establish downstream water quality devices for livestock pastures.
- 21 Establish maximum parking requirements in new construction projects and require share parking agreement for adjacent sites.
- 22 Establish land clearing and manure management for small animal farms and for Rural Preservation Area farmettes.
- 23 Encourage realty companies/agents to have relevant literature about the local watershed(s) of this county - particularly to inform persons moving here from non-Bay regions.
- 24 Reestablish anonymous reporting for suspected zoning violations to Land Use & Growth Management (LUGM). Keep a record of those making frivolous or nuisance reports so abuses are identified.
- 25 Institute a program to encourage waterfront homeowners to grow oysters via outreach and education at the County level.
- 26 Encourage participation in existing State/Federal cover crop programs.
- 27 Educate the public about Storm water Management and Nonpoint Source Pollution using EPA's Nonpoint Source Pollution guidelines: <http://www.epa.gov/nps/MMGI/Chapter4/ch4-2a.html>; Maryland Department of the Environment Stormwater Management Program: <http://www.mde.state.md.us/Programs/WaterPrograms/SedimentandStormwater/home/index.asp>
- 28 Ensure presence or installation of septic tank access ports at sale of home.
- 29 Educate public on currently available programs to financially assist homeowners in upgrades of existing septic systems.
- 30 Investigate possibility of using natural mosquito control methods.

Prioritized Low Impact & Sustainable Development Initiatives

Ranking of Initiatives

- 1 Make use of Green Streets, such as those already in place in Portland and Seattle and make Green Streets a Design requirement in development districts. Green streets are characterized as having vegetated swales capable of handling, channeling, and filtering runoff, narrow roadways, landscaping, and pervious roadway materials.
- 2 Require all new development or re-development projects to have storm water and runoff characteristics equivalent to forested land.
- 3 Encourage re-development of existing structures for new businesses or industries versus clearing land and building new.
- 4 Establish tax credits (or impact fee credits) to residential and commercial building owners and tenants of eligible buildings and tenant spaces which meet "green" standards. Green standards include but are not limited to those that increase energy efficiency, improve indoor air quality and reduce the environmental impact of commercial and residential buildings in the county.
- 5 Enact legislation to permit use of recycled water from approved treatment plants for use in irrigation, lawn watering and car and airplane washing.
- 6 Increase Incentives for builders to plan and build environmentally friendly communities and create tax incentives for homebuyers that purchase these properties.
- 7 Require new home construction or additions larger than 300 sq. ft. to incorporate a certain number of "green" building practices (to be developed based on existing standards from LEED, NAHB, GREENGLOBE, etc.) in order to get a building permit. For remodeling or additions less than 300 sq. ft., offer guidance and encouragement.
- 8 Allow higher density of development when green methods are used (such as nationally recognized Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) methods/standards). Development at higher density with Green characteristics will reduce overall footprint.
- 9 Include safe bike paths in any major road construction.
- 10 Ban open air burning.
- 11 Increase public education and make workshops available to increase use of green methods on a residential level.
- 12 Coordinate curbside pick-up of recyclables for the whole County.
- 13 Create Credits and/or Incentives for recycling programs for businesses.
- 14 Identify and contact coastal county residents in homes greater than 25 years old, and inform them of opportunity to reduce excess nitrogen in the waters by upgrading to best septic tank technology - via state grants and the Bay Restoration Fund.
- 15 Establish and fund a citizens committee to review those permitting processes of the county having environmental impacts and the citizens and county's interface with the Critical Area Commission (CAC) with a view towards evaluating fairness, ease of citizen interface, and environmental and property rights issues.
- 16 Encourage local nurseries to promote native species; similarly, encourage commercial and residential developers to plant with native species and include rain gardens.
- 17 Change plumbing code to require dual flush toilets.

- 18 Encourage the use of pervious concrete and pervious pavers towards credit for stormwater calculations.
- 19 Reinstate anonymous reporting of suspected zoning ordinance environmentally related violations. Keep a record of those making frivolous or nuisance reports.
- 20 Create/Facilitate partnerships with local building supplies companies to carry environmentally friendly home products and construction materials. Establish tax credits for those businesses that do carry environmentally friendly products and materials.
- 21 Implement best environmental management practices for mowed grass on County and school lands at optimum environmental heights to reduce rapid stormwater runoff. Encourage the state to do the same.
- 22 Set up a building design review committee (composition to be determined) to improve energy performance of buildings beyond minimum requirements whether included in retrofits to existing buildings or incorporated into new buildings. Provide design guidance at no cost.
- 23 Expand grant programs for people who want to "test the system" in their own homes by adding or creating green features. These people would be testing the county and state laws, regulations, and policies.
- 24 Follow the example of other MD communities by requiring all buildings over 10,000 square feet to achieve LEED "Silver" Certification.
- 25 Encourage the implementation of best environmental management practices for woodlots 5 acres or more, especially larger tracts, using the Maryland Tree Farm Program as a base and with the consequential tax benefits of the tree farm program.
- 26 Develop/provide collection point for disposing of expired/un-needed medical drugs.
- 27 Encourage local officials, agencies & staff to join the following organizations: US Green Building Council: <http://www.usgbc.org/>; ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability: <http://www.iclei.org/>; and, Local Government Commission: <http://www.lgc.org/about/index.html>.
- 28 Develop a local inter-agency work group to develop procedures for implementing municipal wastewater reclamation.
- 29 Encourage the best environmental management practices for mowed grass on private lands by providing guidelines that stress optimum environmental heights for private and commercial property lawns.
- 30 Provide "dog doo" collection bags at county parks and public recreation areas; post signs to require dog owners to collect pet waste.

**Appendix A – Development of
St. Mary’s County Environmental Concerns & Initiatives
Part I of II Parts**

**Identifying Environmental Concerns
Held by
St. Mary’s County Citizens
And
Selected County Organizations, Agencies and Activities**

COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENT ENVIRONMENTAL SURVEY REPORT

The St. Mary's County Commission on the Environment (COE) is a volunteer citizen board appointed to advise the Board of County Commissioners on environmental issues in the county. To be more effective in that role, the COE conducted a survey in 2008-2009 to identify major environmental concerns of organizations, businesses, and individuals. The purpose of the survey was twofold: one to solicit and categorize environmental concerns and the other to use the survey as a tool to begin identifying and organizing environmental initiatives from interested individuals, organizations and businesses.

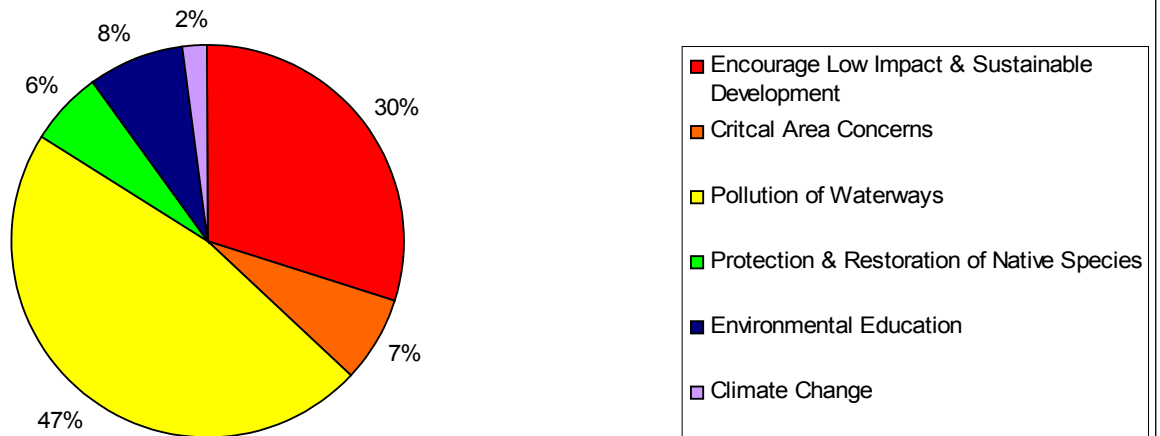
The survey was distributed electronically to over fifty organizations and individuals. Responders were asked to indicate if their response was a consensus response on behalf of an organization, as an individual affiliated with an organization, or as an individual without an affiliation with an organization. Eighteen completed surveys were returned to the COE. Seven responses were consensus responses from organizations. Eight responses were from individuals affiliated with an organization or business. Three responses were from individuals without affiliations. The organizations and affiliations are listed in the following table:

List of Organizations and Affiliations

St. Mary's Soil Conservation District
Loiederman Soltesz Associates & MNCBIA
Southern Maryland Resource Conservation & Development
Maryland-National Capital Building Association
CCAN & Sierra Club
Williamsburg Environmental Group, Inc.
St. Mary's Planning Commission / RPD Task Force
Summerseat Farm
St. Mary's River Watershed Association
Friends of Myrtle Point
Green Southern Maryland
Helicon Works, Architects
Maryland League of Women Voters
Potomac River Association
Association of Southern Maryland Beekeepers

Responders were asked to list their top three environmental concerns in Southern Maryland. Out of the completed surveys, fifty individual concerns were identified. Individual concerns fell into six broad categories: critical area concerns, climate change, pollution of waterways, environmental education, land use and sustainable development practices, and protection and restoration of native species. Tabulation of the responses within these categories resulted in the following chart.

Citizen Environmental Concerns - Initial 2008 Survey

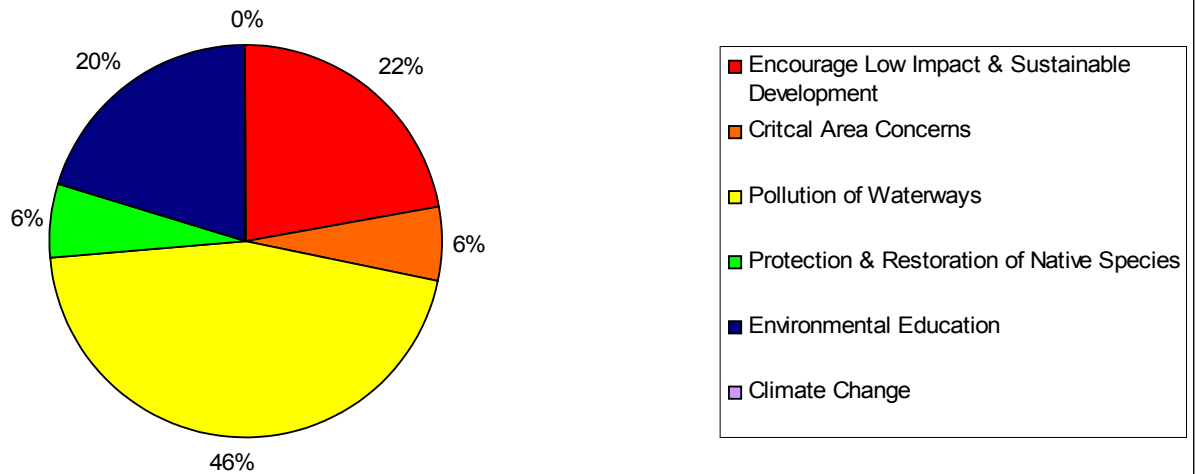


Pollution of the Waterways encompassed a number of water quality and environmental concerns. Chief among these were the impact of poor water quality on plants and animals, sedimentation and shoreline erosion, and inadequate stormwater management. Forty-seven percent of all concerns were related to water quality issues.

Thirty percent of the concerns centered on land use and land preservation. Most of the concerns in this category were generated around the need to better promote sustainable land practices such as low impact developments. Land preservation was a strategy endorsed by a number of responders.

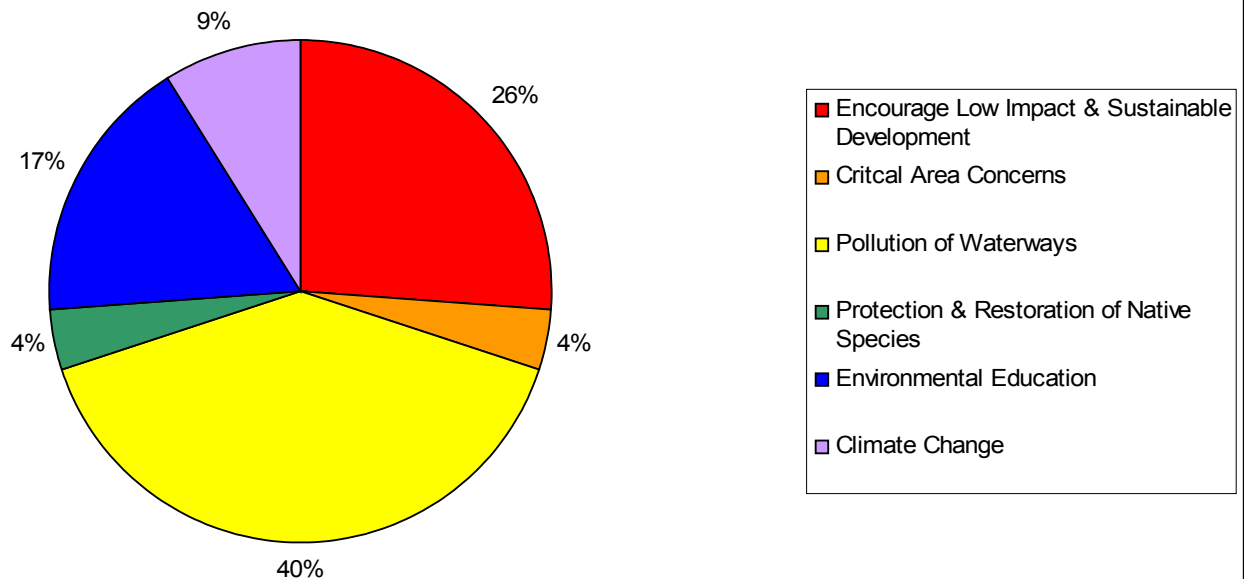
Concerns were fairly evenly distributed among the remaining categories. More education on sustainable living and building practices was identified by several organizations and individuals. Since tabulating the original survey results, the COE has used the survey results to engage the general public on how they would rank the six categories of environmental concerns. Starting at the Living Green Exposition, an event sponsored by the COE in March 2009, individuals were asked to “vote” on which of the six categories from the original survey they felt was the most critical environmental issue in St. Mary’s County. Sixty individuals voted. The highest percentages remained Pollution of Waterways and Encourage Low Impact and Sustainable Developments. Environmental Education received a significantly higher number of votes than indicated in the original survey.

2009 Living Green Expo Attendees' Environmental Concerns



On Earth Day in April 2009, a similar exercise was conducted by the COE with 23 individuals voting. The ranking of concerns and percentages were very similar to those from the participants

2009 Earth Day Attendees' Environmental Concerns



in the Living Green Exposition.

As a result of these exercises the COE believes that Pollution of the Waterways and Encouraging Low Impact & Sustainable Development should be the focus of the COE's efforts to articulate and prioritize potential environmental initiatives for St. Mary's County. The method and means to develop these initiatives will be a primary goal for the COE in 2010.

**Appendix A – Development of
St. Mary’s County Environmental Concerns & Initiatives
Part II of II Parts
Development & Prioritization of Initiatives
for the
Major Citizen Environmental Concerns
of
Pollution of Waterways & Low Impact/Sustainable Development**

Having seen that Pollution of Waterways (PW) and Encouraging Sustainable Development (LI/SD) were the overwhelming concerns of the citizens of St. Mary's County, the Commission on the Environment (COE) decided that it would be to develop a list of initiatives to tackle each category and then try to determine which ones were most important to County citizens. The discussion below outlines this process and the results achieved.

Development of Initiatives:

The COE members each were asked to describe three initiatives for both PW & LI/SD. The initiatives were assembled as written, with no attempt at editing or renumbering. Consequently, similar initiatives in each category could and did appear at the top middle or bottom of the list. By doing so, the COE believed each initiative would be more likely to stand on its own merits.

Once the initial lists for each category was completed, it was sent out to approximately 50 interested organizations and over 120 interested individuals. Each was asked to review the list and provide as many additional initiatives in each category as they desired. In the correspondence, they were also told that they would later be called on to prioritize the initiatives and that they would receive feedback throughout the process.

This citizen input was relieved and incorporated with the original initiatives list. The results of this process produced 30 initiatives in each category, of which approximately twenty percent came from interested individuals and organizations.

Prioritization of Initiatives:

Early on the COE recognized the need to put these initiatives in some order of importance. As a result, interested organization and individuals were asked to provide the Commission with their top ten most important initiative in each category, with 1 being most important to 10 being least important. Prioritized responses were received from 10 organizations and 20 individuals.

Rank Ordering the Initiatives:

To place each initiative in its relative order of importance, the 30 responses were placed in a table with each respondent's priority for a particular initiative in a separate column. If a particular initiative was not in a respondent's top ten in importance, the initiative received an arbitrary priority of 15. This insured that each initiative had 30 scores entered. Next each initiative's score was calculated by summing the scores and dividing by 30. As additional information, the percentage of respondents having that initiative as one of their top ten priorities was calculated and placed next to the initiatives score. Finally the initiatives were prioritized according to the score it received.

The results of this process are shown at enclosure one for Pollution of Waterways and two for Low Impact/Sustainable Development. Column 1 shows the number of the initiative before prioritization; column 2, its description; Column 3 the overall score it received from the 30 respondents; and, Column 4 the percent of respondents listing the initiative in one of their top 10 priorities.

Enclosures:

1. Prioritized Initiatives for Pollution of Waterways
2. Prioritized Initiatives for Low Impact/Sustainable Development

Pollution of Waterways Initiatives

No	Initiative	Overall Score	Percent Selecting
1	Ban Menhaden fishing in the Chesapeake Bay by all reduction boats until the menhaden population can filter the Bay in 1 month. Letters to Governor, Congressmen, VA delegation.	6.3	73
13	Establish Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans for any construction project with serious fines/consequences for non-compliance. Plans should: a) minimize accelerated soil erosion on disturbed areas; b) minimize discharge of sediment and other pollutants in storm water runoff; c) be implemented 7 days prior to beginning construction with a copy available on site; d) be dynamic and subject to modifications as conditions warrant.	6.7	77
4	Enforce regulations/requirements at development sites for the purposes of reducing runoff (i.e. soil retention fences). If finding funding for additional inspectors is the answer then it should be considered.	8.6	60
12	Encourage the use of porous paving systems for new parking lots for commercial, industrial and multi-family land uses, in addition to using bio-retention areas or other filtering systems to treat storm water. Consider offering one-time tax credits for implementing these.	9.0	60
2	Establish a County inspection team with a charter to inspect: construction site runoff, and existing storm water runoff devices. Establish procedures to require correction of deficiencies found and penalties for failure to do so.	9.2	47
3	Ban application of fertilizers containing phosphorous except where addition of phosphorous is deemed necessary by soil testing certified by state or county.	9.6	50
8	Identify County areas where soil erosion is greatest and where low impact mitigation and storm water management would provide the greatest benefit. Implement practices to correct identified problems.	10.2	47
15	Require new septic systems be installed with best available technology.	10.9	47
7	Increase programs to re-plant shorelines above and below waterline in a sustainable manner.	11.0	50
5	Reduce runoff from residential areas by providing educational outreach on the harmful effects of runoff and on things that homeowners can do to reduce their impact on our waterways, such as landscaping techniques and changes in behaviors (lawn practices, car washing, dog walking, dumping household chemicals or automotive fluids).	11.1	37
9	Increase water quality monitoring stations to monitor progress of pending mitigation efforts.	12.0	33
19	Require septic system information packages be issued for all home purchases. Require purchasers to sign a statement acknowledging that they understand the requirements and obligations of living in a home with a septic system.	12.0	37
25	Ensure oversight of agricultural nutrient and sediment management plans.	12.2	33
20	Establish an integrated pest management program for all County properties (utilize application of natural and/or biodegradable products during the pest stages when most beneficial in lieu of applications of harmful herbicides and insecticides.	12.3	30

29 Promote "Bay Wise Landscaping", especially with coastal residents [http://baywise.umd.edu/ .	12.3	33
10 Create a county "Adopt a Stream" program to include water monitoring, cleanup, and restoration programs in the effort to promote stewardship of waterways.	12.4	30
23 Establish horizontal setbacks for fenced livestock pastures to tidal waters.	12.6	27
17 Establish mandatory septic system inspections every 3 years and pump out if necessary.	12.8	27
11 Appeal to marinas and boater supply stores to post public education signs on how to have less impact while recreational boating.	13.0	27
24 Establish downstream water quality devices for livestock pastures.	13.2	20
14 Establish maximum parking requirements in new construction projects and require share parking agreement for adjacent sites.	13.3	20
26 Establish land clearing and manure management for small animal farms and for Rural Preservation Area farmettes.	13.4	17
30 Encourage realty companies/agents to have relevant literature about the local watershed(s) of this county - particularly to inform persons moving here from non- Bay regions.	13.5	20
16 Reestablish anonymous reporting for suspected zoning violations to Land Use & Growth Management (LUGM). Keep a record of those making frivolous or nuisance reports so abuses are identified.	13.5	23
21 Institute a program to encourage waterfront homeowners to grow oysters via outreach and education at the County level.	13.6	17
27 Encourage participation in existing State/Federal cover crop programs.	13.7	17
28 Educate the public about Storm water Management and Nonpoint Source Pollution using EPA's Nonpoint Source Pollution guidelines: http://www.epa.gov/nps/MMGI/Chapter4/ch4-2a.html ; Maryland Department of the Environment Stormwater Management Program: http://www.mde.state.md.us/Programs/WaterPrograms/SedimentandStormwater/ho me/index.asp	13.7	17
18 Ensure presence or installation of septic tank access ports at sale of home.	13.9	13
6 Educate public on currently available programs to financially assist homeowners in upgrades of existing septic systems.	14.0	13
22 Investigate possibility of using natural mosquito control methods.	14.7	3

Low Impact & Sustainable Development Initiatives

No	Initiative	Overall Score	Percent Selecting
1	Make use of Green Streets, such as those already in place in Portland and Seattle and make Green Streets a Design requirement in development districts. Green streets are characterized as having vegetated swales capable of handling, channeling, and filtering runoff, narrow roadways, landscaping, and pervious roadway materials.	6.9	73
14	Require all new development or re-development projects to have storm water and runoff characteristics equivalent to forested land.	7.7	70
9	Encourage re-development of existing structures for new businesses or industries versus clearing land and building new.	7.7	63
3	Establish tax credits (or impact fee credits) to residential and commercial building owners and tenants of eligible buildings and tenant spaces which meet "green" standards. Green standards include but are not limited to those that increase energy efficiency, improve indoor air quality and reduce the environmental impact of commercial and residential buildings in the county.	9.1	53
13	Enact legislation to permit use of recycled water from approved treatment plants for use in irrigation, lawn watering and car and airplane washing.	9.4	60
10	Increase Incentives for builders to plan and build environmentally friendly communities and create tax incentives for homebuyers that purchase these properties.	9.4	57
5	Require new home construction or additions larger than 300 sq. ft. to incorporate a certain number of "green" building practices (to be developed based on existing standards from LEED, NAHB, GREENGLOBE, etc.) in order to get a building permit. For remodeling or additions less than 300 sq. ft., offer guidance and encouragement.	10.3	53
2	Allow higher density of development when green methods are used (such as nationally recognized Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) methods/standards). Development at higher density with Green characteristics will reduce overall footprint.	10.9	40
16	Include safe bike path in any major road construction.	11.5	37
18	Ban open air burning.	11.5	33
8	Increase public education and make workshops available to increase use of green methods on a residential level.	11.7	33
17	Coordinate curbside pick-up of recyclables for the whole County.	11.9	37
11	Create Credits and/or Incentives for recycling programs for businesses.	12.0	33
27	Identify and contact coastal county residents in homes greater than 25 years old, and inform them of opportunity to reduce excess nitrogen in the waters by upgrading to best septic tank technology - via state grants and the Bay Restoration Fund.	12.3	30

23	Establish and fund a citizens committee to review those permitting processes of the county having environmental impacts and the citizens and county's interface with the Critical Area Commission (CAC) with a view towards evaluating fairness, ease of citizen interface, and environmental and property rights issues.	12.3	27
24	Encourage local nurseries to promote native species; similarly, encourage commercial and residential developers to plant with native species and include rain gardens.	12.4	30
12	Change plumbing code to require dual flush toilets.	12.6	30
20	Encourage the use of pervious concrete and pervious pavers towards credit for stormwater calculations.	12.6	27
15	Reinstate anonymous reporting of suspected zoning ordinance environmentally related violations. Keep a record of those making frivolous or nuisance reports.	12.7	30
6	Create/Facilitate partnerships with local building supplies companies to carry environmentally friendly home products and construction materials. Establish tax credits for those businesses that do carry environmentally friendly products and materials.	12.9	23
29	Implement best environmental management practices for mowed grass on County and school lands at optimum environmental heights to reduce rapid stormwater runoff. Encourage the state to do the same.	13.1	23
4	Set up a building design review committee (composition to be determined) to improve energy performance of buildings beyond minimum requirements whether included in retrofits to existing buildings or incorporated into new buildings. Provide design guidance at no cost.	13.2	20
7	Expand grant programs for people who want to "test the system" in their own homes by adding or creating green features. These people would be testing the county and state laws, regulations, and policies.	13.4	20
21	Follow the example of other MD communities by requiring all buildings over 10,000 square feet to achieve LEED "Silver" Certification.	13.4	20
28	Encourage the implementation of best environmental management practices for woodlots 5 acres or more, especially larger tracts, using the Maryland Tree Farm Program as a base and with the consequential tax benefits of the tree farm program.	13.5	13
26	Develop/provide collection point for disposing of expired/un-needed medical drugs.	13.6	17
22	Encourage local officials, agencies & staff to join the following organizations: US Green Building Council: http://www.usgbc.org/ ; ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability: http://www.iclei.org/ ; and, Local Government Commission: http://www.lgc.org/about/index.html .	13.8	17
19	Develop a local inter-agency work group to develop procedures for implementing municipal wastewater reclamation.	14.0	13
30	Encourage the best environmental management practices for mowed grass on private lands by providing guidelines that stress optimum environmental heights for private and commercial property lawns.	14.0	10

25 Provide "dog doo" collection bags at county parks and public recreation areas; post signs to require dog owners to collect pet waste.

14.6

7