

**COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENT MINUTES**  
**Potomac Building**  
**Minutes of December 2, 2009**

COE Members present were Barne Wheeler, Chairman; Marta Kelsey, Troy Hansen, Bill Shreve, Susan Blake and Larry Hartwick. Members absent were Daryl Calvano, Caroline Miller & Sandy Neville. Others present were Sue Veith and Paul Waxman.

**I) Call to Order:** Mr. Wheeler called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

**II) Discussion & Approval of November Meeting Minutes:** A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of November 4, 2009 as amended.

**III) Continuing Business:**

**a. Environmental Concern Survey Initiatives**

**1. Compilation & Discussion of Low Impact & Sustainable Development Initiatives**

Mr. Wheeler stated he believes we need to provide more than just a list of initiatives by including some research materials as well. The Committee discussed and developed a list of initiatives, which Ms. Blake recorded.

**2. Compilation & Discussion of Pollution of Waterways Initiatives**

The Committee discussed and developed a list of initiatives, which Ms. Blake recorded.

3. The group decided to include a brief definition of each of the two Categories followed by the COE initiatives, but not to include any additional research data.

**b. COE/SWAC Integration Update**

Mr. Wheeler stated he gave the comments to Ms. Sara Cannavo who in turn forwarded the comments to the County Attorney for review. Mr. Wheeler stated he has requested that any comments from the County Attorney be forwarded to the COE for review prior to moving forward to the County Commissioners.

**c. Gray Water System Update for Habitat for Humanity**

Mr. Hartwick stated there is a standing Green Advisory Committee to the Patuxent Habitat for Humanity Organization. Mr. Hartwick stated we will be proceeding to move forward with a pilot program for rain water harvesting on a residential level through Habitat for Humanity. Mr. Wheeler stated if we want this pilot program to work we have to come up with the funding, and that he would see if the State's MDE could come up with some funding.

**d. Status of Comprehensive Plan Comments & McIntosh Run Letters**

Mr. Wheeler stated the comments were personally delivered to the Commissioners and the comments have been posted on the webpage. Mr. Wheeler stated the McIntosh Run letters were mailed to both the Commissioners and the Department of Public Works and are also located on the webpage.

**e. Green Building Update**

Mr. Waxman stated SMECO gave an overview of all the upcoming programs.

**f. State New Tree Cutting Regulations**

Mr. Wheeler stated the State of Maryland has passed new tree cutting regulations. Ms. Veith stated the Roadside Tree Law has been in effect since the 1960's. Ms. Veith stated it has always said that you have to have a permit to cut a tree in the right-of-way and must have a variance to cut a tree within a Forest Conservation Easement. Ms. Veith stated there is a flaw in the law that says 30 inch circumference rather than a 30 inch diameter.

**IV) New Business:**

**a. Discussion of Water Conservation Requirement in Comp Plan & CWSP**

**b. Update on Task Force Studying Metropolitan Commission**

Mr. Wheeler stated Ms. Meiser of Metcom sent over an executive summary regarding this Task Force and asked that the COE review it. Mr. Wheeler stated this executive summary has nothing to do with why this Task Force was created in the first place. Mr. Wheeler stated the original proposal was to do away with the Metropolitan

Commission and meld it with County Government so it would no longer be a separate entity. Mr. Wheeler indicated that Ms. Meiser, the MetCom director, would let us know when the Task Force's deliberations are further along. Mr. Hartwick indicated that he thought there were areas where the COE would want to comment.

**c. Method for Allocating EDU's for New Development/Projects**

The Committee discussed developers deciding when and where water and sewer lines go rather than Metcom and/or the County.

**d. Committee on Watershed Stewardship**

Mr. Wheeler stated he is not sure that we need to have a sub-committee for this as we already discuss these issues in our regular meetings. Ms. Veith gave an overview of the Maryland Clean Water Act as well as other program that will be filtering down the pipeline in regards to watershed stewardship.

**e. Discussion of Election of COE Chair & Vice Chair**

Not discussed.

**f. Other Discussion**

Ms. Veith brought forth a letter from the Plumbing and Fuel Gas Board asking for a joint meeting to discuss the possibility of combining the Commission on the Environment Annual Forum and the Plumbing and Fuel Gas Board Annual Going Green Expo. After discussion, it was the consensus of the Committee to hold a joint meeting to discuss this possibility.

**V) Announcements**

**VI) Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.