

COMMISSION ON THE ENVIROMENT MINUTES
Potomac Building
Minutes of April 1, 2009

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

I) **Call to Order:** Mr. Wheeler called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

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

III) **Continuing Business:**

a. **Green Living Expo After Action Comments:**

1. **Set Up/Tear Down:** It was decided to utilize the higher education center again next year as it is an excellent facility and layout for the expo.
2. **Vendor/Participant Notification/Acceptance:** It was recommended that the date should be reserved four (4) months ahead of time and the invitations should be sent two (2) months ahead. Ms. Kelsey stated she would prepare a master list of the contacts. Ms. Gilman will send her email list of vendors, Mr. Wheeler will send his environmental survey email list, and Ms. Miller will send her individual respondents list to Ms. Kelsey. Ms. Kelsey will consolidate and maintain a master list of environmental and other contacts.
3. **Presentation:** The Girl Scouts were a success and we should utilize them again if possible. It was recommended that next year we have clearer tasks for the Girl Scouts to complete. The Commission should rough out the program earlier and include a program on the website and in the paper for the public to see. It was decided that better signage was needed to direct the public to the main facility and to the presentation rooms. It was decided the two meeting rooms and staggered presentation should be retained.
4. **Advertising:** After discussion it was decided to make sure notification of the expo gets in the Enterprise calendar of events and SMECO newsletter on time next year. It was also decided that paying for the \$300 quarter page ad was worth it this year and should be repeated again next year.
5. **Food and Prizes:** The food was excellent again this year and there were few leftovers. The prizes were great as well and it was decided 7-10 prizes are a good number to use again.
6. **Audio Visual:** Everything worked well both in the classrooms and in the booth area.
7. **Other:** The Commission discussed sending thank you letters to the Higher Education Center, all the vendors, Girl Scouts, and all the donors. It was decided Mr. Hartwick would draft the letters for the next meeting.

b. **Environmental Concern Survey:**

1. **Posting Results to the Web:** The group discussed Ms. Blake's revised charts showing the results of the survey responses. There was a general agreement that the new charts were very good. Ms. Veith suggested the other category on the pie chart be changed to Climate Control, since this was the only comment therein. Mr. Hartwick presented his compilation the concerns expressed by expo attendees, and commented that the resulting pie chart was surprisingly similar. It was decided the survey results should be posted to the web using a new page. Ms. Veith stated she would provide Mr. Wheeler an electronic version of the chart used at the expo. Mr. Wheeler stated he would modify the chart for posting to the website.

Mr. Wheeler stated a statement that the results of the survey would become the basis of a more specific list of concerns and solutions to them. This list would be generated at an environmental summit conducted in October of this year. Individuals and organizations, besides those participating in the survey itself, would be encouraged to volunteer using the "volunteer" link on the COE website.

Mr. Hartwick stated he would utilize Ms. Blake's charts and incorporate suggested pie chart and color suggestions and combine them with his analysis of the expo participant's environmental concern priorities. This document would then be made into a file capable of being posted to the COE website. This file should be posted as a subordinate document to the new survey results page. The new page would thus have two "links", one to a "volunteer" to help organize and/or work on the October summit, and one to Mr. Hartwick's file containing additional details on the survey results.

2. **Summit Concept:** The group agreed the earliest the Survey Summit could feasibly be held would be in October. The Survey Summit's goal is to develop a more specific, prioritized list of issues and their solutions to the Survey's two largest areas of concern, Pollution of Waterways and Encourage Low Impact and Sustainable Development. The Summit's product would be a letter to the Commissioners outlining these issues and recommended solutions to them. The group agreed that a letter should be sent to the Commissioners outlining what we have done so far, and where we are headed. The group also agreed that the Survey should be a main topic on the Annual Report due on June 30, 2009.

c. **Trash and Litter Issue:** It was reaffirmed that Mr. Hansen would contact the concerned individual and have him put his concerns and suggested solutions in writing either directly to Mr. Hansen or to the COE via use of the COE's website designed for citizens to express their concerns.

d. **LUGM Critical Area Update:** No change.

IV) **New Business:**

- a. **Earth Day Participation Discussion:** The COE will participate in Earth Day again this year on April 19, 2009 in Leonardtown. The COE booth will contain the regular display information as well as the Environmental Survey Concerns. Attendees at the event will be encouraged to indicate their environmental concern priorities. Ms. Veith stated she will redo the chart, making it bigger in the process. Mr. Wheeler will pick up the chart and display materials from Ms. Veith as she will not be able to participate this year. Mr. Wheeler will check to make sure the application has been sent.
- b. **Alternative Energy/Conservation Issue:** Ms. Kelsey indicated that an individual had contacted her stating he felt the County should do more to encourage energy and environmental conservation. One way would be to forgo permitting fees for installation of such items/equipment. There was a consensus that encouraging implementation of such an imitative might be something the COE should pursue, however the details would have to be ironed out. The group felt that more information on what other Maryland Counties are doing in this area is needed before any decision can be made. Ms. Kelsey stated she would look into other Counties.

V) **Announcements:** None

VI) **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.