

**MINUTES OF THE ST. MARY'S COUNTY COMMISSION OF THE ENVIRONMENT
SECOND FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM * GOVERNMENTAL CENTER * LEONARDTOWN,
MARYLAND
Wednesday, May 3, 2007**

Present: Frank Allen; Marta Kelsey; William Shreve, Susan Blake, Sr.; John Wheeler; Sue Veith, Environmental Planner Land Use and Growth Management; and Denis Canavan, Director of Land Use and Growth Management.; Amanda Sivak, Recording Secretary

The Meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

The minutes of April 4, 2007 were approved with corrections.

Mr. Canavan explained the task forces' first recommendation is to have an annual growth policy. This means that LUGM would need to be aware of the population projection and where the county is to the projection. LUGM would also need to be aware of the actual growth taking place in the county. This would mean monitor the number of subdivisions taking place in the county and the number of residential building permits. There are limiting factors of the growth such as Water and Sewer availability and school seats. The task force recommended a growth policy of 2.25%. LUGM would look at the number of residential units provided by the state. This is an annual growth rate that would have to be approved by the Board of County Commissioners. The task force recommended a maximum of 30% of growth in the RPD and a minimum of 70% in the designated growth areas. Mr. Canavan explained all subdivisions would be counted during the annual growth report.

Ms. Debra Barger explained her concerns are regarding a variance that a neighbor was granted and the errors that he has done while carrying out this variance. Ms. Dawn Olekey explained Cat Creek is filling in and this homeowner is making it worse by having mud from his hillside slide into the property. She wants to know what the next step for this kind of issue is. Ms. Barger explained she has contacted a number state and local officials about the issue. Mr. Adam Knight has seen the video that she has taken and Mr. Jim Dunbar from the Maryland Department of the Environment has told the homeowner what he needs to do to control the mud coming from his property. Ms. Olekey explained the homeowner is supposed to be taking the mud that is coming from his property and placing them in bridgeable bags back on the hill side to keep it from eroding away. But they have seen him just sucking up the mud and putting it into the creek. Ms. Veith explained the homeowner was granted a variance to build on highly erodible steep slopes but was limited on how much impervious surface he could have and directed by Soil Conservation suggestion on how to manage the run off coming from his property. The homeowner did everything that was recommended by SCD but a neighboring property owner was flushing their well without managing their water output, then the heavy rains last fall over whelmed the drywells. MDE worked with the homeowner to create a plan to get everything that came off the slope out of the marsh. Then to stabilize the slope by using the mud that came from the slope in the biodegradable bag and putting them on the slope and planting numerous trees and shrubs in the bags.

Ms. Sandy Neville will be collecting money for Nancy Smith's building fund for her church. A draft letter will be drawn up by Ms. Neville and Mr. Allen for a proposed proclamation by the BOCC. The annual Green Forum will be named The Nancy Smith Green Forum. The draft for the thank you letter for the vendors has been drawn up by Ms. Blake. Ms. Neville will be put in charge of the thank you letters to the presenters at the forum.

Mr. Shreve nominated Mr. Wheeler as Chair of the Commission on the Environment and Ms. Susan Blake as Vice-Chair of the Committee. The motion was passed by the quorum.

The Aqua Aquifer has reached its maximum draw in the state. The Commission and Mr. Steve King thinks there should be a letter sent by the County Commissioners to Senator Roy Dyson to inform him of the problems with the aquifer. The Commission needs to get an appointment with the commissioners to bring up the aquifer issues and look at exploring new ways of acquiring.

The Commission would like to use a private website to get information out to the public about what the commission is doing. Ms. Veith explained that would be something that should go in the cover letter of the annual report.

New members for the board have been put to the county commissioners but it has not been voted on yet.

The annual report will be circulated to the Commission members for comments and additions before May 9, 2007 and approval by email. Mr. Wheeler will draft the cover letter and annual report.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.