

**COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENT MINUTES**  
**Commissioners Conference Room**  
**Minutes of November 7, 2007**

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

Others present were Michael Wyman, member Water Policy Task Force (WPTF)

- I) **Call to Order:** Mr. Wheeler called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.
- II) **Discussion & Approval of October meeting minutes:** A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of October 3, 2007 as presented. The motion passed by a 6-0 vote.
- III) **Continuing Business:**
  - a. **Go Green! Save Gr\$\$n Forum Update:** It was the consensus of the commission to use the spelling of two dollar signs in place of the "e's" in green.
    1. **Report on Airport Booth Capabilities:** Ms. Kelsey reported, she and Ms. Blake measured the space and estimated booth space from the measurements. Ms. Kelsey stated there is room for 22 booths as well as a small food area and break out room for actual presentations. The group agreed that the Airport was an acceptable place for the Forum.
    2. **Report on SMECO's reaction providing one or more free home energy audits:** Mr. Wheeler stated he is still working on this. Ms. Kelsey stated there are energy audit kits available at the library.
    3. **Report on retailers providing free energy saving light bulbs:** Mr. Hartwick stated Starbucks has agreed to donate gift cards. Mr. Hartwick is still working with whole foods for the reusable grocery canvas bags. Mr. Hartwick stated he is still working with Lowe's and Wal-Mart for the light bulbs.
    4. **Report on nurseries providing free plants:** Ms. Miller stated she was able to obtain seven \$30.00 gift certificates from a local nursery for native trees or shrubs.
    5. **Report on Booth membership & attendance:** Ms. Blake stated there are 11 vendors from last year in which she email invitations to. Ms. Blake recommended advertising the forum on the website. Ms. Kelsey recommended a screening process to make sure vendor types are not duplicated. After discussion Ms. Blake agreed to make a form containing fields such as name, address, phone, email, theme/product, and if a presentation time will be needed. Ms. Blake agreed to create the form and email it to Mr. Wheeler for submission to the website.
    6. **Determination of number of booths allowed:** Please see a.1 of the minutes.
    7. **Food:** After discussion it was decided to have the forum catered. Ms. Veith stated she would contact Blue wind Gourmet to see if they would be interested and at what price.

## Breakout Discussion:

Ms. Veith stated Commissioner Russell would be speaking at "A Forum on Global Warming, What Can We Do in Maryland" on Monday, November 12, 2007. Ms. Veith stated she would like to give Commissioner Russell a list of items the COE has been working on or would like to work on. The COE members gave the following list; Water Conservation, Open Air Burning, Commuter Bus System, Responsible Vehicle Purchases for the County, bike/Hike Trails, Biodiesel for Government Vehicles, Solar Heat for Government Facilities, SMECO Energy Audit Available at the Library, Landfill Burning Methane for Energy, Commercial Haulers Offering Curbside Recycling.

- b. Discussion of Comments on Comprehensive Water & Sewer Plan Update (CWSP):** Mr. Wheeler reviewed his comments with the commission stating the following. Many of the recommendations of the Water Policy Task Force (Section 1.9) seem outdated or overtaken by events and the section needs to be rewritten if it is to be retained. Ms. Veith suggested that the WPTF section be rewritten with "accomplishments" and a "recommendations" subsections. Mr. Wheeler stated he also disagrees with section 3.1.3 on Potential Reservoir Sites unless action is going to be taken to determine if they are acceptable sites either for water supply or for conservation/environmental purposes. Basically, both Section 1.9 and Section 3 need to be reworked to make them conform to the two Water Policy letters signed by the County Commissioners in January 2006 & August 2007. After further discussion, Wheeler stated he would rewrite Section 1.9 & 3 and circulate his comments for COE/WPTF approval. Ms. Stuckert agreed to provide a timeline for both the CWSP and the Adequate Public Facilities going forward to decision.

- c. Discussion of Adequate Public Facilities proposal, Critical Area Review & Legislatively Directed Water Plan:** Mr. Wheeler stated the APF proposal has many good items in it however he views this not as a growth control plan but as a growth management plan. Ms. Veith explained the APF plan mechanics. Mr. Wheeler asked that the members receive copies of the APF proposal and he receive the schedule. Ms. Stuckert stated she would provide these. Ms. Veith stated the APF plan is a good start however it does not address the environmental portion of APF. After discussion Mr. Allen stated he would draft a COE letter regarding our thoughts on the plan, including comments on the environmental side of APF that need to be addressed.

Ms. Veith stated the first draft of the Critical Area Review has been reviewed by the Critical Area Commission as well as in house staff. Ms. Veith stated Mr. Canavan wants to take the CA Review to the DRF and COE sometime in December. Mr. Wheeler asked if the CA Review contained anything on receiving variances. Ms. Veith stated it contains information on what constitutes a hardship.

Ms. Veith stated the Legislatively Directed Water Plan is actually entitled Water Resource Element and it should be enacted in 2008-2009 timeframe.

- d. Discussion of COE Web Page Updates:** Mr. Wheeler stated the volunteer form is up and running. Mr. Wheeler stated he would like the COE to review the site so he can begin circulating the site. Ms. Kelsey asked if the COE meetings could be listed on the main greensomd calendar. Ms. Miller asked if the COE member's names could be listed on the site. Mr. Wheeler stated he would ask Mr. Burch.
- e. Status of County Link to Greensomd site:** Ms. Stuckert stated the link is on the website and asked that the COE members take a look. Ms. Stuckert agreed to have the COE Rooster updated.

- f. **Networking, Individual & Organizational:** Mr. Wheeler stated he would like to have a complete list of professionals, educational, and institutional contacts. It was agreed that every member would come to the next meeting with two contacts.

#### IV) **New Business**

- a. **Meeting on Potential Water Problems:** Mr. Wheeler stated he had not heard anything in regards to this meeting. After discussion it was decided Mr. Wheeler would contact Mr. Savich, the County Administrator, about the potential meeting
- b. **Meeting on Large Industrial/Commercial Potable Water Users:** Mr. Wheeler stated he heard anything in regards to this meeting. After discussion it was decided Mr. Wheeler would contact Mr. Kasraei from MDE to see what action he is planning to take.

#### V) **Announcements**

- VI) **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

#### Action Items:

Ms. Blake agreed to make a form containing fields such as name, address, phone, email, theme/product, and if a presentation time will be needed. Ms. Blake agreed to create the form and email it to Mr. Wheeler for submission to the website.

Ms. Veith stated she would contact Blue wind Gourmet to see if they would be interested and at what price.

Mr. Wheeler stated he would rewrite his comments on the CWSP.

Mr. Wheeler asked that the members receive copies of the APF proposal and he receive the schedule. Ms. Stuckert stated she would provide these.

After discussion Mr. Allen stated he would draft a letter on the COE's view of the APF. Ms. Kelsey asked if the COE meetings could be listed on the main greensomd calendar. Ms. Miller asked if the COE member's names could be listed on the site. Mr. Wheeler stated he would ask Mr. Burch.

Ms. Stuckert agreed to have the COE Rooster updated.

It was agreed that every member would come to the next meeting with two contacts.

Mr. Wheeler would contact Mr. Kasraei about the potential meeting on large industrial/commercial water use.

Mr. Wheeler would contact Mr. Savich to see if the BOCC has heard anything from MDE concerning Sen. Dyson's statement that he was directing MDE to get with us and discuss our concerns.