

**COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENT (COE) MINUTES**  
**Potomac Building**  
**Minutes of June 6, 2012**

COE Members present were Mike Thompson, Barne Wheeler, Steve Tripp and Heather Moritz, Mindy Johnson & Marta Kelsey. Members absent Lawrence Langley, Laura Friess, & Paul DiBenedetto. Others present were Sue Veith & Paul Waxman.

- I) **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m.
- II) **Discussion & Approval Meeting Minutes:** The May meeting minutes were approved as changed.
- III) **Continuing Business:**
- a. **Attendance & Thank You Letters.** It was discovered that Sue Veith & Jada Stuckert had not yet received their thank you letters. Barne Wheeler will check this and correct the situation. The group approved the movement of the two alternate COE members, Mindy Johnson & Larua Friess to the active roster. The group discussed the movement of Paul DiBenedetto to an alternate position. Current COE regulations require that a member attended at least half the meetings and be present at least once in the most recent three meetings. Mr. DiBenedetto has done neither and has been absent for all but several sessions during the past two years. The group agreed that the Chair should personally contact him, tell him of his placement on the alternate list and ascertain his attendance intentions. If he does not plan to comply with the COE regulations, he should be asked to tender his resignation.
  - b. **Web & Facebook sites.** Steve Tripp has finished his web site concept, but needs feedback from the group before initiating the site. He will prepare a list of questions he wants answered and forward to the group electronically before the next meeting.
  - c. **Current Phase II WIIP Status.** Sue Veith briefed the group that the BOCC was preparing to send their proposed implementation plan to the State in early July. Essentially, the plan envisions that initiatives currently identified and funded will continue as scheduled. Further initiatives will not be integrated into an action plan until a number of issues identified in the plan have been resolved. The BOCC is still considering public comment, but the group felt that it was too late in the process for any thoughts to be packaged and to the Commissioners by the late June deadline.
  - d. **Other Issues.** Ms. Veith also briefed the group on several other issues which will be coming soon:
    - 1. **Critical Area Regulations Update.** This update is coming in the fall and will incorporate all changes identified to date. The draft is not available for review yet to any group except the Development Review Forum. The group agreed that the COE should become actively involved in the review of this document as soon as it is available.
    - 2. **Comprehensive Water & Sewer Plan.** This document is scheduled for update in the near future.
    - 3. **Stormwater Management.** Currently the County is does not fall under mandatory State requirements covered by these regulations, but we will shortly. This will have a major impact on future development planning.
    - 4. **Plan MD.** Final draft outline of how development will be allowed in the State will be published in October. This document will outline where growth/development will be permitted and where is will not. It has the potential to significantly affect development in the County.
- IV) **New Business:** None
- V) **Announcements:** The group discussed the next meeting, which falls on July 4. The group decided to meet the following Wednesday, July 11. Barne Wheeler will see if the room can be made available for that date.
- VI) **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.