

COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENT (COE) MINUTES
Potomac Building
Minutes of August 1, 2012

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

- I) Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.
- II) Discussion & Approval Meeting Minutes:** The July meeting minutes were approved as changed.
- III) Continuing Business:**
- a. **Attendance.** Larry Langley introduced Justin Barlow as a new member, and said that Laura Friess had tendered her resignation. Barne Wheeler said that Paul DiBenedetto had email that he was now an alternate and was available in that capacity. Mr. Langley said that he had not been informed of this, and that he would check out his status by the next meeting. Mr. Wheeler said that he felt that alternates should attend meetings the same as regular members, since they were supposed to be available to step in to make a quorum at any time, and that implied that they should be knowledgeable about current issues. There was unanimous agreement that accepting a position as alternate, implied attendance along with regular members; and, that if this were not possible, the individual should step aside and provide someone else with the opportunity.
- b. **Web & Facebook sites:** Mr. Tripp was unable to attend, but the following discussion took place:
1. When the new web site is open, it is necessary for all members to make posts to the site.
 2. The group also agreed that the public at large should also be able to make posting and to comment on existing ones.
 3. A free expression of many different points of view should be encouraged.
 4. Existence of the COE site should be posted on Southern Maryland Online
 5. Mr. Langley suggested that COE members should try to communicate via our Facebook page rather than email, as all the "friends" of the COE would instantly be notified. The group agreed that this was a good idea, though many members said that they did not use or particularly like the Facebook concept.
- c. **Critical Area (CA) Regulations Update.** Mr. Langley said that he had been informed that the new recommended changes to the CA should be available for us to review and comment on soon.
- IV) New Business:** Ms. Kelsey indicated that she had heard that fracking was being considered for the Southern Maryland area, and expressed concern that the environmental impacts of this new process were still not fully known. Mr. Barlow indicated that he had available a number of on-line resources that dealt with the process. He indicated that he would provide the group with these before the next meeting.
- V) Announcements:** None
- VI) Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.