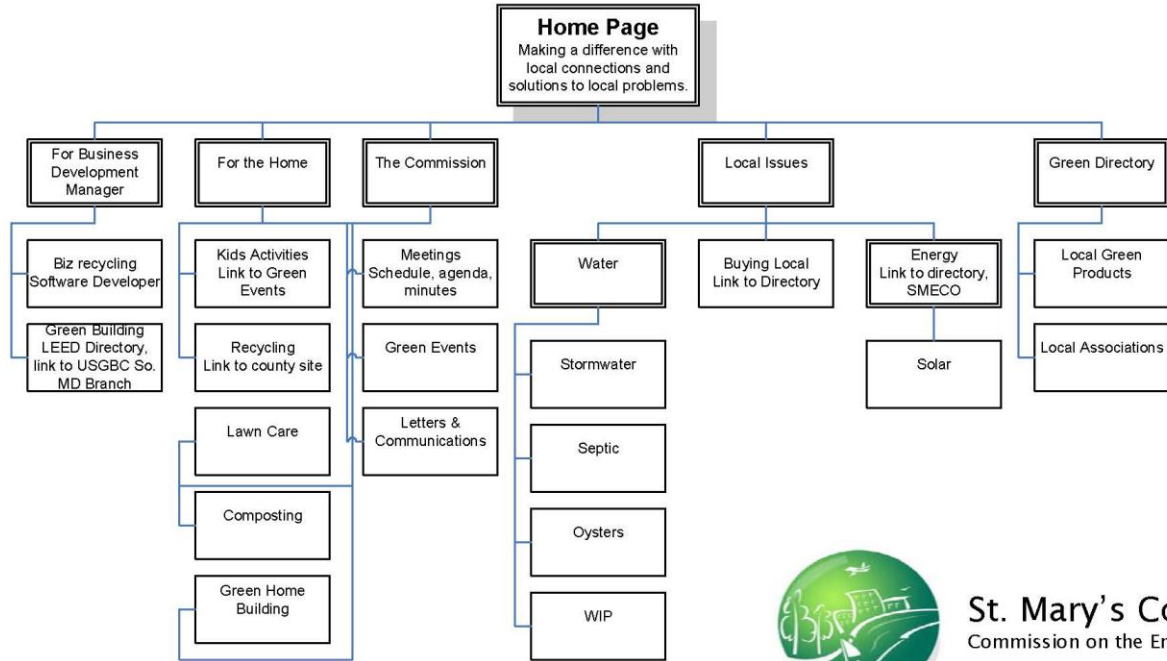


**COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENT (COE) MINUTES**  
**Potomac Building**  
**Minutes of September 5, 2012**

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

- I) **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m., as the normal meeting conference room was locked and it took some time to locate a smaller one in the same building .
- II) **Discussion & Approval Meeting Minutes:** The August meeting minutes were approved as changed.
- III) **Continuing Business:**
- a. **Attendance.** Mr. DiBenedetto is now listed as an alternate. The group decided to assess attendance status again at the November meeting.
- b. **Web & Facebook sites:**
1. Mr. Tripp showed the group a draft diagram of the proposed web site, which is attached these minutes. He recommended that members look over the proposal and come to the October meeting with comments. The group agreed.
  2. Mr. Tripp also recommended that the site focus primarily on County issues, with which the group also agreed in principle.
  3. Mr. Langley said he wished that we could use our facebook page more, as information posted there automatically gets sent to all COE friends. Mr. Tripp stated that information we post will show up the same as any other non-COE member making a post. As administrator, his posts will show up as official COE posts. The group agreed that the facebook issue also needed more discussion.
- c. **Critical Area (CA) Regulations Update.** Ms. Veith indicated that the draft regulation changes should be available for review in October.
- d. **Fracking.** Fracking is not now allowed either in the State or County. There is currently a large, comprehensive EPA study to determine the 'cradle to grave' environmental effects of fracking. The group agreed that any COE action or position should await its completion and analysis.
- IV) **New Business:** Ms. Veith briefed the group on several items other than the CA:
- a. The Lexington Park, Solomons, Chesapeake Ranch Estates area have received a new population designation that will mean more attention must be paid to air quality. Impacts will be primarily felt in the traffic/transportation arena.
  - b. The Lexington Park Plan is currently being reworked and a draft should be ready for the COE to review in Nov.
  - c. Green Building. The COE should give consider taking a position on changes to the zoning ordinance that would require green building features to be incorporated into designs. She also recommended that these changes incorporate the concept of tax credits as an incentive for businesses. Currently, few incentives or requirements are present. She indicated that we could partnership with local building associations and the green building forum to build support. Mr. Tripp agreed and added that we should also include information on the cost and other benefits associated with each initiative so that the lost tax credit revenue could be seen as being offset by these benefits. The group agreed to pursue this initiative and to do more work on it at our next meeting.
- V) **Announcements:** None
- VI) **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.



**St. Mary's County**  
Commission on the Environment