

MINUTES OF THE
ST. MARY'S COUNTY COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENT

March 13, 2013

Convened at 7:08pm, Potomac Building, Leonardtown, MD

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mike Thompson, Joshua Brewster, Lawrence Langley, Mindy Rich

MEMBERS ABSENT: Justin Barlow, Steve Tripp, Regan Hanson, Paul DiBenedetto, Heather Moritz

OTHERS PRESENT: Paul Waxman, Sue Veith & Bill Hunt (Dept. of LUGM)

Sue Veith with Land Use & Growth Management presented an update to the COE on the county's efforts toward a Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP):

- Work is ongoing on upgrades to county's waste water treatment plants. Marley Taylor plant to be completed by 2015, reducing discharge to 4mg/l of nitrogen and utilizing methane for electricity generation. Leonardtown plant to be completed by 2014, reducing discharge to 3mg/l of nitrogen and increasing capacity to .94 million gallons per day. Discussions are ongoing with Navy to utilize PAX waste for fertilizer. Work on Webster Field plant is complete—now the highest performing plant in the county.
- Goal is to retrofit 60 septic tanks per year through 2017 with best available technology, at a cost of approximately \$11,400 per system.
- Discussions are being had with state in regard to several program changes, including allowing funding for waste treatment fixes outside of "priority funding areas."
- Work is ongoing on compliance with MS4 permit—remove 20% of impervious surfaces, train staff, public outreach and education.
- Other projects include: \$50,000 for environmental consultant, organizing a "watershed steward academy" to train neighbors on best practices to reduce water run-off, tree planting, connecting large developments to sewer system.

A bit of discussion was had on COE's Earth Day presence. Lawrence Langley has most supplies and will plan to be at the booth all day April 21. We will have dirt, cups and seeds for kids to plant. Heather Moritz is responsible for ordering some sort of giveaway with COE name.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm.