

Commission on Environmental Quality  
September 24, 2008

Kathy Reiner Martin called the meeting to order at 7 PM

Present: Joan Plisko, Russ Donnelly, Pat Brady, Brian Fath, Tom Moore, Ray Davis, Linda Davis, Lois Jacobs, Kathy Martin; Joan Norman; Steve Schreiner; Nell Strachan and guest Don Outen of DEPRM.

Absent: Rex Wright, Willie Greiner

Kathy stated that two members have retired: Charlie Conklin and Shirley Carl. Candidates are in the pipeline to replace both of them.

I. CEQ Administrative business

Minutes of last meeting: not available

Don Outen of DEPRM: DEPRM wants to work more closely with CEQ; he has offered a meeting room to us as a regular meeting place; he can provide briefings and info on particular topics. He will attend meetings regularly from now on.

There is a possibility that a rep from Planning will attend in the future.

Kathy suggested we may also need a conduit to county council to track pending legislation; she will request a liaison from Kamenetz.

Assessment of meeting: Kathy asked if this practice should continue? This was developed to help structure meetings when CEQ was brand new. Is it needed now? Linda will lead a discussion at end of meeting.

II CEQ committee reports and updates

- a. tours: previously, Jonas Jacobson did a tour of district 1 with our members. We are now ready for a tour of district 3. Don will ask Jacobson for available dates. Charlie Conklin has already put together a tour which is ready to go.
- b.
- c. Sustainability meeting. We discussed the proposed joint public meeting 12/2 with Sierra Club and Sustainability Office, proposed as a public discussion, at which the greenhouse gas study will be described. David Carroll to describe the sustainability program, its history, what's going on at the state level, action plans in county. The Sierra Club is interested in talking about the Cool Cities program. After discussion, we concluded that we would prefer to participate as a participant, not co sponsor. We will ask that we participate as an invited speaker or presenter, but not a co sponsor. Kathy will communicate this to the county council.

- d. Green House Gas inventory. Pat Brady reported. Data collection is complete. She has presented her data to the government side of sustainability, and will fine tune the analysis. There are some gaps in data availability. Pat will present her report to us at a future meeting. County properties contribute about 1% of total county emissions; the target is to reduce emissions by 10%.
- e. Sustainability network. We discussed the CEQ role in this initiative. Kathy Martin will serve as our rep. There will be work groups, which will include persons not members of the network. CEQ could devote time and energy to the work groups as a major focus and project. It appears that right now, sustainability is going to focus initially on emissions/climate and may or may not reach the broader issues of sustainability. Therefore, CEQ will be supportive of and participate in the Sustainability Network, but will not foreclose the option of taking up other topics relevant to the environment as appropriate.

### III. New business

What should we focus on going forward? How should we select topics? How can we be sure that our work product is well known and has an impact? Can we advocate more effectively for our Conservation Landscaping report?

Kathy, Joan P, Joan N and Nell will look at prior list, revise it, circulate it to CEQ members, remind everyone of original criteria, work towards new study topics. (Potential topics are: plastic bag initiative; storm water run off; Chesapeake Bay and our waterways; light pollution; deer management; invasive non native species and degradation of our forests).

A potential action is to stay in closer touch with members of county council via an emailed check list of our topics/ask them for ranking of topics. Ask DEPRM for issues they have identified.

Next meetings: Oct 29 at 7 PM; then Nov. 19; no December meeting.

At Oct 29 meeting, Pat Brady will report on Green House Gas inventory; Don will provide any updates as appropriate. Joan N will present about agriculture at Nov meeting.

Meeting adjourned: 9 PM