

Baltimore County Commission on Environmental Quality

Minutes of Meeting Held March 5, 2009, DEPRM Conference Room

Present: Kathy Martin, Steve Schreiner, Ray Davis, Russ Donnelly, Linda Davis, Don Outen, Joan Norman, Brian Fath; Willie Grier; Jerry Jurick; Mike Pierce

Absent: Tom Moore, Joan Plisko, Rex Wright, Lois Jacobs

Presentation by Kevin Koepenick, DEPRM, on ground water and chlorides contamination; presentation attached.

Minutes—deferred until next meeting.

Administrative Business:

Annual report: Kathy and Linda have started the 2008 report, draft to be circulated next week. When it is done, it will be posted on website.

A letter from Councilman Vince Gardina was received, asking for assessment regarding county's use of road salt; Kathy referred this to the storm water team, which is working on it. Steve reported that we would look at other jurisdictions, impacts; he circulated handouts showing price comparisons, relative effectiveness etc; Health effects of sodium, water cannot be used for dialysis, state bare road policy set us on this course; need to understand constituent parts. Deer are drawn to road salt and accidents increase.

A letter was received from Councilman Vince Gardina, asking for review of building code. Jerry and Kathy will meet with Vince to learn more about this.

Update on CEQ tours with DEPRM Director, Jonas Jacobson. Report handed out on tour of district 3. Report will be finalized and added to website along with District 1 tour report. Jonas asked that District 6 and 7 be next. Ray and Russ will coordinate and work up a plan.

Sustainability Network/SN: Reports on each segment of the sustainability network work were summarized. The natural resources work group is meeting and will formulate recommendations in forested areas. The County operations group is addressing existing county buildings. The Built environment group is splitting into 2 to investigate how to develop and re-develop county buildings and infrastructure, i.e., reduce vehicle miles traveled; reduce energy consumption/usage. Public education and outreach: Develop program to educate the public on SN outcomes and on individual, family and community sustainable practices..

An Environmental literacy document was circulated.

Healthy Living—deferred

Cap and trade—deferred

New business. Discussed the need for CEQ members to stay in touch with council members, i.e., to meet more than 1x a year; keep in touch on environmental issues and topics, talk one on one with councilperson for our districts. CEQ members of each group should set a meeting with their council members in the upcoming months.

Website: Questions are coming via the website are referred to Kathy. Kathy response with answer and/or connects the citizen with the appropriate agency. Topics have ranged from high salt contents in well water, to rat infestation, to tax credit for solar panels.

Next meeting: Wed, March 25, 7-9pm, DEPRM conference room.

Announcements: Jonas Jacobson asked us for letter of support on deer harvest and effects. Linda and Mike to draft and include effects on forest and incorporate the Oregon ridge study showing no regeneration due to deer damage.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM.