

Baltimore County Commission on

Environmental Quality

Minutes of Meeting September 23, 2009

Present: Kathy Martin, Linda Davis, Nell Strachan, Jerry Jurick, Ray Davis, Brian Fath, Lois Jacobs,

Absent: Russ Donnelly, Joan Norman, Rex Wright, Mike Pierce, Tom Moore, Willie Grier.

County Staff: Don Outen, DEPRM; John Alexander, Planning. Tim Burgess, DPW.

Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM by chair Kathy Martin.

Tour of District 2 is Friday, Oct 2 at 9:00 Am; meet at the Bluestone Park, next to the quarry on Greenspring Ave.

Update: Resignations from Steve Schreiner/At Large member (One representative who is a teacher, curator, or scientist at an institution in the county and has professional expertise in environmental policy, environmental management, or environmental preservation or conservation) and Joan Plisko/1<sup>st</sup> District.

Wind: interest in placing wind turbines in Baltimore County prompted an email discussion to achieve consensus. A hearing was held on 9/22 before Planning board committee. Further input can be provided. Kathy attended and reported that many community groups were opposed. Kathy presented the CEQ report and read a short summary. Rex and Mike took the lead and will have the opportunity to develop additional materials for CEQ review and potential submission.

Sustainability network: Kathy and Don provided a limited overview of the current status; Network developed consensus of 12 recommendations in June. Many grants are being pursued. Consultants have been hired. An initial roll-out to the County is underway, "green @t work: energy challenge."

Road Salt: discussion of draft report.

Kathy presented a table of contents, as a guide to discussion of the contents. More work is needed on DPW present practices section. Environmental impacts in various systems are summarized, based on the literature, matching impacts to the sub-system (such as effects on animals). Kathy has data on effects on infra-structure, to be added. Tables show the alternatives to salt. Magnesium chloride was corrosive, per Tim Burgess of DPW, contrary to advertised qualities. Baltimore County had used magnesium for several years, but it was too corrosive to deal with. He did not know if SHA still uses it. Some additional review of information about what other counties do is needed.

Don Outen asked: what alternatives are better? The county has 200 trucks, it would have to retro-fit them for some application systems; there is no "silver bullet" solution. Technology will help. Contamination from road salt is better known now than a few years ago, and the science may catch up with the demands of the society. Health effects will drive this, as negative effects to drinking water increase.

Kathy recommends organizing the recommendations into headings, as shown on her handout.

Linda and Nell will work on a revised draft, to circulate for comments by email.

October meeting: October 28. November meeting: November 18 (3<sup>rd</sup>, NOT 4<sup>th</sup> Wed). No meeting in Dec.

Kathy raised issue of whether chair should rotate to another person. Members should consider potential science members to succeed Steve Schreiner. Consideration should be given to potential additional study topics.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.