

**Baltimore County Commission on
Environmental Quality
Minutes of Meeting October 28, 2009**

Present: Kathy Martin, Linda Davis, Mike Pierce, Willie Grier, Brian Fath, Rex Wright, and Lois Jacobs.

Absent: Russ Donnelly, Joan Norman, Nell Strachan, Jerry Jurick, Ray Davis, and Tom Moore.

County Staff: Don Outen, DEPRM.

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM by chair Kathy Martin.

Minutes of September meeting approved.

The schedule for the upcoming year was reviewed and approved.

Sustainability report:

The sustainability Network's list of top 12 recommendations was reviewed. While most are clear, the CEQ identified concerns with the way in which several are stated:

3. The statement to "adopt and implement a no net loss tree and forests policy" appeared to be a little vague, but Don explained that it is an "umbrella" for a number of individual items
11. The statement to "develop and implement conservation landscaping measures" should be modified to recognize that the CEQ has already developed this.
12. The statement to "Actively promote Commuter Choice Maryland" was originally stronger.

Deer overpopulation:

The county is looking for ways to control the population in county parks (as the CEQ letter recommended be done), but the county law prohibits "harming" and wildlife in county parks.

Linda will draft a new letter to Jim Smith to emphasize the need to take action.

It was noted the federal government has approved a contraceptive for deer, but it must be administered manually and only lasts for one year.

Wind Turbines:

An overview was provided of the two hearings which the Planning Board committee held in which industry advocates provided information and concerned citizens expressed their opinions (for and against). Concerns identified are: noise, visual impairment, killing birds, lack of sufficient wind, lack of emphasis on alternatives, reduction in property values, and the need for a special exception or variance.

It is expected that the full Planning Board and the County Council will both hold hearings on the subject, probably early 2010.

It was discussed whether the CEQ should do a study on the issue to assist the Planning Board and County Council in their decision. It was not clear what aspects the CEQ should study or render an opinion on, but Mike and Rex were asked to look into this.

Salt Study:

The draft Salt Study was reviewed and some final changes were made. DEPRM will print the copies for delivery. It was agreed that the letter should be addressed to Vince Gardina, since he requested the study, with copies to the other Council members, the County Exec, etc. It was

suggested that individual members should discuss this report with their respective Council member.

CEQ Tours:

The Tour of District 2 for Jonas Jacobson was held on Friday October 2. Lois is preparing a report.

Tours need to be planned for Districts 4, 5, 6, and 7.

Annual Report:

Mike agreed to pull together the Annual Report by reviewing minutes of past meetings and gathering write-ups on each subject from the appropriate members. The following should be sent to Mike by January 6:

Deer - Linda

Salt - Nell

Wind - Mike/Rex

Tours - Mike and Lois

Web Site:

The web site needs to be updated. Brian volunteered to look it over and make a list of what needs to be changed.

November meeting: November 18 (3rd Wednesday), no meeting in Dec. As always, members should think about possible speakers for upcoming meetings.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30PM.