

**Baltimore County Commission on
Environmental Quality
Minutes of Meeting November 18, 2009**

Attendance:

CEQ members:

Present: Kathy Martin, Rex Wright, Lois Jacobs, Jerry Jurick, Brian Fath, Mike Pierce, Russ Donnelly, Linda Davis, Carri Beer

Absent: Willie Grier, Joan Norman, Nell Strachen, Ray Davis, Tom Moore

County Staff: Don Outen, Pat Cornman, DEPRM; John Alexander, Office of Planning

Visitor/speaker: Jeff Muller, World Wildlife Fund

The new member, Carri Beer, 1st District, who is an architect, was introduced. This leaves one vacancy on the CEQ.

Housekeeping:

The minutes of the October 28 meeting were approved

The calendar for 2010 was distributed.

Speaker:

Jeff Muller, World Wildlife Fund, gave an overview of the work of the WWF, including details of successes and challenges in such places as Borneo, the Congo, Mexico, China, Viet Nam, and the US. The impacts they are dealing with include poaching and loss of habitat, and the situation is aggravated in some areas by civil unrest. He cited cases in which the lessons learned in one place are used to resolve problems in another.

He explained that, with 6 billion consumers and perhaps 1 billion producers, the efforts of the WWF are concentrated on the middlemen - the processors, traders, manufactures - where influencing a small number of players can have a big effect. Successes include, for example, getting a major beef processor to refuse to accept cattle raised on land which was cleared rain forests.

Sustainability:

The Sustainability Network is scheduled to meet on December 9 where they will review the draft Executive Summary and supporting documents for the County Operations Sustainability Report. Expectations are for a ramp-up of meetings in 2010 to discuss next steps for the Sustainability Network and the community-wide sustainability plan.

Deer overpopulation:

A new letter was drafted to the County Executive to emphasize the need to take positive action in county parks to control the deer population.

Don Outen has talked to the Oregon Ridge Park Council (Kevin O'Niel leader). Mike suggested that he talk to the Cromwell Valley Park Council.

Wind Turbines:

An overview of the changes to the draft legislation recently proposed by a Planning Board committee was presented and discussed. It was agreed that there is no specific action that the CEQ should take at this time.

Salt Study:

The final copy of the study was e-mail and hand delivered to the County Council members and the County Executive. CEQ representatives from each district should make arrangements to talk to their Council member and Kathy will be requesting a meeting with Jim Smith.

Tours:

The District 7 tour should be scheduled in March. Kathy indicated that Jonas Jacobson is eager to tour the other districts and that he should be given 4 weeks lead time. Districts 4, 5, and 6 are yet to be planned.

Next study:

The group discussed possibilities for the next study that the CEQ might undertake.

There is a need to push for plumbing code changes to support gray water use. This is especially important because of the new storm water regulations in 2010, the most stringent in the country, which would require that only 50% of rainfall could leave the property.

It was indicated that there is discussion in the Master Plan on this issue, but Public Works has no specific plans, and that the county has issues with these new storm water regulations, especially with respect to redevelopment. It is feared that it might push development away from desired redevelopment sites to green areas.

Reporting of CEQ work:

Members were reminded to provide write-ups on their particular areas to Mike by January 6 for inclusion in the Annual Report, which will be discussed and finalized at the January 27 meeting.

The web site needs to be updated, mainly for the new list of members and to include copies of all studies which the CEQ has completed. This may require an increase in the number of pages. Ideas on how to package the information should be provided to Brian by December 11.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be January 27. Rex offered to give a talk on the link between energy and water. Rex also offered to chair that meeting in Kathy's absence.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 P.M.