

**Baltimore County Commission on
Environmental Quality
Minutes of Meeting March 24, 2010**

Attendance

CEQ members:

Present: Kathy Martin, Brian Fath, Mike Pierce, Carri Beer, Jerry Jurrick, Tom Moore, Ray Davis, Lois Jacobs, Linda Davis

Absent: Willie Greer, Rex Wright, Joan Norman, Russ Donnelly, Nell Strachen

County Staff: Don Outen, Dave Carroll

Minutes

The minutes of the February meeting were approved with changes.

Sustainability Network

Dave Carroll, Director, Office of Sustainability, spoke on the status of the Sustainability Network. Actions and work items are as follows:

- An executive report is going to County Council
- A list of 121 items is being circulated for comments and feedback from departments
- Consultants have been brought online to coordinate community-wide input/actions. They are searching the Internet for comparable plans. Focus groups will be planned after the stakeholders are identified. The target is for May.
- In the update for Master Plan 2020, the umbrella message is sustainable living. (Note: The resolution to approve the Rural portion will be voted on May 3.)
- Included in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act is full funding for Energy Conservation Block Grants. Baltimore County has been allocated \$7.4 Million, which requires County Council approval to spend. It is hoped that this vote will take place April 19. (Note: it was approved.)
- Specific plans are in place for a trade school with CCBC to teach "green" jobs and a community outreach center in Randallstown. Energy audits will be offered for low-income home owners with grants to upgrade. There will also be audits for businesses with revolving loan fund for upgrades.
- The employee challenge to take the "green" pledge has resulted in 2000 of 5000 employees joining in.
- Among the county's 600 buildings, the effort has already identified some serious energy wasters.

Prompted by a question from Carri there was some discussion of using the German Passive House standard for energy efficient design vs. LEEDS. This standard seeks to reduce the energy use of a home by 90%.

Committees/projects

Salt Resolution - Mike will plan to talk at the Council work session. (The Resolution passed 7-0.)

State legislation - HB903/SB775 passed which only require the administration to develop a road salt management best practices guidance document.

Plastic bags - Lois gave a brief overview of some of the references found.

Sustainable living - Linda and Nell are looking at community education, publicity, etc.

Property-assessed clean energy (PACE) - Although authorized by State law in 2009, only Annapolis has started with 50 audits. Montgomery County has plans, but has not actually begun.

New Business

CEQ members need to consider what steps to take with Council turn-over. Although current 3-year CEQ terms may span the end of the term of an appointing Councilmen, CEQ members should discuss the CEQ work and their own continued participation with any new incoming Council Person.

Adjourned at 8:45.