

**Baltimore County Commission on  
Environmental Quality  
Minutes of Meeting April 28, 2010**

**Attendance**

CEQ members:

Present: Carri Beer, Mike Pierce, Brian Fath, Kathy Reiner-Martin, Jerry Jurrick, Russ Donnelly, Ray Davis, Rex Wright, Nell Strachen, Linda Davis

Absent: Tom Moore, Lois Jacobs, Willie Greer, Joan Norman

County Staff: Don Outen, John Alexander, Charlie Reighart

**Minutes**

The minutes of the March meeting were approved with changes.

**Noted**

Recent announcements were circulated for several meetings of interest:

Future of Regional Transportation (Baltimore Regional Transportation Board and Baltimore Metropolitan Council - April 29 at the Planning Board meeting Room (also May 11 in Harford Co)

Chesapeake Sustainable Business Alliance - Green Monday - Regional Manufacturing Institute - McCormick's green manufacturing initiatives - May 3

**Recycling**

Charlie Reighart, Director of Recycling and Waste Prevention, who had appeared on TV that day at the Eastern Landfill to publicize the success of the County's new single-stream recycling, gave the CEQ members a more in-depth account of the progress.

A comparison of the 1st 10 weeks of 2010 compared to the same period in 2009 (leaving out the 2nd and 3rd weeks in February which were lost to just about everyone due to the extreme storms) shows that collection of recyclables increased from 696 tons/week to 920 tons. At the same time, the amount of general trash decreased a similar amount.

He noted that the one big change is that no plastic bags are allowed, since they get caught in the sorting equipment. With collectors leaving notices for those who still put recycling out in bags, the amount of bags is relatively low.

The sorting is at the Waste Management facility in Elk Ridge. Three Towson students are making a video, which will be put on the web site. The web site will also contain reports of the amount of recycling and where it goes, as suggested by the CEQ. The department is using interns very successfully for such things as graphics production and data entry.

Charlie is also in charge of waste reduction efforts, such as the County's reuse directory (which is online). There is also a recent arrangement with the Loading Dock at Eastern Landfill to provide reuse of building materials.

It was noted that the compost bin/rain barrel sales on April 24 were highly successful. The rain barrels sold out before noon.

The recycling efforts started years ago with a focus on single-family residences, and recent efforts are to bring apartments and condos on-line. It's a slow process with arrangements being made with one at a time.

CEQ members asked questions concerning future recycling efforts and Charlie said that comments and ideas are always welcome. He indicated that continued support by the CEQ for general recycling efforts is appreciated in that it helps to ensure continued sufficient staffing.

### **CEQ Reports/Projects**

**Salt** - It is now in the County Executive's court to appoint a task force.

**Sustainability** - There is a meeting of the network tomorrow, and efforts are focusing on the stakeholders committee.

**Plastic bags** - Lois prepared a short report on what has been found to date. We will continue to look at the subject, especially reports on the results of the DC 5¢ per bag law, with an expectation that a report could be sent to the County Council in the fall.

**Living sustainably** - A general discussion was held concerning what "cosmic" changes the CEQ could cause to occur. This led to a consideration of what the basic role of the CEQ is - to change behavior or to raise awareness. It was agreed that the end goal is to change behavior which takes multiple steps, including awareness.

It was also considered whether the CEQ should try to reach the general public, or restrict its efforts to working with other groups. The Rec and Park Board was mentioned, as a possible way to influence large numbers of people (in Rec and Park programs).

**PACE** - Although authorized by state law, this has not yet been started in Baltimore County. Carri met with Elizabeth Glenn, the Chief of the Baltimore County Office of Community Conservation, concerning block grants.

The higher performance house bill (Gardina) was withdrawn and is being redrafted. It is for new houses and retrofits, is now performance based, with property tax credits. It is believed that it now has the support of the building community. There was a question if there is a cap, which can be answered for sure when we see the revision. Another bill for water efficiency is now being pursued.

### **Future meetings**

There will be no meeting in May, the next is June 23.

The CEQ will hold an August social event. Kathy Martin graciously offered her shore property.