

MINUTES (Working Draft)  
Advisory Commission on Environmental Quality (CEQ)  
November 29, 2017, 7 PM

Jefferson Building, Chesapeake Room, **105** W. Chesapeake Avenue, Towson, MD 21204

CEQ meeting dates, membership information, and reports are available online  
Here: [www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/ceq/index.html](http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/ceq/index.html)

Present: Valerie Androutsopoulos, Brian Bernstein, Linda Davis, Glenn Elseroad, Brian Fath, Lois Jacobs, Carol Newill, Chris Overcash, Karen Wynn, Brian Lindley, Kui Zhao, J. Morgan Grove, Miranda Mockrin.

Excused Absences: Andy Miller.

- I. Welcome and Introductions/Remarks – Lois Jacobs, Chair.  
Our new representative from District 4 is Lynda Eisenberg, and she will be attending our next meeting on 1-24-18.

- II. Correct and approve minutes – short form – for September 27 meeting.

We did not have a quorum at the beginning of the meeting, so this item was delayed till we obtained the necessary quorum, when the “short form” minutes were discussed and approved unanimously. They will be posted to the CEQ Web-site.

- III. Discuss and correct “working draft” form of October 25, 2017 minutes.

Due to time constraints and the two significant topics that had to be discussed at this meeting, it was agreed to table this matter until the January meeting.

- IV. Speaker: J. Morgan Grove, PhD, scientist and team leader for US Forest Service Northern Research Station, “Urban Tree Canopy Cover: Improvement In Baltimore City and effects on surrounding Communities”. Dr. Grove brought his colleague Miranda Mockrin who is a research scientist on his team. She specializes in residential development issues related to tree cover.

Land Cover and tree canopy change is assessed using high resolution aerial imagery and 3D laser-guided data detection called LiDAR – and uses the same basic technology and software used in medicine for MRIs. The laser beam registers how fast light returns to determine tree size and the trees in shadows, where the trees are (location), amount of area covered and how many trees in each area.

Dr. Grove’s focus is research and development, especially land cover mapping using the LiDAR System. Data has been produced for Baltimore City, Annapolis, New York City and the entire Chesapeake Bay area. He has also met with Baltimore County’s EPS. The purpose of Land Cover mapping with LiDAR is to provide tools and data for developing urban tree canopy goals.

Forest patches of at least an acre are important, and credit is given for individual trees. After 10 years credit is given for trees planted and new assessments are made.

“Tree loss is an event; tree gain is a process” – otherwise we are just treading water (if trees are not replaced), said Dr. Grove.

Canopy Goals:

Maximize process – plantings

Minimize events – cutting, disease, storms, etc. that affect survival. This includes capped dredged areas that can never be planted again.

Chesapeake Bay Plan – currently only looking at what is gained, as a credit. A new Bill is proposed to look at what is lost.

Baltimore County: Has a larger zoning range than Baltimore City, and more lawns. Lawns are helpful and have assessment value as cover. Departments need to coordinate and talk to each other, more information is needed on gains and losses, and identification of Forest “Patches”. Agriculture is a big killer of trees. Programs are needed to deal with Private landowners for cover and storm-water – 43% canopy cover is effective for storm-water runoff.

Baltimore City: They coordinate with Tree Baltimore, Baltimore Tree Trust, the Dept. of Public Works, Recreation and Parks, and Sustainability. Would also like to involve Public Health and Police. “As Tree Canopy goes up, Crime goes down”. Tree canopy also helps with respiratory and other health problems. The City’s improved 1% net gain equates to an additional 200 acres of tree coverage.

V. Painted Trees and Oregon Ridge Park – Repercussions of Perlow Foundation Project and CEQ response. – Linda Davis and Commission.

Linda made a Power Point presentation last month. She has received much information and it’s a bit overwhelming. There has been input from other Parks, municipalities, Counties, Professors at Universities, Forestry Professionals, Federal Government, literature, Nature Center Council, Naturalists and others. There is a lot of information to compile and organize for the report. There is also input and Comments from CEQ members.

Carol spoke with Chris McCollom and asked to see plan (of Painted Tree Project) and if the project was complete. He does not make the decisions, but might have access to information.

Oregon Ridge Park has national recognition, and has increased its tree cover by 10%. No undergrowth because of mature tree canopy which blocks sunlight; also deer overpopulation impacts undergrowth.

Glenn – Parks belong to all the people; the project would have been better as a travelling exhibit done on canvas (not trees). The blame should not be put on one person; just write letter and understand families would like to see Parks preserved for original intent.

Carol: - agrees with letter with supporting back-up material.

- presented Executive Summary.

- make sure does not happen again.

VI. Update on the Solar Array Bill and Litter will be rescheduled.

VII. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Next regular Meetings 7 PM:

- January 24, 2018
- February 28, 2018
- March 28, 2018
- April 25, 2018
- May 23, 2018