



CALVERT COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

205 Main Street
Prince Frederick, Maryland 20678
410-535-1600, ext. 2501
Fax: 410-414-3092
www.calvertcountymd.gov

Board of Commissioners
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Calvert County Environmental Commission January 30, 2023, 6pm—Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Jim Levin (Chair), Dave Campbell (Vice Chair), Kevin Britt, Dave Hardy, Heather Kerr, Andy Rogers, Mike Rooney, Neil Smith, Roman Matatov
Staff: Amalia Pleake-Tamm Public: Albert Ybarra, Jo Anna Lutmerding

- I. **Call to Order at 6pm**
- II. **Agenda for January 30, 2023:** Dr. Campbell moved to approve the agenda, Mr. Hardy seconded, the motion passed unanimously.
- III. **Election of New Officers**
 - a. **Chair:** Dr. Campbell was elected unanimously.
 - b. **Vice Chair:** Mr. Hardy was elected unanimously.
- IV. **Discussions with New Member Applicants**
 - a. **New candidate, Albert “Abby” Ybarra** discussed his extensive experience in conservation and environmental education programs in California, Washington, D.C., and throughout the country as a federal contractor. He has worked with different jurisdictions’ recycling programs and with local Boy Scout programs. Mr. Ybarra is currently the Environmental Educator Specialist for Project Indigenous, an organization that specializes in teaching environmental understandings from an Indigenous perspective using the Humanities. Mr. Hardy moved for a vote, Dr. Rogers seconded; Mr. Ybarra was unanimously recommended for nomination to the Env. Comm’n.
- V. **Approval of Meeting Minutes: [November 28, 2022](#):** Dr. Rogers moved to approve the minutes, Mr. Levin seconded, the motion passed unanimously.
- VI. **Old Business**
 - a. **Strategic Initiatives Update**
 - i. **Water Quality Initiative:** The group would like an update from Dept. of Public Works on how the Env. Comm’n can assist the County with residential stormwater management goals. This strategic initiative is in its infancy stage. Mr. Levin explained an older strategic initiative—radon awareness—which included FAQs, a County Commissioner proclamation that January was Radon Awareness Month, state speakers on radon prevalence in Calvert County, and handing out free radon testkits. Strategic initiatives focus on significant environmental issues where the Env. Comm’n can serve the community in increasing environmental awareness.
 - ii. The [BOCC proclaimed January to be Radon Awareness Month](#) on January 10th.
 1. USEPA: [National Radon Action Month Information](#)
 2. The group would like to continue the radon awareness strategic initiative. Ms. Pleake-Tamm will look up current pricing on radon kits. (The Env. Comm’n was unable to secure the MD Health Dept’s price of \$3 a kit in 2022.)
 - b. **Pump for the Bay: Raffle pull!**
 - i. There were 62 entries and the winners were:
 - ii. \$450 (reimbursement) for David Clark (learned about the raffle from PRAD tabling)
 - iii. \$50 (residual monetary prize) for Michael Churchilla
 - iv. Four tickets for Breezy Point for Julie Gadway
 - v. Four tickets for the Aquatic Center for Kevin Quayle

Maryland Relay for Impaired Hearing or Speech: 1-800-735-2258

- vi. Four tickets for the Marine Museum for Vivian Marsh
- vii. Four tickets for the Tension Cruise for Joanne Aikman
- viii. One coupon for Dreamweaver Café for Tracy Daily
- ix. One coupon for Lusby Motors for Charles Martin

VII. Discussions with New Member Applicants (resumed)

- a. **Jo Anna Lutmerding** discussed her experience with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and is a wildlife enthusiast. Her graduate work was conservation biology and applied ecology, studying nocturnal bird migration, including their interaction with wind turbines. Ms. Lutmerding is an avid birder wants to do her part to promote a good environment in Calvert County. Mr. Hardy moved for a vote, Ms. Kerr seconded; Ms. Lutmerding was unanimously recommended for nomination to the Env. Comm'n. Mr. Levin and Ms. Pleake-Tamm summarized the Env. Comm'n activities.

VIII. Old Business (resumed)

- a. [Action Items from November Update](#)
 - i. Ms. Pleake-Tamm summarized a meeting between Dept. of Planning & Zoning and the state [Power Plant Research Program](#) including their resources including a [directory](#).
 - 1. Mr. Rooney shared an [article about a solar project](#) that was proposed for Georgetown Univ., which would have destroyed 240 of critical forested habitat.

IX. Subcommittee Reports

- a. FAQs: [Private Well-Water](#), [PFAS](#), [Maryland Green Registry](#) are ready to be posted
 - i. Wildlife website: Dr. Rogers will continue working on a So. MD wildlife FAQ.
- b. Public Education/Outreach: Heather Kerr will be the subcommittee chair.
- c. 2023 Guest Speakers: Members will confirm speakers; Ms. Pleake-Tamm will post the schedule online.

X. New Business

- a. Approval of 2023 calendar (Last Mondays of each month except for May 22nd, Sept. 18th, and Dec. 18th).
- b. Annual Report Review: Ms. Pleake-Tamm updated the report with 136 unique views for the FAQ webpage. She also noted the EV charging map page got 225 unique views and the Env. Comm'n homepage got 906 unique views. Mr. Levin moved to accept the annual report with the additions of the FAQ webviews and the 2024 raffle approval, Mr. Hardy seconded and the motion was passed unanimously.
- c. Vote for 2024 Pump for the Bay raffle: Mr. Matatov moved to hold the raffle again in 2024, Mr. Hardy seconded, the motion passed unanimously.
- d. 2023 Financial Disclosure Forms: Ms. Pleake-Tamm will send them out when she receives them. Several members mentioned how the forms are not user friendly and are difficult to submit.
- e. General Announcements
 - i. Ms. Pleake-Tamm sought out soft commitments for volunteers for a Dept. of Planning & Zoning program for nontidal water monitoring. Dr. Rogers and Mr. Hardy volunteered to do sampling in the Ranch Estates. Ms. Pleake-Tamm will send out a sampling map. For grants, Mr. Hardy mentioned the Cove Point Natural Heritage Trust for funding.

XI. Public Comment: None

XII. Adjournment: Mr. Hardy moved to adjourn, Dr. Rogers seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Minutes were prepared by Amalia Pleake-Tamm (EC Secretary).