



CALVERT COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

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Calvert County Environmental Commission April 24, 2023 Minutes

Attendance: Dr. Dave Campbell (Chair), Dave Hardy (Vice Chair), Kevin Britt, Jim Levin, Roman Matatov, Mike Rooney
Public: Susan Dzurec, Bob Estes, Ron Klauda
Staff: Amalia Pleake-Tamm, Kat Lockwood, Colleen Anglin

- I. **Call to Order at 6:03pm**
- II. **Agenda for April 24, 2023:** Mr. Levin moved to approve, Mr. Hardy seconded, the motion passed unanimously.
- III. **Approval of Minutes from March 27, 2023:** tabled until clarified by Dr. Rogers.
- IV. **Guest Speaker:** Bob Estes spoke on *Stormwater Management Successes and Failures in the Prince Frederick Area*. Mr. Estes is a retired aerospace engineer and a member of Friends of Hunting Creek (Water Quality Subcommittee). He gave an introduction on stormwater management, local rainfall data, and the current standard of NOAA Atlas 14. He focused on three general areas of concern: the area between Islamic Center and Auto Drive and just south of the Aquatic Center; the area between Calvert Hills Apartments and the Senior Center, focusing on the Calvert Hills stockpile; and the area just northwest of the District Courthouse. Mr. Estes showed an area of success around Prince Frederick Library. Mr. Estes' presentation contained numerous photos of the stormwater management projects in each location as well as topographic maps. Mr. Rooney asked if the sediment erosion control features were stamped and approved by an engineer and whether anyone tried to recoup bond money to improve these issues. Mr. Estes assumed the projects were approved by multiple entities and the bond is returned after two years. He also noted that the Department of Public Works is trying to use revenue from the Department of Parks and Recreation to fix the issues. Mr. Rooney asked whether the projects had to be audited as the owner of the permit is responsible for maintaining them; Mr. Estes replied that they have a three-year inspection schedule and that the Dept. of Public Works is likely aware of all the projects shown. Mr. Levin mentioned that the Maryland Dept. of the Environment is responsible for enforcement. Mr. Rooney was curious about what inspectors do when it comes to these projects; Mr. Britt offered that County is the owner of many of these projects.
- V. **Budget of \$1,253 to spend by mid-May:** Mr. Levin noted Homeland Labs is supposed to be sending us a testkit to show at tabling events. Mr. Matatov noted that the public and children were well engaged with our booth at EarthArts so however we can more engage the public, that will lead to a greater impact.

Mr. Levin moved to spend approximately half will be spent on radon kits, the other half will be spent on a rain barrel exhibit and septic-reminder magnets. Mr. Matatov seconded, the motion passed unanimously.
- VI. **Strategic Initiatives Update**
 - a. Water Quality Initiative: Mr. Britt noted rain barrel purchase.
 - b. Radon Test Prices: Ms. Pleake-Tamm hasn't received the new prices; last year they were around \$10/kit.
 - c. Pump for the Bay: Ms. Pleake-Tamm reminded members to call haulers and will send out online forms.
- VII. **Subcommittee Reports**
 - a. FAQs: Mr. Rooney will assist Mr. Levin in reformatting FAQs; Mr. Levin will send him the formatting template.

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1. The date, time, and location of any Environmental Commission meeting may be revised by announcement of an emergency, such as inclement weather, without further publication and may be confirmed on the County website or calling 410-535-1600 ext. 2727 on the date of the meeting.
2. Public comments during Environmental Commission Work Sessions are at the discretion of the Chairperson.
3. There may be a five-minute break at 7:00 p.m. at the discretion of the Chairperson.
4. A decision will be made at 8:00 p.m. whether to continue the meeting or reschedule.
5. Accommodations for persons with disabilities will be made with reasonable notice.
6. The Environmental Commission operates under *Robert's Rules*.

- b. Sustainability: Ms. Pleake-Tamm asked about the lifespan of strategic initiatives. Mr. Levin noted that they were intended to only be one year but they have morphed into multiple-year projects. Mr. Levin moved to rename the “Sustainability Subcommittee” the “Strategic Initiatives Subcommittee;” Mr. Matatov seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
- c. Public Education/Outreach: Mrs. Pleake-Tamm reported there was good interaction with the public and how it’s important to be out in the community in person to promote Env. Comm’n visibility and hear concerns from the public.
 - i. Seed packets are being ordered for the next event.
 - ii. Dr. Campbell noted Children’s Day on the Farm (June 4th) is for little kids so may not be the best audience for the Env. Comm’n’s table; Mr. Levin noted that June 11th is the Patuxent River Wade-In so members might be stretched that month. The event was scratched for this year but Ms. Pleake-Tamm will swing by if available to scope it out for next year.
 - iii. Next tabling event will be Calvert County Fair Youth Day (Sept. 29th). Ms. Pleake-Tamm will work on getting an Env. Comm’n ad in the Fair booklet.
- d. Guest Speakers: Ms. Pleake-Tamm noted there is no chair for this subcommittee; the Chair serves as a point person to communicate requests from the public to the subcommittee and discuss subcommittee business. Until someone volunteers, this position will remain vacant. Ms. Pleake-Tamm noted a request from the public to have Dr. Mark Southerland to speak on bird-safe building practices in July; Mr. Levin volunteered to reach out to him. There are no speakers scheduled past May.

VIII. Sustainability Awards Program: Tabled until more bandwidth

IX. General Announcements:

- a. Dr. Campbell noted next meeting, May 22, will be virtual. The speaker will be Jason Prowinski (Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Plant).
- b. Ms. Pleake-Tamm noted a high school teacher approached the Env. Comm’n table on Saturday and asked if the Comm’n would be willing to participate in a septic curriculum. Timeframe: Spring 2024.
- c. Ms. Pleake-Tamm noted that the Env. Comm’n cannot apply for grants.
- d. Ms. Pleake-Tamm will continue working with Parks & Recreation to include an ad in their biannual mailings.
- e. Mr. Levin asked about any updates on Cove Point Natural Heritage Trust’s monitoring of Hellen Creek. Mr. Klauda confirmed that Mike Gardiner and Bob Boxwell are continuing to work on this project but it is still conceptual.
- f. Mr. Hardy has found a list of dates for an environmental calendar but needs to know the format or template to use. Ms. Pleake-Tamm will set up a call with Tech. Services, Mr. Hardy, Dr. Campbell, and Mr. Levin. The original idea was to have a paper calendar to give away at tabling events but due to cost, it will now be an online calendar on the Env. Comm’n’s webpage.
 - i. The calendar picture pages will be selected at an annual wildlife photo contest.
- g. Mr. Klauda, in conjunction with Friends of Hunting Creek (FOHC), is trying to set up a tour of the Prince Frederick Wastewater Treatment Plant; he’ll pass on details to the Env. Comm’n as he receives them. Also, in addition to the Water Quality Blitz on April 1st, Klauda is testing Hunting Creek for benthic macroinvertebrates and environmental DNA. Samples were sent to a lab in Colorado.

- X. **Mr. Levin moved to adjourn**, Mr. Britt seconded, the motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 7:29pm.

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