



CALVERT COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

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Board of Commissioners
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Calvert County Environmental Commission May 22, 2023 Minutes

Attendance: Dr. Dave Campbell (Chair), Dave Hardy (Vice Chair), Jim Levin, Jo Anna Lutmerding, Dr. Andy Rogers, Mike Rooney
Public: Jason Prowinski
Staff: Amalia Pleake-Tamm

- I. Call to Order at 6:03pm**
- II. Agenda for May 22, 2023:** Dr. Rogers moved to approve, Mr. Levin seconded, the motion passed unanimously.
- III. Approval of Minutes from April 24, 2023:** Mr. Levin moved to approve, Dr. Rogers seconded, the motion passed unanimously.
- IV. Guest Speaker:** Jason Prowinski, Sr. Env. Specialist at Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant gave an environmental update for the nuclear plant, including permit activities and stewardship programs. He discussed the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System monitoring and compliance actions. Dr. Campbell asked for clarification on "impingement," which was clarified as when large organisms get collected on the travelling screens and get washed off and returned to the Bay. Mr. Levin asked about sewage treatment at the plant; Mr. Prowinski responded it was an enhanced nutrient removal system, with resultant sludge hauled to Solomon's wastewater treatment plant.

Mr. Prowinski gave an update on the new tightness testing requirements under COMAR 26.10.17 and 26.10.18. Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant received a gold certification from the Wildlife Habitat Council; they established an artificial reef from discarded baffle wall panels; they have a robust bluebird nesting program, a deer management program, a pollinator program, and participates in the Breeding Bird Atlas Survey. The Plant conducts annual tiger beetle surveys, has wood duck boxes, and has the largest tree in Calvert County: a Chestnut Oak with a circumference over 15 feet and a hundred feet tall. The Plant was a presenting sponsor at Earth Arts Fest and hosted a Huntingtown High School AP science class fieldtrip. Dr. Campbell asked about controlling bio-fouling. Mr. Prowinski responded that sodium hypochlorite and a proprietary bromine solution were used; the biggest challenge is *bimeria*. Sandy Gray is the person to contact for scheduling tours. There are no plans for another reactor.
- V. Budget:** ~\$1,253 was spent
 - a. Water-testing kit was received for a total of \$0: Mr. Levin shared his experience with water testing.
 - b. Rain barrel converter and trashcan are being ordered for a total of ~\$50
 - c. Radon kits: 40 kits for a total of \$610.
 - d. 1,000 septic-reminder magnets for a total of \$420: Mr. Britt and Levin did a great job getting this information.
- VI. Strategic Initiatives Update**
 - a. Water Quality Initiative (Mr. Britt): No update.
 - b. Radon (Ms. Pleake-Tamm): No update
 - c. Pump for the Bay (Ms. Pleake-Tamm): Eight entries received. Prize checks from 2022's raffle are still being processed.
 - i. If Commissioners have updates on the septic haulers, please let Ms. Pleake-Tamm know.

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

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*.

VII. Subcommittee Reports

- a. FAQs (Mr. Levin):
 - i. Wildlife website (Dr. Rogers): No update
 - ii. Existing FAQ review (Mr. Levin): Mr. Rooney will provide Mr. Levin with his reviewed FAQs; Mr. Hardy is working them
- b. Sustainability (Mr. Levin): This subcommittee is ended.
- c. Public Education/Outreach (Ms. Pleake-Tamm): Seed packets are in. Dr. Rogers will borrow the watershed model for the Lake Bash.
 - i. Calvert County Fair Youth Day (September 29th, 9–4)
 - ii. Patuxent River Appreciate Day (October ???)
 - iii. Southern Maryland Invasives Festival (October ???, new event at Jefferson Patterson)
- d. 2023 Guest Speakers (CHAIR VACANCY): No speakers are currently scheduled for June or for August through December. Dr. Mark Southerland will be speaking to us on July 31st.

VIII. Sustainability Awards Program: Tabled for now.

IX. Calendar (Mr. Hardy.): Tabled for now.

X. General Announcements

- a. Next meeting is June 26; it will be hybrid.
- b. Ms. Pleake-Tamm will send the group an article about microfibres' impact on waterways.
- c. Calvert's Forestry Board is seeking input for FAQs from landowners of woodlots or forested property.
- d. Ms. Pleake-Tamm will be away until June 7th, please contact Carolyn Sunderland or Colleen Anglin during that time.
- e. Ms. Pleake-Tamm is looking into getting an advertisement in the Parks & Rec mailer and Fair booklet.
- f. Dr. Rogers asked about Commission membership. The Env. Comm'n is full. If a member misses three consecutive meetings, they may be removed if it's in the best interest of the Env. Comm'n.
- g. Mr. Levin spoke with a contact at MDE and it seems like there's no momentum for regulations for greywater recycling in residential homes.

XI. Dr. Rogers moved to adjourn, Mr. Levin seconded, the motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 6:44pm.

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