

Calvert County Environmental Commission

Meeting Minutes – June 29, 2020

Members Present: Carys Mitchelmore, Autumn Phillips-Lewis, Jim Levin, Mike O'Donnell, Ron Klauda

Members Absent: Shelby Cross, Jane Dodds, Patty Long-Bradley, Andy Rogers

Staff: Will Hager, Scarlett Oller

Guests/Liaisons: George Heiner, Lloyd Lewis, Chris Phipps, Herb Wolff, Sandra Raviv, Julie Paluda

I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm. The group met virtually using Zoom.

II. Guest Speaker: Chris Phipps, Director of Anne Arundel Co. Dept. of Public Works and George Heiner, discussed the feasibility of managed aquifer recharge.

III. Approval of Agenda: The agenda could not be approved due to lack of a quorum.

IV. Approval of Minutes: The minutes could not be approved due to lack of a quorum.

V. Old Business:

a. Review of Action Items from 5/18/2020 Meeting --The purchase of the display board is in progress. Will Hager suggested Julie Paluda as an option to speak to the Commission regarding sewage treatment plant operations in the county. Will Hager reported Community and Media Relations had told him they could advertise the Pump for the Bay contest with a monthly Facebook post and a second press release later this year.

b. Membership – Commissioner Klauda encouraged the commission to recruit new members.

VI. Sub-Committee Reports:

a. FAQs —Commissioner O'Donnell reported he is compiling suggestions and additions from other Commission members on the Recycling FAQs. Commissioner Klauda is considering expanding the Wastewater FAQs to include new information from by the University of Maryland Extension. Commissioner Klauda is drafting FAQs regarding electric vehicles and their charging stations. Commissioner Levin is drafting FAQs regarding low impact development and landscaping. The status of the injured wildlife FAQs being drafted by Commissioner Cross is unknown.

b. Public Education/Outreach — The Public Education/Outreach subcommittee is working on updating informational posters to prepare for next year's events. All Commission members are to continue obtaining prize donations for the Pump for the Bay contest.

c. Public Guest Speaker Program — Commissioner Klauda reviewed the list of confirmed guest speakers.

d. Sustainability —

1. **Radon**-- Commissioner Levin reported the Sustainability subcommittee was no longer drafting a local ordinance regarding radon testing, but was now focusing on increasing radon awareness. Commissioner Klauda will contact the Southern Maryland Realtors Association to reinforce awareness among county realtors regarding testing. Commissioners Klauda and Rogers will contact area HOAs regarding educating their citizens about the hazards of radon, the availability of free test kits from the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), and the Environmental Commission's FAQs page. The Sustainability subcommittee is considering preparing an article or fact sheet for the newspaper closer to the end of the year. January is radon awareness month, and the subcommittee intends to coordinate an awareness campaign with MDE. Commissioner Klauda indicated the subcommittee may be able to apply for and receive grant money from MDE to increase radon awareness.
2. **Carbon Footprint and Greenhouse Gas Monitoring**—A representative of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Government provided the subcommittee with a list of private contractors who could complete a carbon footprint inventory. Commissioners Klauda and Levin have spoken with ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability, a group which offered resources for completing a carbon footprint inventory in exchange for a paid annual subscription. Gathering this data may reveal opportunities for energy cost savings which would offset the cost of membership. Will Hager recommend the Commission assemble a written proposal to request the funds for the project in the fall. The Commission discussed options for additional staffing for this project.
3. **Low Impact Landscaping**- A bill has been introduced in the MD House that would prohibit HOAs from prohibiting low impact landscaping, a method of stormwater management. While the Commission had previously drafted a letter to the BOCC asking them to support this bill, this has been put on hold while Commissioner Levin investigates if the bill will be reintroduced and researches if there have been related issues in Calvert County.
4. **List of Environmental and Sustainability Issues and Initiatives**—The Sustainability subcommittee is creating a list of environmental issues relevant to Calvert County and how nearby counties are addressing them. The subcommittee hopes to present the list at the July meeting.

VII. New Business:

- a. Guiding Principles for Stream Protection and Restoration — Commissioner Klauda requested the Commission draft a list of guiding principles for stream protection and restoration at the request of Planning & Zoning staff.
- b. General Announcements — The Commission discussed the proposed text amendments on Chapter 11 of the County Code forwarded by Planning and Zoning. At the informal consensus of the Commission, Commissioner Klauda volunteered to notify Director Cook that the Environmental Commission had no comment.
- c. Upcoming Events — The next Environmental Commission meeting is scheduled for July 27.

VIII. Public Comment:

- a. Sandra Raviv asked for volunteers to help her organization, the League of Women Voters, study the effects of climate change in Calvert County. Several Commission members offered to help and refer Ms. Raviv to other professionals who could assist.

IX. Adjournment:

- a. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.