



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
Mark C. Cox Sr.
Catherine M. Grasso
Earl F. Hance
Mike Hart
Todd Ireland

Calvert County Environmental Commission March 27, 2023 Minutes

Attendance: Dr. Dave Campbell (Chair), Dave Hardy (Vice Chair), Kevin Britt, Jim Levin, Jo Anna Lutmerding, Roman Matatov, Dr. Andy Rogers, Mike Rooney
Staff: Amalia Pleake-Tamm

- I. **Call to Order at 6:10pm**
- II. **Agenda for March 27, 2023:** Mr. Hardy moved to approve, Dr. Rogers seconded, motion passed unanimously.
- III. **Guest Speaker:** skipped as was not in attendance.
- IV. **Meeting Minutes: February 27, 2023**
Ms. Pleake-Tamm acknowledged Mr. Britt's corrections. Mr. Hardy moved to approve the agenda, Mr. Levin seconded, motion passed unanimously.
- V. **Strategic Initiatives Update**
 - a. **Water Quality Initiative:** Mr. Britt suggested a rain barrel program. Discussion resulted in a proposed program of buying a rain barrel, advertising the concept at tabling events, and hold a rain barrel workshop at possibly PRAD or some other time at the end of the event season. Mr. Matatov asked about the Env. Comm'n's \$1,615 budget. Ms. Pleake-Tamm will verify the Commission can apply for outside funding. Dr. Campbell will get price quotes on rain barrels and Dr. Rogers will contact Univ. of MD's Sea Grant program regarding partnering on the workshop.
 - 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:** Prizes have been secured from Calvert County Health Department: Environmental Health Division; Calvert Marine Museum and Tennison Cruise for tickets; Lusby Motors; Midas Mufflers. Mr. Levin has also contacted Salsarita's, SweetFrog, Patuxent Wine & Spirits. Dr. Campbell will call Dreamweaver Café. Mr. Levin found 'pump your septic' reminder magnets from a prior Env. Comm'n (with support from a MD Tributary Strategy teams). Initial price quote was 50 2"x 2" magnets \$65. Mr. Britt suggested partnering with septic haulers Mr. Britt will look up prices and Mr. Levin will send him a scan of the magnet. Ms. Pleake-Tamm and Dr. Campbell will send out an elevator pitch for the septic haulers. After Ms. Pleake-Tamm returns a finalized pamphlet, and Dr. Campbell and Ms. Pleake-Tamm draft an elevator pitch, Commissioners to use to reach out to septic haulers.
- VI. **Subcommittee Reports**
 - a. **FAQs**
 - i. **Wildlife FAQ:** Dr. Rogers found an existing **wildlife website by ___?___** and chose some interesting species to highlight. Mr. Hardy found a list of **state species by Andy Brown**, a resource for injured animals, and a list of Rare Threatened or Endangered Species. Dr. Rogers, Mr. Hardy and Ms. Lutmerding will continue working on this. Ms. Pleake-Tamm suggested pairing FAQs with QR codes for tabling events. Mr. Matatov will look into connecting the FAQs with QR codes. Dr. Campbell suggested a half-page ad for advertising the wildlife FAQ. Mr. Hardy suggested the Parks and Rec. biannual mailing—Ms. Pleake-Tamm will look at this.
 - ii. **Existing FAQ review:** Mr. Levin revised the radon and low-impact development FAQ; he divided the sustainability FAQ into four parts: sustainability, household energy conservation, green buildings and carbon footprint FAQs.

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*.

- b. Sustainability: Mr. Levin gave a history of the Sustainability Subcommittee, which included looking at countywide greenhouse gas emission tracking; developing a matrix of environmental issues that the Env. Comm'n could work with Calvert County Government to improve those issues; and radon awareness. Should this subcommittee be recast as the "Strategic Initiatives Subcommittee"? Should the Sustainability Subcommittee be removed? Should we keep it as is? Mr. Levin believes the term, "sustainability" is too vague. The sustainability subcommittee currently consists of Mr. Levin, Mr. Rooney, Dr. Rogers, and Mr. Britt.
- c. Public Education/Outreach: No report.
- d. EarthArts Fest tabling was discussed and Ms. Pleake-Tamm will send out a suggested schedule. Ms. Pleake-Tamm needs to request giveaways.
- e. 2023 Guest Speakers: Ms. Pleake-Tamm secured Jason Prowinski from the nuclear plant. Ron Klauda requested a bird-safe building speaker; Mr. Smith was tasked with returning this call.

VII. BOCC directive for assistance with public education on well-water maintenance

- a. See Andrew Staley's (MD Geo. Survey) [February 28th presentation](#)
- b. Mr. Levin sent some information on price quotes for well testing. An informational badge with testing labs and a 'contaminant' info sheet will be placed on the Env. Comm'n's webpage and buy a sample kit from Homeland (it's local lab and MD certified, which is required for regulatory or litigation purposes) to have at our tabling events so people can see what they look like.

VIII. Sustainability Awards Program: The Commission will look at partnering with St. Mary's for the awards to be across both counties and leverage the existing program's infrastructure. Given the existing workload, this will be discussed at a future meeting.

IX. General Announcements: Mr. Hardy will look at creating a Calvert environmental calendar to be featured online and possibly hardcopy. Each page would feature a winning environmental photo. Ms. Pleake-Tamm recommended the smaller Soil Conservation District calendars. Slated for Calendar year 2024.

X. Public Comment: None

XI. Mr. Levin moved to adjourn, Dr. Rogers seconded, the motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 7:29pm.

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