



CALVERT COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

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Board of Commissioners
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Calvert County Environmental Commission June 26, 2023 Minutes

Attendance: Dave Hardy (Vice Chair), Kevin Britt, Heather Kerr, Jim Levin, Roman Matatov, Dr. Andy Rogers, Mike Rooney, Neil Smith, Abby Ybarra
Staff: Amalia Pleake-Tamm

- I. Call to Order at 6:09pm**
- II. Agenda for June 26, 2023:** Dr. Rogers moved to approve, Ms. Kerr seconded, the motion passed unanimously.
- III. Approval of Minutes from May 22, 2023:** Mr. Hardy moved to approve with spelling correction, Mr. Levin seconded, Mr. Matatov abstained, the remaining Commissioners voted to approve and the motion passed.
- IV. Budget:**
 - a. Radon kits and rain barrel received; Ms. Pleake-Tamm will assemble the rain barrel.
 - b. 1,000 septic-reminder magnet purchase order didn't make it; will re-order with FY 24 funds on July 1. Mr. Britt is still able to pick them up.
- V. Strategic Initiatives Update**
 - a. Water Quality Initiative (Mr. Britt): Dr. Rogers will send Mr. Britt contacts for MD Sea Grant and the Master Gardeners Group.
 - b. Radon (Amalia): No update; Env. Comm'n will hand out test kits and the updated FAQ
 - c. Pump for the Bay (Amalia): ~9 entries received.
- VI. Subcommittee Reports**
 - a. FAQs (Mr. Levin): Mr. Levin moved to approve the updated radon FAQ and place it more prominently on the website, Mr. Ybarra seconded, the motion passed unanimously. Mr. Ybarra asked about press releases and public announcements when new FAQs go out; Ms. Pleake-Tamm will look into this. Dr. Rogers moved to adopt a new well-water maintenance flyer as a new FAQ, Mr. Hardy seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
 - i. Wildlife website: no update.
 - b. Public Education/Outreach: Welcome back, Ms. Kerr! Ms. Kerr will work on the factoids for the spinning wheel and Commissioners are welcome to send her any facts for inclusion. Dr. Rogers had a successful event at Lake Lariat Lake Bash and learned that bumper stickers are no longer popular. Lake Bash will be added to next year's event calendar. Ms. Kerr is looking into other events (e.g., local farm events).
(Heather/Amalia): Seed packets are ordered
 - 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)
 - c. 2023 Guest Speakers (CHAIR VACANCY): Dr. Mark Southerland will be speaking to us on July 31st on bird-safe buildings. Mr. Matatov is going to speak with a Senior Naturalist and a Park Ranger about current initiatives and issues of concerns. Mr. Matatov will look into environmental efforts that small- and medium-sized businesses can do and this can possibly be an annual reminder. Ms. Pleake-Tamm will reach connect with Econ. Dev't.
- VII. Sustainability Awards Program:** Tabled for now.

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*.

VIII. Environmental Calendar: Tabled for now.

- IX. [Zoning Ordinance Update](#):** Calvert’s Zoning Ordinance is being updated. Articles 3–9 are the current focus and address agricultural, residential, historic, and commercial and industrial districts. Public comment on these articles will be open until July 21. (Note that feedback on any article is welcome *at any time*; the articles are divided into comment periods to help focus attention and resources.)

Article 18 and Article 18 tables detail the specific permitted land uses. “P” means permitted, a space means it’s not permitted, an “S” means it needs to go to the Board of Appeals.

The next focus will move to Critical Area, marine, and floodplain articles (roughly expected in August). Site development, outdoor lighting, parking, landscaping signs, and subdivisions articles will be in October. The entire Code is expected to go to the BOCC around December and then up for vote around April 2024.

X. General Announcements

- a. Next meeting is July 31 and will focus on bird-safe buildings.
- b. On June 6, 2023, the BOCC approved a \$381 million fiscal year (FY) [2024 general fund operating budget](#). FY 2024 begins July 1, 2023 and ends June 30, 2024. The \$38.6 million increase includes \$3.2 million in additional income tax revenue, \$22.3 million in property tax revenue, and an \$18.6 million increase to use of prior year fund balance pay-go, as well as a \$5.5 million decrease to other revenue categories, including health insurance reimbursement. Of the increased revenues, \$32 million will be used to restore funding to the Capital Improvement Plan and provide additional funding to the Board of Education, Technology Services, the Sheriff’s Office and Career Emergency Medical Services. Funding towards education remains the primary focus of the budget, comprising 41% of the general fund operating budget and 22% of the six-year capital projects budget. Education funding for operations of \$154.7 million is provided, which is \$13.4 million over the funding provided in FY 2023. (June 7, 2023 News Flash)
- c. Ms. Kerr asked if any local groups were using oysters to clean headwaters. Dr. Rogers recommended asking Bob Boxwell and Sea Grant; Mr. Levin recommended asking Amanda Knobloch at the PEARL, Mr. Rooney recommended Kingman Lake on the Anacostia River and the [50 Million Mussel Project](#). Dr. Rogers mentioned exploring using mussels to clean excess nutrients and algae from Lake Lariat.

- XI. Ms. Kerr moved to adjourn,** Dr. Rogers seconded, the motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 6:58pm.

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