

Calvert County Environmental Commission
Meeting Minutes – March 28, 2022

Members Present: Jim Levin (Chair), Amanda Knobloch (Vice Chair), Dave Hardy, Carys Mitchelmore, Andy Rogers, Mike Rooney, Neil Smith

Members Absent: Chad Leo, Autumn Phillips-Lewis

Staff: Carolyn Sunderland; Jesse Clark

Guests: None

- I. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:19 pm.
- II. **Roll Call for Quorum:** Jim Levin facilitated a roll call for quorum purposes. Seven members were present, achieving a quorum for the meeting.
- III. **Approval of Agenda:** Dave Hardy motioned to approve the agenda with minor corrections (Section V. b. i. *Jessie* to be changed to *Jesse*; Section VI. C. ii. *Dr. Laura Harris* to be changed to *Dr. Lora Harris*). Andy Rogers seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.
- IV. **Guest Speaker Program:** There was no guest speaker at the March 2022 Environmental Commission Meeting.
- V. **Old Business:**
 - a. Annual Report: Carolyn Sunderland reported that the Environmental Commission Annual Report had been sent to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC). It will appear on their agenda for one of their next meetings for information purposes and is not expected to be discussed.
 - b. Website Progress Update: Jesse Clark reported that the following changes had been made to the Environmental Commission website, per the Commission's requests:
 - i. Four guest speaker presentations were uploaded for 2020, three were uploaded for 2021, and others will be uploaded as they are received.
 - ii. Minutes for 2020 and 2021 are being scanned and uploaded onto the website as they are available.
 - iii. Minutes that were unavailable are being typed from recordings of meetings using the October 2019 minutes as a template. These are planned to be presented to the Environmental Commission next month (April 2022) before they are posted to the county website.
 - iv. FAQs approved at last month's meeting were added to the website.

- v. Other minor corrections have been addressed, and the website is generally up to date.

- c. Strategic Initiatives Discussion: Jim Levin discussed the six strategic initiatives that had been suggested to the Environmental Commission: Climate Change, Radon, Water Quality, Local Flooding, Invasive Species, and Electric Vehicles. These can be used to orient future strategies, overall focus, meeting agendas, guest speakers, and events. Jim also suggested that a leader be chosen for the final initiatives. The following votes were cast for each initiative:
 - i. Autumn – WQ and Invasive Species (submitted to Jim via email)
 - ii. Dave – Local Flooding, Invasive Species, and Electric Vehicles (submitted to Jim via email)
 - iii. Carys – Climate Change, Radon, and Water Quality (submitted to Jim via email)
 - iv. Amanda – Water Quality and Climate Change
 - v. Andy – Water Quality, Invasive Species, and Climate Change
 - vi. Neil – Radon and Water Quality
 - vii. Mike – Water Quality and Radon
 - viii. Jim – Radon and Water Quality

The total votes for each initiative were as follows:

- ix. Climate Change – 2
- x. Radon – 4
- xi. Water Quality – 7
- xii. Local Flooding – 1
- xiii. Invasive Species – 3
- xiv. Electric Vehicles – 1

The final initiatives selected were: Water Quality and Radon. At the April 2022 meeting, leaders will be selected for each initiative. Jim will create a list of what the Commission has already done and is doing for each and send to the members before the April meeting to discuss what additional steps need to be taken.

Due to technical difficulties, Dave Hardy motioned for a recess for a new Zoom meeting link, and Neil Smith seconded the motion.

The meeting recommenced at 6:47 pm.

It was suggested by one of the Commissioners that these Strategic Initiatives be in place for a 24-month period. Amanda Knobloch motioned to approve the Strategic Initiatives for a 24-month period, Dave Hady seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

- d. Radon Awareness Campaign Update: Jim Levin reported that he drafted a proclamation to be sent to the BOCC for their approval and issuance to the community. The draft

proclamation was reviewed and approved at the Environmental Commission's February 28th meeting. Carolyn Sunderland reported that she had forwarded it to the administration. The clerk for the BOCC is putting the proclamation into the standard BOCC format, and Carolyn will send it to Jim for final review before it goes into the BOCC agenda.

- e. Pump for the Bay Contest Update: Jim Levin reported that he had secured sponsorships from all of the 2019 sponsors except Chesapeake's Bounty. Carolyn Sunderland reported that she was able to procure four passes to Breezy Point and four passes to the Aquatic Center from Calvert County Parks and Recreation. Amanda Knobloch stated that she will work with Carolyn to get the appropriate information to the Calvert County Communications and Media Relations Team to produce a new brochure for the 2022 contest.
- f. Action Items Update:
 - i. Membership – Jim Levin reported that the Commission still needs new members; Carolyn Sunderland stated that she is looking for contacts and that the County Communications and Media Relations Team is willing to put vacancy announcements on social media if given the appropriate information.
 - ii. Draft FAQs – Dave and Andy are working on a draft FAQ regarding wildlife in Southern Maryland; Jim Levin and Dave Hardy spoke with the County's Solid Waste Division and determined that no FAQ on spray can disposal is necessary, but they will draft an FAQ on alternatives to leaf burning.

VI. **Sub-Committee Reports:**

- a. FAQs: See Action Item Update. Andy Rogers will set up something with Commission members in April to discuss preparing detailed reference documents for one or more species of wildlife common to Calvert County. Mike Rooney created a one-page handout on household hazardous waste and will work with Jim Levin to do something similar for the new Strategic Initiatives.
- b. Public Education and Outreach: Amanda Knobloch reported that the Environmental Commission will not be hosting a booth at the Maryland Osprey Festival. Carolyn Sunderland suggested that the PE&O Subcommittee develop a list of forthcoming environmental events that can be put on the website.
- c. Guest Speakers: Upcoming guest speakers are:
 - i. April – Dr. Lora Harris (Cove Point Marsh)
 - ii. May – Will Hager (PFAS)

The subcommittee also suggested the following general categories/topics that may be interesting to Committee members:

- iii. Updates from energy organizations (SMECO, Cove Point LNG, Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant)
- iv. Updates from UMCES CBL or Morgan State PEARL

- d. Sustainability: No major updates except that Radon will now be a strategic initiative, which has been already a focus of the Sustainability subcommittee.

VII. New Business:

- a. No new business except general announcements.
- b. Jim, Amanda, Dave, Andy, Carys, and Neil had no general announcements.
- c. Mike Rooney sent an email to the group with the latest version of the Naval Research Laboratory – Chesapeake Bay Detachment Restoration Advisory Board minutes.

VIII. Public Comment: No public members present; no public comments.

IX. Adjournment:

- a. Andy Rogers motioned to adjourn, Dave Hardy seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
- b. The next meeting of the Calvert County Environmental Commission will be April 25, 2022.

Meeting Minutes for the March 2022 Environmental Commission Meeting were prepared by Amanda Knobloch (EC Vice Chair).