

Calvert County Environmental Commission
Meeting Minutes – April 25, 2022

Members Present: Jim Levin (Chair), Amanda Knobloch (Vice Chair), Dave Hardy, Carys Mitchelmore, Andy Rogers, Autumn Phillips-Lewis

Members Absent: Mike Rooney, Chad Leo, Neil Smith

Staff: Carolyn Sunderland

Guests: None

- I. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm.
- II. **Roll Call for Quorum:** Jim Levin facilitated a roll call for quorum purposes. Six members were present, achieving a quorum for the meeting.
- III. **Approval of Agenda:** Amanda Knobloch suggested a fix to the numbering on the agenda. Dave Hardy motioned to approve the agenda with minor corrections (numbering correction). Andy Rogers seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.
- IV. **New Business:**
 - a. Membership: Jim Levin wished Autumn Phillips-Lewis and Carys Mitchelmore well as this was their last meeting on the Commission. Kevin Britt introduced himself and his interest in Calvert County, Environmental Science, and the Environmental Commission. Kevin Britt was sent to a Zoom Waiting Room, and all members agreed that he was a good candidate for the Commission. Andy Rogers motioned to approve his application and recommend that the Board of County Commissioners appoint him to the Environmental Commission. Autumn Phillips-Lewis seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Jim Levin agreed to write a memo recommending Kevin's appointment for Carolyn Sunderland to forward to the Board of County Commissioners.

Carys Mitchelmore left the meeting after this agenda item.
 - b. General Announcements:
Andy Rogers had no general announcements.
Dave Hardy mentioned the Board of County Commissioners meeting on April 26th including a public hearing on the proposed sewer pipeline from the Prince Frederick sewage treatment facility to the Solomon's sewage treatment facility.
Amanda Knobloch mentioned the results of the Calvert County Public Schools'

Envirothon competition and her role in it (Aquatics) and discussed the ongoing oyster reef ball project for Calvert County 5th graders.

Autumn Phillips-Lewis also mentioned the Envirothon competition and her role in it (Forestry) and a Natural Resources camp for high school students funded by the Forestry Board.

Jim Levin mentioned the County Household Hazardous Waste Day for residents that Saturday (April 30) at Mount Hope and that the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center was hosting a science talk focused on Earth Optimism the following day (April 26) at 7 pm.

V. **Approval of Meeting Minutes:** Meeting minutes from November 29, 2021, December 13, 2021, January 31, 2022, and March 28, 2022 were presented to the Environmental Commission for approval.

- a. Autumn Phillips-Lewis made a motion for a blanket approval of all minutes presented. Andy Rogers seconded this motion, and the motion was passed unanimously.

VI. **Guest Speaker:** There was no guest speaker at the April 2022 Environmental Commission Meeting. Will Hager has confirmed that he will present at the May 2022 Environmental Commission Meeting.

VII. Old Business

- a. Website Progress Update: Amanda Knobloch reported that a new section, Environmental Events, had been added to the Environmental Commission home page. Carolyn Sunderland mentioned that if the Commission want to promote any events, the event should be submitted to Carolyn Sunderland and Jesse Clark. Additional generalized environmental days (i.e., Arbor Day, Earth Day, etc.) should also be submitted to them so they can add it to the Environmental Events section. Carolyn Sunderland also requested any additional changes to the website be sent to her.
- b. Strategic Initiatives Discussion: Jim Levin discussed the Commission's two strategic initiatives: Water Quality and Radon. He mentioned that the Commission needs to find someone to be the lead person for each one, and that he is willing to lead the Radon initiative. The lead for the Water Quality strategic initiative will need to be determined and members can volunteer to lead that initiative at the May meeting. Jim Levin put together a list of ongoing and prospective initiatives for radon awareness, including the request to the Board of County Commissioners to issue a Radon Awareness Proclamation, and in January, the Commission heard from speakers from the Maryland Department of the Environment and Maryland Department of Health regarding radon awareness.

- c. Pump for the Bay: Jim Levin reported that a new Pump for the Bay brochure was being designed and that the wording for the brochure had been sent to Planning and Zoning. Carolyn Sunderland had questions about the language, the applications, and who should be called to distribute this information. Amanda Knobloch and Jim Levin suggested that the application form should be part of the brochure and that applications and their receipt of service should be sent to Planning and Zoning and will then be forwarded to the Environmental Commission. Carolyn also said that Planning and Zoning can contribute to the Pump for the Bay contest by paying for ads. Jim Levin, Amanda Knobloch, and Carolyn Sunderland plan to meet in May to discuss the Environmental Commission's budget and how this budget can be used to support this effort.
- d. Action Items Update:
 - i. Membership – Jim Levin reported that the Commission still needs new members; there will four vacancies on the Commission at the end of April. Autumn Phillips-Lewis reported that she had sent membership information to the Master Naturalists and other groups.
 - ii. Carolyn Sunderland and Caitlynn continue to put together meeting minutes that were previously unavailable.
 - iii. The Environmental Commission's Annual Report was submitted to the Board of County Commissioners, but there has been no response.
 - iv. Jim Levin is preparing a list of actions and prospective initiatives for the Strategic Initiatives.
 - v. Carolyn Sunderland reported that she had not received any feedback from the Board of County Commissioners regarding the Radon Proclamation.
 - vi. Dave Hardy and Andy Rogers are working on the FAQ regarding common forms of wildlife in the county and are planning to meet within the next month.
 - vii. Dave Hardy sent Jim Levin a preliminary draft FAQ on leaf burning alternatives and had ideas on how to expand the FAQ which he will send to Jim Levin within the next week.
 - viii. There was a discussion about upcoming Guest Speakers and the Pump for the Bay contest.

VIII. **Sub-Committee Reports:**

- a. FAQs: See Action Item Updates (items vi and vii).
- b. Public Education and Outreach: No update; Amanda Knobloch will be scheduling a meeting with the sub-committee soon.
- c. Guest Speakers: Upcoming guest speakers are:
 - i. May – Will Hager (PFAS)
 - ii. August – Morgan State University's Patuxent Environmental and Aquatic Research Laboratory (PEARL) will provide an overview of their 2022 activities.

Jim Levin, Neil Smith, and Carolyn Sunderland will plan out speakers for upcoming meetings. Carolyn will reach out to Geoff Westbrook with the Soil Conservation District.

d. Sustainability: No updates.

IX. **Public Comment**: No public members present; Amanda Knobloch mentioned the upcoming Green Life Festival and the Patuxent River Wade In.

X. **Adjournment**:

- a. Andy Rogers motioned to adjourn, Autumn Phillips-Lewis seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:06 pm.
- b. The next meeting of the Calvert County Environmental Commission will be May 23, 2022.

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