

# Calvert County Environmental Commission

## Meeting Minutes – July 27, 2020

**Members Present:** Ron Klauda, Michael O'Donnell, Jim Levin, Carys Mitchelmore, Andrew Rogers, Autumn Phillips-Lewis, Jane Dodds

**Members Absent:** Patty Long-Bradley

**Staff:** Will Hager

**Guests/Liaisons:** David Hardy, Sandra Raviv, Lila West

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

**II. Guest Speaker:** No guest speaker scheduled.

**III. Approval of Agenda:** Commissioner Phillips-Lewis motioned to approve the agenda. Commissioner Levin seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

#### **IV. Approval of Minutes:**

- a. Commissioner Levin motioned to approve the May 18 minutes. Commissioner Phillips-Lewis seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
- b. Commissioner Rogers motioned to approve the June 29 minutes. Commissioner Levin seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

#### **V. Old Business:**

- a. Review of Action Items from 6/29/2020 Meeting --The purchase of the display board is in progress. Ron Klauda will contact Julie Paluda and invite her to speak at a meeting next year about sewage treatment plant operations in the county. Will Hager reported CMR will post to Facebook about Pump for the Bay soon. Ron Klauda has updated the Wastewater FAQs. Ron Klauda is drafting FAQs on electric vehicles and their charging stations. Jim Levin is working on FAQs regarding low-impact development. Carys and Jane will work on posters for outreach events. Mike and Patty have revised the Recycling FAQs. Jane and Ron will work on researching radon tests for prizes. If the Commission works on a greenhouse gas inventory, Ron will ask Carys to recruit student staffing from CBL. Jim has drafted a matrix of Environmental Sustainability initiatives. Ron is drafting a radon fact sheet specific to Calvert County.
- b. Membership – Commissioner Klauda encouraged the commission to recruit new members. Shelby Cross notified the Environmental Commission that she has resigned.

- c. EC Report on “Guidelines for Protecting Streams in Urbanizing Landscapes” – Commissioner Levin motioned to send the draft guidelines to Planning and Zoning for review. Commissioner Phillips-Lewis seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

## **VI. Sub-Committee Reports:**

- a. FAQs —The group will review the Recycling FAQs drafted by Commissioners O’Donnell and Long-Bradley and discuss at the next meeting. Commissioner Rogers motioned to forward the Injured Wildlife FAQs to Planning and Zoning for review. Commissioner Dodds seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
- b. Public Education/Outreach — The Public Education/Outreach subcommittee will research ways to advertise their website.
- c. Public Guest Speaker Program —Jeff Shaw of SMECO will speak at the August 31 Environmental Commission meeting.
- d. Sustainability —
  1. Radon Awareness-- Commissioner Klauda reported the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) was unable to provide free radon test kits to the Environmental Commission. He obtained the Commission’s support to research a mini-grant to fund the purchase of radon test kits.
  2. Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory— Commissioner Klauda has drafted a memo to Planning and Zoning’s Director Cook to request authorization and funds to join ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability, a group that helps local governments calculate their carbon footprint and greenhouse gas emissions. Commissioner Rogers motioned to send the draft memo to Will Hager for approval. Commissioner O’Donnell seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
  3. Low Impact Landscaping- Commissioner Levin has been tracking the progress of House Bill 279 regarding low impact landscaping. The Commission decided to take no action at this time.
  4. The Sustainability Subcommittee has also compiled a list of sustainability issues and initiatives the County and the Commission might consider pursuing.

## **VII. New Business:**

- a. General Announcements — The Commission decided to send a letter to Shelby Cross thanking her for her contributions. The next Board of County Commissioners hearing will discuss many environmental issues.
- b. Upcoming Events — The next Environmental Commission meeting is scheduled for August 31.

## **VIII. Public Comment:**

- a. David Hardy introduced himself as a former forester interested in responsible land use and the prevention of water pollution. He has previously worked with Commissioner Rogers on an environmental committee in the Chesapeake Ranch Estates.

**IX. Adjournment:**

- a. Commissioner Dodds motioned to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Rodgers seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm.