

Environmental Commission
Meeting Minutes – June 29, 2009

Members Present: Ron McClain, Vice-Chair Earle Kirkley
John Barberio Peggy O'Brien
Lora Harris Scott Sinex

Staff: Dave Brownlee, Environmental Planner

Guests: Greg Bowen,
Michelle Daubon, CHESPAX

Item #1, Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Vice-Chair, Ron McClain.

Item #2, Approval of Agenda: Under Item #5b, added "Role of Green Teams"; under #5d, added "Revisions to Comprehensive Plan, Chapter I: Land & Water which includes the WRE" and "Mill Creek Study, 319 Grant, and BRF Grant Updates". Lora motioned for approval with revisions, John seconded and the motion carried.

Item #3, Approval of Minutes: The June 1, 2009 meeting minutes were reviewed. Lora motioned to accept them, Peggy seconded and all were in favor.

Item #4, Old Business:

- a. *Restructure of EC Meetings* – It was agreed to continue using the format as presented on this meeting's agenda.
- b. *Status of Action Items* – Action items from the June 1, 2009 meeting minutes were reviewed.
- c. *Membership* – Welcome to new member, Earle Kirkley.
- d. *Toodledo Update* – Members should have their Toodledo accounts set up and settings set to allow Pam, Brendan, Ron and Dave to assign tasks.
- e. *MAPP Project Review* – Lora expressed concern regarding the location of the laydown areas relative to eagle nest sites. Dave will provide Lora with eagle nest site GIS coverages. These maps are not for public review. Ron requested that Dave invite Ron Babcock to the next meeting to explain the SEC Plan for the CCNPP expansion project.

Item #5, Sub-Committee Reports:

- a. *Sub-Group #1 – Public Outreach & Environmental Education* – Scott Sinex sent the second draft of the press release information on the Pump for the Bay Contest and nitrogen-removing septic systems to the EC but no responses have been received. Scott would like the EC website updated before placing the info sheet on the site. John agreed to work on the website.
- b. *Sub-Group #2 – Energy Conservation & Recycling* – Greg discussed the role of the County Green Team and the Citizens Green Team. The County Green Team focuses on energy efficiency of County buildings and taking appropriate environmental actions on County properties. The Citizens Green Team will hold a Green Expo on 9/27/09 at Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum. Greg indicated that he thought the EC's role was to look at the big picture and to review County environmental policies, ordinances, and procedures.

Ron proposed a policy regarding fertilizers – should we use the approach of (1) having the BOCC proclaim all County properties and facilities to use low phosphorus fertilizer and minimize its application based on soil tests, and (2) require all stores to only sell low P fertilizers. Ron spoke with the County attorney and discovered that the County would require State-enabling legislation to limit fertilizers that are sold in the County. Ron and Peg will draft a proclamation on fertilizer use on County property.

Peg offered to provide a photo opportunity for a septic pump out. Ethical issues were discussed. Ron motioned having Peg arrange the event; the motioned was seconded and it carried.

Peg noted that the parks have recycling bins, and “doggie bags” are available in Solomons, the Navy Rec Center, North Beach, and at the Dog Park. She also mentioned a solar power website for Windy Hill Elementary School.

Ron mentioned that the school recycling program is improving but pick-up timing can be a problem, i.e. a large event on the weekend and pick-up isn't scheduled until Tuesday. It was found that 55% of the waste stream was recyclable. Ron will draft a memo on recycling at Huntingtown High School and send it to EC members.

c. Sub-Group #3 – *Effectiveness of County Environmental Regulations* – No updates at this time.

d. Sub-Group #4 – *Respond to Board of County Commissioners & Dept. of P & Z on WRE* – Greg provided a handout on proposed revisions to the Comprehensive Plan including the WRE. A public hearing will be held in late August. He requested responses by August 5th. The goal is to have the plan adopted by 10/1/09.

Greg discussed the role of the WRE Guidance Document. It serves as an intermediary between short-term and long-term planning. P&Z will keep the document current with recent information and studies. Greg wants the EC to be involved in the development and review of subwatershed plans. He would also like to have stream sampling conducted on the subwatersheds.

Item #6: Date of Next Meeting/Adjournment: The next meeting is scheduled for July 27th. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Pam Anderson, Secretary