



CALVERT COUNTY
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of County Commissioners
VIA: Terry Shannon, County Administrator
VIA: J. Mark Willis, Director *JM Willis*
VIA: Will Hager, Environmental Planner II *WH*
FROM: Calvert County Environmental Commission
DATE: March 15, 2019
SUBJECT: Annual Report from the Calvert County Environmental Commission

Background:

The Calvert County Environmental Commission was created and its mission defined by Resolution No. 11-75, adopted March 18, 1975; Resolution No. 20-77, adopted September 27, 1977; Resolution No. 19-78, adopted July 11, 1978; and Resolution No. 40-07, adopted September 25, 2007. These Resolutions were repealed and replaced with Resolution No. 16-18, adopted April 17, 2018.

Annual Report Fiscal Year 2019:

Budget: \$4,213.00
Actual: \$2,731.29 YTD

Purpose:

The Calvert County Environmental Commission was formed as an advisory commission to make recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners after thorough study and deliberation concerning matters of environmental importance and impact to the residents of Calvert County.

Past Accomplishments:

- Thoroughly studied environmental issues by developing a Guest Speaker program
- Prepared lists of frequently asked questions (FAQs) and answers on timber harvesting and several Water-related topics to help educate County residents
- Contributed to development of the County's interactive map "What's My Watershed and What's In It?"
- Educated the public at several outreach events (e.g., Green Expo, Bernie Fowler's Wade In, PRAD)
- Provided comments and recommendations on the Comprehensive Plan Update and other reports

Current Projects:

- Prepare FAQs on Waste Water Disposal Systems plus several Land and Air-related topics
- Invite Guest Speakers to the Environmental Commission's monthly meetings in 2019
- Update, expand, and improve educational materials used for public education/outreach events

Future Goals:

- Calculate an average per capita carbon footprint for Calvert County residents that can be tracked to assess the effectiveness of sustainability-related actions and programs
- Review and comment on Zoning Ordinance Rewrites
- Respond to requests for recommendations from the BOCC, Planning Commission, and Planning & Zoning staff

Attachment:

Annual activities report presentation Power Point

Calvert County
Environmental Commission
2018 Activities Report to the Calvert County
Board of County Commissioners

March 2019



Purpose

- It has been resolved that the Environmental Commission shall submit an Annual Report to the Board of County Commissioners that describes the Commission's activities and identifies environmental issues and concerns that the Commission deems important

Topics

- Mission and membership
- 2018 activities
- Goals for 2019

Environmental Commission (EC) Mission and Membership

- Established in 1975 by the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC)
- **EC Mission:** To provide advice and recommendations to the BOCC and the Planning Commission on environmental matters
- Eleven members - three year terms; Monday evening meetings, once per month - County Services Building

EC's Arena of Activity

- Study matters of environmental impact (air, land, water) to Calvert County residents.
- Identify important environmental issues (e.g. biodiversity, sustainability, aesthetic and socio-economic impacts, general health and welfare of county residents).
- Reduce nutrient pollution from septic systems
- Encourage watershed management practices
- Protect large tracts of contiguous forest
- Develop regulations for replacement of forests outside the Critical Area
- Make recommendations for directing growth to Town Centers
- Encourage energy and water conservation, recycling, green buildings, improved stormwater management practices
 - Participate in public education and outreach events



EC Members (2018)

Chair: Ron Klauda (B.Sc., M.Sc., Ph.D.)

Vice Chair: Carys Mitchelmore (B.Sc., M.Sc., Ph.D.)

Holly Budd (B.Sc., MBA)

Jane Dodds (B.Sc.)

Autumn Phillips-Lewis (B.Sc., M.Sc.)

Patricia Long-Bradley (B.Sc.)

Christopher Roettgen (B.Sc.)

Craig Simmons (B.Sc., M.Sc.)

Joanne Simmons (B.Sc., M.Sc.)

Peter Vogt (B.Sc., Ph.D.)

*Sheila Stevens (B.Sc., M.Sc.)



Member biographical sketches available at:

<http://www.co.cal.md.us/index.aspx?NID=1251>

*CCPS liaison

2018 Activities: Guest Speakers

- Brian Stupak (MD/DNR) and Geoff Westbrook (SCD) on timber harvesting
- Freeman Dodsworth (REM UAS) on use of drones in environmental management
- Stacy Hutchinson (UMCES) on green building practices
- Paul Dicksen (Dominion) on Cove Point LNG plant
- Dr. Hali Kilbourne (UMCES) on sea level rise in Calvert County
- Dr. Vic Kennedy (UMCES) on tragedy of the commons in Chesapeake Bay
- Anne Sunderman (CNS) on connecting land and people

2018 Activities

- ❖ EC members completed training on the Open Meetings Act
- ❖ Approved a press release prepared by the County's Department of Communications & Media Relations on highlights from the EC's Environmental Summit Report
- ❖ Prepared a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) and answers on timber harvest operations in Calvert County
[\(<http://www.co.cal.md.us/DocumentCenter/View/20548>\)](http://www.co.cal.md.us/DocumentCenter/View/20548)
- ❖ Reviewed proposed Architectural Review Text Amendments and submitted comments to the BOCC
- ❖ Prepared a report on the EC's 2017 activities and submitted it to the BOCC

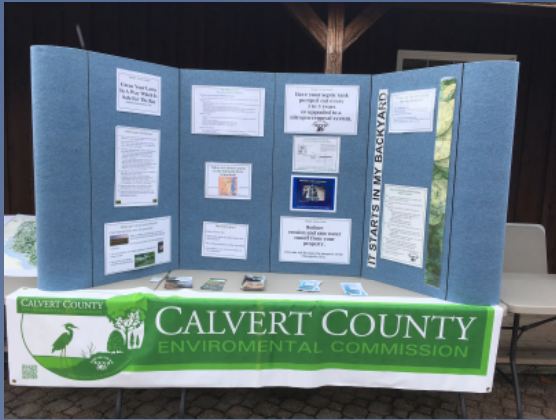
2018 Activities

- ❖ Reviewed the County's draft Ten-Year Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan and submitted comments to the County's Department of Public Works
- ❖ Reviewed the County's proposed revisions to the Road and Site Development Ordinance and submitted comments to the County's Department of Public Works
- ❖ Collaborated with the County's Department of Technology Services to construct an interactive map titled "What's My Watershed and What's In It?" (http://calvertgis.co.cal.md.us/Html5_272/Index.html?configBase=http://ccg-gisweb02.calvert.ccg.local/Geocortex/Essentials/GC_PROD/REST/sites/Subwatershed/viewers/HTML51/virtualdirectory/Resources/Config/Default)

2018 Activities

- ❖ Prepared a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) and answers on Water Resources (<http://www.co.cal.md.us/DocumentCenter/View/20549>)
- ❖ Reviewed the second draft Comprehensive Plan Update and provided comments to the Planning Commission
- ❖ Updated and improved the EC's web page (<http://www.co.cal.md.us/index.aspx?NID=1251>)

Public Education and Outreach



- Green Expo at Annmarie Gardens (June 2nd)
- Senator Bernie Fowler's Patuxent River Wade In (June 10th)
- Chesapeake Biological Laboratory Open House (Sept 8th)
- Patuxent River Appreciation Days (PRAD; Oct 6-7th)

Important Environmental Topics identified by the EC in 2018

- **Groundwater quantity:** increase conservation of available supplies, encourage reuse of 'gray' water, collection/use of rainwater
- **Groundwater quality:** provide information to residents on arsenic and other chemical concentrations (pesticides etc.); how to deal with any problems.
- **Adopt sustainable building practices** (e.g. LEED certification) for all new government-related and commercial development.
- **Forested buffers** along non-tidal streams: expand the minimum width to 150ft to better protect streams from storm water runoff impacts.
- Status of physical, chemical, biological and noise pollution impacts of industrial facilities. Update on ballast water treatment for ships. Inform public on results from environmental monitoring of industrial facilities.

EC Goals and Objectives for 2019

- Update materials for public education and outreach activities.
- Review and comment on the Comprehensive Plan Update and Zoning Ordinance Rewrites.
- Complete “land” and “air” sections of the environmental FAQs list.
- Attend public outreach and education events (e.g. Green Expo./PRAD etc.)
- Explore methods to calculate a per capita carbon footprint for Calvert County Residents
- Continue to invite Guest Speakers to educate the EC on a range of environmental topics

Guidance for 2019

It is a mission of the Environmental Commission to prepare and submit recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners pertaining to matters affecting the environment of Calvert County

- The Environmental Commission requests guidance on how it can be of service to the Board of County Commissioners concerning matters affecting the environment in Calvert County

Acknowledgements

Thank you to members of the Planning and Zoning Staff for their time, help and support of the EC, especially;

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Will Hager, Ron Marney

Mark Willis

