



**CALVERT COUNTY
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of County Commissioners
VIA: Terry L. Shannon, County Administrator
VIA: J. Mark Willis, Director *JMW*
VIA: Ronald Marney, AICP, CFM, Environmental Planner II *RM*
FROM: Calvert County Environmental Commission
DATE: April 4, 2018
SUBJECT: Annual Report for 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, and Resolution No. 40-07, adopted September 25, 2007

Annual Report Fiscal Year 2018

Budget: \$4,113.00

Actual: \$2,850.74 YTD

Purpose

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

Past Accomplishments

- Thoroughly studied environmental issues through a monthly speaker series
- Provided comments on various plans and reports when distributed for review
- Held an Environmental Summit and prepared a report on its findings
- Provided public education and outreach at events (Patuxent River Appreciation Day & Green Expo)
- Forwarded materials for review to implement standard operating procedures through the creation of bylaws and consolidation of the various ordinances creating and governing the Environmental Commission

Current Projects

- Create a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) flyer covering timber harvests within the county
- Create a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) webpage to provide an educational resource for the public to easily find answers to questions on various environmental topics

Future Goals

- Respond to requests for recommendations from the BOCC and Planning & Zoning staff
- Continue public outreach / education efforts
- Hold a second Environmental Summit

Attachment:

Annual report Presentation PowerPoint

Calvert County Environmental Commission Presentation to the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners

March 2018



Topics

- Mission and membership
- 2017 activities
- Goals for 2018



Environmental Commission (EC) Mission and Membership

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



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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, green buildings, improved stormwater management practices
- Participate in public education and outreach events



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EC Members (2017)

Chair: Richard Romer (B.S.c., M.Sc.)

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

Holly Budd (B.Sc., MBA)

Jane Dodds (B.Sc.)

William Heine (BA, MBA)

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

Patricia Long-Bradley (B.Sc.)

Jenna Luek (B.Sc., Ph.D.)

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:

*CCPS

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

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2017 Activities: Guest Speakers

- **County Agency Speakers:**
 - Judy Mackall (development review process)
 - Jenny Plummer-Welker (comprehensive plan update)
 - Dr. David Brownlee (forest cover changes)
 - Danielle Conrow (stormwater management)
- **External Speakers:**
 - Gary Antonides (CEPA – gray water uses)
 - Dr. Elliot Campbell (MDDNR – economics of ecosystem services)
 - David Andreasen (MGS- subsidence/groundwater withdrawal)
 - Dr. Peter Vogt (retired USGS- invasive species)
 - Dr. Scott Knoche (Morgan State PEARL-overview of research programs)
 - Mike Molina (ACLT Intern -stormwater management in Prince Frederick)
 - Jenna Luek (UMCES – environmental impacts of fracking)



NOTE: *All presentations available to the public on the EC website*

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2017 Activities: Internal

- Draft Ordinance and Bylaws approved by the EC
- Provided Comments on draft Breezy Point & Neeld Estates Flood Mitigation Plan.
 - Plan is thorough, clearly written and well-documented
 - Sea level rise scenarios are based on best available science
- Answered questions from the BOCC on 2016 EC activities report and also a question on sea level rise
- Reviewed first Draft Comprehensive Plan and provided comments to the Planning and Zoning staff (our comments are available online in the main .pdf of responses received).



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2017 Activities: Public

- Posted EC member biosketches to EC website
- Started list of environmental “Frequently Asked Questions” for EC website:
 - Completed “Water” section (34 Q&A’s) – sent for approval for website posting (November, 2017)
- Released Environmental Summit Report (50 pages)
 - Provided list of 12 recommendations for BOCC
 - Posted on website for pdf download



Link to Summit Report: www.co.cal.md.us/DocumentCenter/View/17332

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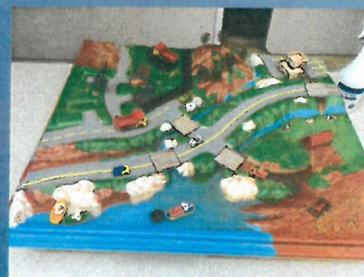
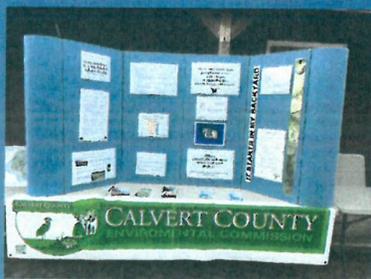
Environmental Summit Report Recommendation Highlights continued...

- Extend the county's adaptation plans for dealing with sea level rise/coastal flooding out to at least 2100.
- Summarize environmental regulations (Federal, State and local) most relevant to residents and make the information readily available.
- Encourage the use of renewable energy (e.g. solar, wind) in Comprehensive Plan updates.
- Provide residents information on testing private wells for arsenic and how to remediate (remove it). Similarly, how to test and remediate for radon.
- Expand efforts to educate residents on environmental issues and provide regular updates on environmental issues/concerns.



Link to EC Report: www.co.cal.md.us/DocumentCenter/View/17332 11

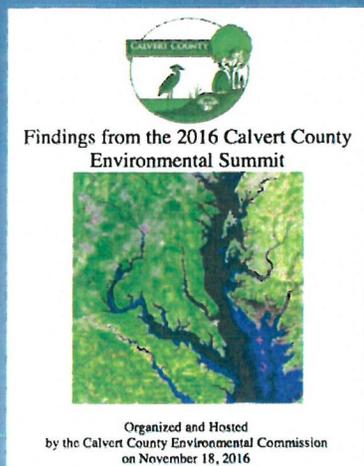
Public Education and Outreach



- Green Expo at Annmarie Gardens (June 3rd)
- Patuxent River Appreciation Days (PRAD; Oct 7-8th)
- Annual draw for Pump for the Bay contest



2017 Activities: Public



- 30 Calvert county environmental organizations/agencies representing over 3,000 members were invited/attended.
- Information was gleaned from online and pre- and post-Summit surveys plus break-out group discussions.



Link to Summit Report: www.co.cal.md.us/DocumentCenter/View/17332

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Environmental Summit Report Recommendation Highlights

- Include the protection of forest, wetland, streams and other sensitive areas outside Town Centers in Comprehensive Plan update and Zoning Ordinance Rewrites.
- Minimize forest loss in Critical Areas and streamside buffers.
- Avoid development on steep slopes and in areas with highly-erodible soils.
- Conduct a study to determine if state/county regulations/codes need changing to allow reuse of 'gray' water for non-potable purposes.
- Encourage residents to collect and use rainwater for non-potable purposes.
- Evaluate current storm water management practices to ensure they are preventing soil erosion and sediment runoff from construction sites.



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Important Environmental Topics identified by the EC in 2017

- **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.



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EC Goals and Objectives for 2018

- Update materials for public education and outreach activities.
- Review and comment on the Comprehensive Plan Update (second and any additional drafts) and Zoning Ordinance Rewrites.
- Complete "land", "air" and "traffic effects on the Environment" sections of the environmental FAQs list.
 - Interactive submission of public to ask any additional questions that EC can answer
- Update and improve the current EC website.
- Provide advice and recommendations on environmental matters as requested by the BOCC.
- Attend public outreach and education events (e.g. Green Expo./PRAD etc)
 - Host second Environmental Summit; other public educational seminars



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Acknowledgements

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

Pam Anderson

Ron Marney

Mark Willis



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Questions and Comments?



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