



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of County Commissioners
VIA: Julian M. Willis, County Administrator
VIA: Mary Beth Cook, Director, Department of Planning & Zoning
VIA: Carolyn Sunderland, Deputy Director of Planning
FROM: Jim Levin, Chair, Environmental Commission 
DATE: March 3, 2022
SUBJECT: 2021 Annual Report from the Calvert County Environmental Commission

Background:

The Calvert County Environmental Commission (EC) 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 These Resolutions were repealed and replaced with Resolution No. 16-18, adopted April 17, 2018.

The EC is an advisory committee charged to make recommendations, after thorough study and deliberation, to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) on matters pertaining to the environment of Calvert County. The EC's arena of activities includes, but is not limited to, water resources, biodiversity, sustainability, climate change, socio-economic impacts, and the general health and welfare of county residents. The EC's mission also includes public education and outreach.

Discussion:

This annual report for 2021 presents the BOCC with a compilation of the EC's most significant activities during the year January through December 2021. The EC is pleased to have the opportunity to provide environmental information and support to the BOCC and the Calvert County community despite continued limitations and restrictions in our activities due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Fiscal Impact:

None.

Conclusion/Recommendation:

Continue the Calvert County Environmental Commission's activities.

Attachment:

2021 Environmental Commission Annual Report

CALVERT COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

2021 Annual Report

Introduction

Resolution No. 16-18, adopted by the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) on April 17, 2018, sets forth the purpose and required activities of the Calvert County Environmental Commission (EC). In this Resolution, the BOCC requires the EC to submit an Annual Report that describes the EC's activities and identifies environmental issues and concerns that the EC deems important.

This annual report for 2021 presents the BOCC with a compilation of the EC's most significant activities during the year January through December 2021. The EC is pleased to have the opportunity to provide environmental information and support to the BOCC and the Calvert County community despite continued limitations and restrictions in our activities due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Environmental Commission Membership

Through the year, the EC had an average of 9 members. Changes in EC membership were as follows:

Members who left – Dr. Ronald Klauda, Michael O'Donnell

New Members – Chad Leo, Mike Rooney, Neil Smith

Reappointed Members – Dr. Andrew Rogers, Dr. Amanda Knobloch

As required in the EC Bylaws, the 2021 attendance records of Environmental Commission members are attached to this report.

Public Education and Outreach

The Public Education and Outreach Subcommittee initiated a comprehensive program to enhance the EC's visibility in our community, including improvements to the EC website, working with the County Marketing Department to update and revise each section of the EC's website, develop effective outreach approaches, and making the content of FAQs ADA-compliant and more user friendly.

In January, the EC awarded prizes to a number of citizens who entered the Pump for the Bay Contest. This contest encourages awareness of the need to routinely pump out residential septic systems.

Although the ongoing pandemic limited opportunities to directly interact with the community in 2021, the EC participated in the following two outdoor festivals, providing educational information and material to the public:

- Green Life Festival (formerly the Calvert County Green Expo) (June 5, 2021)
- Patuxent River Appreciation Day (PRAD) (October 9, 2021)

Advisory Activities

The EC provided comments on a series of draft plans, policies and regulations during the year. Specific activities are summarized below.

- Commission members provided a series of comments and suggested edits to the Department of Planning and Zoning regarding the draft Prince Frederick Town Center Master Plan. Specifically, the EC focused on the two chapters of the Master Plan that are environment-related (Environment and Natural Resources, and Water Resources).
- The EC provided comments and suggested edits to the Department of Public Works proposed revision to the County Stormwater Management Ordinance which will add an Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE) program to the ordinance.
- At the request of the Parks and Recreation Department, the EC provided detailed comments on their draft Sustainability Policy.
- Finally, the EC reviewed the proposed Text Amendments to the Calvert County Zoning Ordinance and the Prince Frederick Town Center Zoning Ordinance, but had no comments.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

During 2021, many of the existing Environmental FAQs were modified to make them ADA-compliant. Some of the lengthier FAQs were disaggregated into shorter, more focused FAQs and posted on the EC website. In addition, the FAQ Subcommittee prepared the following new FAQs which were approved and posted.

- Electronic Waste Disposal
- Managing Common Invasive Species in Calvert County
- Choosing Native Plants and Avoiding Non-Native Plants in Landscaping
- Permaculture

Environmental Issues of Concern

The EC believes that the following environmental issues will be of significant concern in 2022, and plans to increase community awareness regarding each one.

Radon Hazard – The EC is working with the Maryland Department of the Environment and the Maryland Department of Health to encourage Radon testing and remediation (where appropriate) and community awareness of the risks from Radon.

Local Flooding – the EC will support the Department of Planning and Zoning in enhancing awareness of increasing flooding hazards in the county and the hazards associated with these flooding events.

Stormwater Management – The EC will help educate the public on the effects of stormwater on local streams and waterways and encourage the public to adopt enhanced stormwater management on their property where appropriate.

This list is by no means comprehensive, and the EC welcomes suggestions from the BOCC for increased emphasis on other specific environmental issues.

Guest Speakers

The EC heard presentations on a variety of environmental topics from invited guest speakers at eight of the monthly meetings in 2021. The speakers’ presentation slides will be available on the EC website as the proposed updates are implemented. The presentation topics and speakers are listed in the Table below.

<i>Topic</i>	<i>Presenter</i>	<i>Organization</i>	<i>Month</i>
An Air Quality and Climate Change Update	Tad Aburn	Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE)	March
Environmental Issues Affecting Minority Communities	Michael Kent	NAACP	April
Soil and Erosion Control	Geoffrey Westbrook	Calvert County Soil Conservation District	May
Department of Public Works Overview	Kerry Dull	DPW	June
Electric-Powered School Buses in Montgomery County	Todd Watkins	Montgomery County Schools	July
Blue Crab Survey	Tom Ihde	Patuxent Environmental and Aquatic Research Laboratory (PEARL)	September
Forest Conservation Program	DeCarlo Brown	P&Z	November
Early Successional Habitat	Dan Small	Washington College	December

Environmental Commission Attendance Record

January 2021 - December 2021

ALL MEETINGS ARE REGULAR

MEETINGS UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

MEETING DATE	Levin, Jim <i>Chair</i>	Hardy, David	Klauda, Ron	Knobloch, Amanda <i>Vice- Chair</i>	Leo, Chad	Mitchelmore, Carys	O'Donnell, Michael	Philips-Lewis, Autumn	Rogers, Andrew	Rooney, Michael	Smith, Neil
JANUARY 25											
FEBRUARY 22											
MARCH 29											
APRIL 26											
MAY 24											
JUNE 28											
JULY 19 - Special Mtg.											
JULY 26											
AUGUST 23											
SEPTEMBER 27											
OCTOBER 25											
NOVEMBER 29											
DECEMBER 13											
	KEY:	PRESENT	ABSENT	NOT A MEMBER							