



Annual Report for 2022

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.

EC members are pleased to present to the BOCC this annual report of the EC's most significant activities of January through December 2022. The EC appreciates the opportunity to provide environmental information and support to the BOCC and the Calvert County community.

Strategic Environmental Initiatives and Environmental Issues of Significant Concern

In 2022, the Environmental Commission decided to identify and strategically focus on environmental issues of immediate concern to Calvert County residents. These efforts aim to increase community awareness of these issues, and provide educational information that residents can use to improve the environment and protect their health.

Two strategic environmental issues were selected: radon awareness and residential stormwater management. In implementing the radon initiative, the EC heard guest speakers from the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) and the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) about radon at their January 2022 meeting. The EC obtained educational brochures on radon from these state agencies (e.g., [Maryland Radon Facts](#)), many of which were distributed at outdoor festivals during the year. (Prior to 2022, the EC posted online an informational [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\) document](#) about radon hazards and remediation.) The EC spent \$646.75 on 65 radon kits to distribute to county residents. Finally, the EC drafted a proclamation to promote radon awareness, which the Board of County Commissioners issued on January 10, 2023. The EC will continue to pursue the radon strategic initiative in 2023.

The second strategic environmental issue is stormwater management practices that residents can implement to improve water quality in their watersheds. The point is to provide ways for rainfall to soak into the ground more easily, rather than flowing over relatively long distances as stormwater, picking up debris, sediment, and chemical pollutants like nitrogen and phosphorus along the way. The EC is planning additional educational and outreach initiatives so residents can use these methods.

Other significant environmental issues that Environmental Commission members considered as potential strategic initiatives included invasive species, local flooding, climate change, and electric vehicles.

Community Outreach and Education

The EC's community outreach and education initiatives in 2022 included conducting the "Pump for the Bay" raffle and participating in several outdoor festivals.

The "Pump for the Bay" raffle encourages county homeowners to pump out their septic tanks regularly—or to upgrade to a more advanced treatment system—to reduce nutrient pollution in local streams and the Chesapeake Bay. While advertising the raffle, the EC asked Calvert's Division of Communications and Media Relations Team to create an educational video on the importance for maintained septic tanks and advanced treatment systems given our proximity to the Patuxent River and Chesapeake Bay; as of January 20, 2023, this video has had 675 views and received all positive feedback.¹ The Department of Planning & Zoning received 62 entries for the raffle, where the first prize is \$500 (donated by the Department of Health). Other prizes include park passes and tickets generously donated by Calvert County Parks & Recreation and the Calvert Marine Museum. Lusby Motors and Dream Weaver Café donated gift certificates. The prize drawing will be held at the EC meeting on January 30, 2023. The EC will conduct another "Pump for the Bay" contest in 2023.

In addition, the EC participated in the following outdoor festivals, providing educational information to the public:

- Green Life Festival (formerly the Calvert County Green Expo) (June 4, 2022);
- Calvert County Fair – Youth Day (September 30, 2022); and
- Patuxent River Appreciation Day (PRAD) (October 8, 2022).

The EC is looking for suitable, environment-related events in which to participate in 2023.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) About Environmental Issues

One of the ways that the EC provides environmental educational material to the community is by preparing documents called Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). Each year EC members prepare, review and approve FAQs on timely topics and post them on the EC website. In addition, copies of certain FAQs are made available at community events.

During 2022, the following new FAQs were approved and posted:

- Leaf and Yard Debris Burning
- Household Paint Waste Disposal
- Household Hazardous Waste Disposal
- Composting

The following FAQs were drafted in 2022 and await approval at a future EC meeting:

- Private Well Water Maintenance
- Maryland Green Registry
- PFAS

In 2022, there were 136 unique webviews of the FAQs webpage.

¹ See ["BREAKING NEWS! Pump for the Bay—Calvert County, MD."](#)

Guest Speaker Presentations to the Environmental Commission

To further the environmental education of EC members and to update them on environmental activities in the county, guest speakers are invited to EC meetings. In 2022, the EC heard nine presentations. If given permission, presentations are made available on the EC website. The 2022 presentation topics and speakers are listed below.

<i>Topic</i>	<i>Presenter</i>	<i>Organization</i>	<i>Month</i>
Radon	Dr. Clifford Mitchell (MDH)& Kiera Saleem (MDE)	MD Dept. of Health & MD Dept. of the Environment	January
Control Methods for Common Invasive Species in Calvert County	Autumn Phillips-Lewis*	EcoHaven, LLC	February
Report on the November 10, 2021 NRL-CBD Restoration Advisory Board Meeting [regarding PFAS]	Will Hager	Calvert County Planning and Zoning Department	May
Open Meetings Act	John Norris	Calvert County Attorney	June
Cove Point Heritage Trust Environmental Initiatives	Bob Boxwell	Cove Point Heritage Trust	July
Patuxent Environmental and Aquatic Research Laboratory (PEARL) Programs	Amanda Knobloch*	Morgan State University	August
Cove Point LNG Environmental Activities	Kevin Britt*	Berkshire Hathaway Energy GT&S	September
SMECO Sustainable Energy Programs	Natasha Lau	SMECO	October
Fraud, Waste, or Abuse of EPA Funding	Special Agent Jeremy Wier	EPA's Office of Inspector General	November
Calvert County Forestry Programs	Brian Stupak	Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Calvert County Forest Service	December

* An Environmental Commission member.

Environmental Commission Membership

As of December 31st, the EC consists of nine members (including a member appointed by the BOCC in December). The bylaws authorize eleven members. Through the year, the EC had an average meeting attendance of six members. The EC did not achieve a quorum in June and December, thus preventing the EC from conducting business. For the months when a quorum was achieved, the average attendance was between six and seven.

There was significant EC member turnover in 2022.

New Members: Kevin Britt, Dr. David Campbell, Heather Kerr, Roman Matatov

Outgoing Members: Dr. Amanda Knobloch, Chad Leo, Dr. Carys Mitchelmore, Autumn Phillips-Lewis

Environmental Commission Attendance Record January 2021–December 2021														
MEETING DATE	Levin, Jim Chair	Knobloch, Amanda Vice-Chair	Campbell, Dave Acting Vice-Chair	Britt, Kevin	Hardy, Dave	Kerr, Heather	Leo, Chad	Matatov, Roman	Mitchell, Carys	Philips-Lewis, Autumn	Rogers, Andrew	Rooney, Michael	Smith, Neil	TOTAL
JANUARY 31														8
FEBRUARY 28														7
MARCH 28														7
APRIL 25														6
MAY 23														6
JUNE 27 - No quorum met so no mtg														5
JULY 25						Not a member								7
AUGUST 29			Not a member			Not a member								6
SEPTEMBER 26			Not a member		Poor health									6
OCTOBER 24														6
NOVEMBER 28							Not a member							8
DECEMBER 12 - No quorum met so no mtg					Poor health			Appointed Dec. 13						5
KEY:		PRESENT	ABSENT	NOT A MEMBER		Quorum: 6								

Administrative Items

Because of EC meeting attendance issues described above, an amendment to the Environmental Commission Bylaws was drafted to reduce the required quorum to five members instead of the current requirement of six. The amended bylaws will go before the BOCC in January, 2023.

From January through May, EC meetings were conducted virtually via Zoom calls. Starting in June, the EC has conducted monthly meetings at the Prince Frederick Branch of the Calvert County Public Library. Members had the option of participating either in person or via Zoom.

Finances

Of the \$1,615 budget, \$1,612.75 was spent on the aforementioned radon testing kits, “Pump for the Bay” flyers, and outreach materials for tabling events.