



Annual Report for 2025

Introduction

[Resolution No. 16-18](#), adopted by the Board of County Commissioners of Calvert County (BOCC) on April 17, 2018, sets forth the purpose and required activities of the Calvert County Environmental Commission (Commission). In this Resolution, the Commission must submit an annual report describing the Commission's activities and identifying environmental issues and concerns deemed important by the Commission.

The Environmental Commission is pleased to present this report detailing the Commission's activities between January and December 2025.

Environmental Issues of Significant Concern

In 2025, the Environmental Commission focused on environmental issues of immediate concern to Calvert County residents. The education initiatives continued from 2024 were radon awareness, residential stormwater management, residential septic-field maintenance, and migratory bird safety.

Radon: The Commission distributed radon test kits and informational sheets between three tabling events. The Commission hosts an informational [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\) document](#) about radon hazards and remediation on their website. The Commission successfully requested the BOCC proclaim January, 2025, to be "Radon Action Month." The Commission worked with Calvert County's Communications & Media Relations department to run nine social media posts on the County's Facebook page. The Facebook posts had 10,106 views, reaching 6,004 people, with 24 interactions ("likes," emojis, etc.), and 27 clicked links. One member of the public commented, "This program is 10/10. I ordered my radon kit, got the results and had my radon system serviced. They identified the exhaust fan as needing to be replaced. I did a 2nd round of testing and my levels were significantly decreased." The Commission will continue to pursue the radon strategic initiative in 2026.

Stormwater: Led by Environmental Commissioners Mike Rooney and Jim Levin, the Commission reviewed their Stormwater Runoff and Management FAQ, which was submitted for to Calvert County's Department of Communications & Media Relations in December. Caroline Virginia DiGiovanni (University of Maryland Extension, Watershed Restoration Educator) shared a stormwater education booklet for children that might be used for 2026 outreach.

The Commission supported a rain barrel workshop led by University of Maryland Extension and Calvert County Department of Public Works. The workshop was held June 1st at the Community Resources Building and was well attended and attendees learned actions they might implement in their own yards to reduce runoff. The Commission is planning to support an additional rain barrel workshop in March 2026 at the Northeast Community Center.

Septic-Field Maintenance: The Commission again raised awareness about septic-field maintenance by hosting the Pump for the Bay raffle, with generous support from the Maryland Department of Health, Environmental Health Division; Calvert County Department of Parks & Recreation; and the Calvert Marine Museum. The first prize is up to \$500 for reimbursement. Other prizes include free passes to Calvert County amenities. In 2022, the Commission asked Calvert County's Department of Communications & Media Relations team to create an educational video on maintaining residential septic systems; as of January 21, 2026, this video has had 991

views and received all positive feedback.¹ In 2025, three social media posts advertised the Pump for the Bay raffle on the County's Facebook page. The Facebook posts had 25,369 views, reaching 17,209 people, with 81 reactions ("likes," emojis, etc.) , and 123 clicked links. The raffle was also featured in the March, 2025 edition of the new departmental newsletter, "Planning Perspective."²

In 2025, thirty-eight entries were received. Most entrants heard of the raffle through Calvert County Government's Facebook page or website, while others learned of the raffle from friends or the Commission's tabling events.

Bird Safety: Environmental Commissioner Lutmerding led efforts to draft and garner support for a Lights Out proclamation for consideration by the BOCC. This initiative is supported by the American Chestnut Land Trust, Southern Calvert Land Trust, Cove Point Natural Heritage Trust, the Southern Audubon Society, Southern Maryland Sierra Club, and the Calvert Nature Society. While there was insufficient bandwidth to host a second Calvert County celebration of World Migratory Bird Day, the Commission continued to demonstrate window decals and other methods to prevent bird collisions with buildings, including distributing two rolls of decal tape to interested members of the public.

Community Outreach and Education

The Commission's community outreach included three events:

1. Patuxent River Wade-In (June 8, 2025);
2. Calvert County Fair: Youth Day, Calvert County Fairgrounds (September 26, 2025); and
3. Patuxent River Appreciation Day, Calvert Marine Museum (October 10, 2025).

At these events, the Commission engaged the public with a watershed model, Southern Maryland Electric Co-Operative energy efficiency kits, toilet leak detection tablets, information sheets, and a prize-wheel where participants could win prizes for answering questions about Calvert County's environment. Public feedback included an inquiry about how traffic accidents are cleaned up, questions about data center regulations, and interest in preventing bird strikes. One resident stopped by the Commission's tent at the Calvert County Fair to share that she had used the Commission's wildflower seed packet and had just won a prize for her flower entry.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) About Environmental Issues

The Commission provides environmental educational material to the community through documents called [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#). These FAQs are on the Commission's website and are available at community events, both in hard copy form and by scanning a QR code. During 2025, the Commission focused on updating and strengthening citations for the FAQs. An FAQ on well-water maintenance was featured in the March, 2025 edition of the new departmental newsletter, "Planning Perspective."³

Guest Speaker Presentations to the Environmental Commission

Guest speakers are invited to meetings to further environmental education of Environmental Commissioners and the public. In 2025, the Commission heard five presentations. If given permission, presentations were made available on the Commission website. Given the streamlining of Calvert County Government boards and commission websites, presentations are no longer hosted online but may be reviewed in the minutes.

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

² See Calvert County Department of Planning & Zoning, "Planning Perspective" (Mar. 2025) https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Planning-Perspective--The-Department-of-Planning---Zoning-Newsletter.html?soid=1101205045537&aid=EOhobx_t4YQ.

³ *Id.*

2025 Guest Speakers			
Topic	Presenter	Organization	Month
Disaster Preparedness	Dr. Kara Buckmaster	Calvert County Dept. of Public Safety	June
Robert's Rules of Conduct and Maryland's Open Meetings Act	John Norris, Esq.	Calvert County Attorney's Office	July
Maryland Environmental Legislation	Dominic Butchko	Maryland Association of Counties	October
Tidal Water Quality Monitoring	Dr. Lora Harris and Dr. Jeremy Testa	Univ. of Maryland, Chesapeake Biological Laboratory	October
Lake Lariat Management	Dr. Andy Rogers	Property Owners' Association of Chesapeake Ranch Estates	November

Environmental Commission Membership

At the December meeting, the Commission had ten Commissioners, with an eleventh awaiting County Commissioner approval. Through the year, the Commission had an average meeting attendance of seven Commissioners. New members include Nell Fuller, Sarah Shields, Dr. Janette Wysocki, and Trevor Hume-Wolanske. Kevin Britt completed his term in March.

Environmental Commission Attendance Record															
MEETING DATE	Britt, Kevin	Campbell, Dave	Cunningham, Mara	Fuller, Nell <i>Vice-Chair</i>	Levin, Jim	Lutmerding, Jo Anna	Matatov, Roman	Rapier, Rich	Rogers, Andrew	Rooney, Michael	Shields, Sarah	Wysocki, Janette	Ybarra, Abby <i>Chair</i>	Hume-Wolanske, Trevor	TOTAL MEMBERS
JANUARY 27				Not a member			Not a member	Not a member			Not a member	Not a member		Not a member	5
FEBRUARY 24				Not a member			Not a member	Not a member			Not a member	Not a member		Not a member	7
MARCH 31				Not a member			Not a member	Not a member			Not a member	Not a member		Not a member	8
APRIL 28				Not a member			Not a member	Not a member			Not a member	Not a member		Not a member	6
MAY 19	Not a member		Not a member	Not a member			Not a member	Not a member			Not a member	Not a member		Not a member	5
JUNE 30	Not a member	Not chair	Not a member				Not a member	Not a member				Not a member	Acting Chair	Not a member	6
JULY 28	Not a member		Not a member				Not a member	Not a member			Vice-Chair	Not a member	Chair	Not a member	7
AUGUST 25	Not a member		Not a member				Not a member	Not a member				Not a member		Not a member	7
SEPTEMBER 29	Not a member		Not a member	Gov. Shutdown Conflict			Not a member	Not a member				Not a member		Not a member	5
OCTOBER 27	Not a member		Not a member				Not a member	Not a member				Not a member		Not a member	7
NOVEMBER 24	Not a member		Not a member				Not a member	Not a member							8
DECEMBER 15	Not a member		Not a member				Not a member	Not a member							7
	Key:	Present	Absent												Quorum: 5

Finances

In Fiscal Year 2025, the Commission's budget was \$1,559; this was reduced to \$1,299 in Fiscal Year 2026. In the 2025 calendar year, the Commission made the following expenditures:

Cost	Item
\$75.90	200 toilet leak detection kits
\$837.00	60 radon test kits totaling \$810, plus \$27.00 shipping
\$76.89	migratory bird pamphlets, coloring pages, stickers, buttons, and shipping
\$380.31	250 wildflower seed packets