

CLUA, Inc.  
March 26, 2008  
7:00 pm, North East Library

Start: 7:05 pm End: 8:55 pm. Attendance: 19

Guest Speaker: W. Scott Flanigan, Director, Cecil County Dept. of Public Works

The bulk of the meeting was dedicated to a presentation by Scott Flanigan on DPW priorities, with particular emphasis on Water & Sewer initiatives. A copy of the presentation is on the CLUA web site as an Adobe PDF file (at [http://cecillanduse.org/resources/DPW\\_Flanigan\\_Brief\\_080326.pdf](http://cecillanduse.org/resources/DPW_Flanigan_Brief_080326.pdf)).

Highlights of Mr. Flanigan's description of the slides include:

- Slide 6:
  - There is a high ratio of field-based to office-based employees (a "lean tooth to tail ratio")
- Slide 8:
  - DPW assumed responsibility for Strategic Water & Sewer Initiatives on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2007
  - The current way that Stormwater Management is being handled is not working. The county is examining alternatives to having Home-owners Associations being responsible for their Stormwater management facilities.
  - There is a potential future connection between the Stormwater Management initiative and the Wastewater initiative in that improving Stormwater management may earn us nutrient credits.
- Slide 10:
  - While some wastewater treatment plants were taken over by the county because of failures by the private sector, this was thought by Scott to be the exception rather than the rule.
  - He hopes to avoid similar situations happening in the future through the requirement for much more rigorous design standards.
- Slides 11 & 12:
  - Having a complex set of service providers presents challenges
- Slide 13:
  - ELU = Equivalent Living Unit
- Slide 14:
  - Prefers to encourage Drinking Water Conservation through education
  - There is a realization that groundwater supplies are not unlimited and that we will have to seek surface water supplies
  - Uncomfortable relying on out of state water supplies
  - Withdrawal from the Susquehanna is not on the list but it is on the horizon
- Slide 15:
  - Seneca Point is the common name for the Northeast Advanced Wastewater Treatment Facility
  - Looking to expand Seneca Point from 2 mgd to 5 mgd by 2012, in stages
  - Can "lump" several facilities together into a "bubble permit" so that the nutrient limits are pooled.

- County believes that the 2003 Nutrient Cap is unfair, but does not see any relief, because it would mean the State taking the additional nutrient load away from another jurisdiction.
- WWTP capacity is a commodity, and a very valuable one. We can expect to have to buy credits from other jurisdictions, but the process is too new for a commodities exchange to be in place in the short term.
- Connecting Carpenters Point to sewer has three positive outcomes:
  - Eliminates a potential public health hazard
  - Improves the water quality in the Bay
  - Allows us to earn credits for Seneca Point expansion
- Not all septic systems are created equal. Those in the Critical Area yield more credits than those in upland & inland areas.
- As mentioned earlier, will have to shift to earning credits from non-point sources like Stormwater
- Can you export to Delaware? Yes, but it will likely be a complex process to get the necessary approvals
- Each existing WWTP has a specific allocation.
- Ultimate goal is to get all (remaining) WWTPs either to ENR status or retired.
- Seneca Point was upgraded to ENR prior to this being mandated. Have not been able to take advantage of the Bay Restoration Fund (Flush Tax), and are asking for some consideration.
- Slide 16:
  - "Projected" 2007 recycling rate because not yet approved by MDE
  - 56% solid waste by volume, coming into the county land fill & transfer stations.
  - Recycling Logo the result of a competition won by a Perryville Middle School student
  - HHW Day includes collection of unwanted, unneeded and expired medications, which otherwise would be flushed down the toilet or dumped in the landfill and might end up in the water supply or the Bay.
  - Roadside dumping - currently tightening up the enforcement of rules requiring the covering of garbage loads in pick-up trucks, etc. Will start with education
  - Tire Amnesty Day - dispose of 10 normal sized tires per resident, free
- General appreciation for Mr. Flanigan and the DPW folks from the Central Landfill, who do a great job working with HOAs and citizens' groups doing community clean-ups & river sweeps.

#### Announcements:

1. Delaware Great Green Expo: This Saturday, Mar 29<sup>th</sup> at the Chase Riverfront Center in Wilmington.
2. The Board is asking each CLUA member to commit to one of three actions in support of having Code Home Rule included on the ballot in November .... letter to the commissioners, letter to the Whig, or public testimony at one of the April commissioners' meetings (Apr. 1 & 15).

3. We are seeking a "party-neutral" chair for the Political Committee, which has good active members but needs a non-partisan leader.
4. See the website for news items regarding the Critical Area Law, regarding both existing law and the proposed 2008 legislation.
5. There is a Public Meeting regarding a Draft Restoration Plan & Environmental Assessment (RP/EA) for the Galaxy/Spectron Site, Cecil County, Maryland. The preferred alternative is removal of a partial fish blockage and stream restoration at Scotchman Creek at Mill Lane in Cecil County, Maryland. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 9, 2008 at the Cecilton Fire Hall located at 110 E Main Street, Cecilton, MD. The presentation will begin at 7 PM. Displays and staff will be available one hour prior to the meeting start time.

Next meeting: Wednesday, April 23, 7 p.m., Perryville library.