

Cecil Land Use Alliance
Annual Meeting Minutes
January 20, 2011
Elkton Public Library

Attendance: 10 members

President Julia Belknap called the meeting to order at 7:04pm and introduced the agenda for the meeting.

- Vote for 2011 Board Members
- New Business
 - Recap 2010
 - Choose 2011 issues

(Note meeting discussion on the agenda topics appears as “**New Discussion:**” under the topic.)

Election of CLUA Board of Directors for 2011

Julia presented the slate of members nominated to serve on the Board and the list of board members starting the second year of their term.

Nominees for a two year term	Returning for second year of term
Julia Belknap	Jill Burke
Steve French	Charles Herzog
Paul Harjung	Rupert Rossetti
George Kaplan	
Wendy Moon	
Nancy Valentine	

Nominations were opened to the floor. No additional nominations were received. Nominations were closed. George Kaplan moved that a vote be taken for the slate as presented. Rupert Rossetti seconded. Board slate was approved unanimously.

Recap of 2010 Education

- **Clean Water Act**
 - Terry Cummings of Chesapeake Bay Foundation
 - Required federal agencies to enforce Act to restore health of the Bay
 - Approach is TMDL of pollution input from individual watersheds

New Discussion: Rupert explained the meaning of TMDL for county as the local pollution diet concentrates on the reduction of stormwater runoff, the fastest growing segment of the Chesapeake Bay pollution load. Since funding does not exist, the idea of a stormwater utility fee is being discussed to support necessary changes.

- **Transfer of Development Rights**
 - Jim Mullin, County Commissioner
 - Discussed revisions and efforts to expand agricultural lands preservation
- **Environmental Site Design**
 - Richard Klein of Community and Environmental Defense Services
 - Talked about importance of using the right approach for new development & redevelopment
 - Emphasized finding equitable solutions through early involvement of all stakeholders

2010 Issues and Activities

- **Land Use & Agriculture**
 - Revised Comprehensive Plan approved
 - Developed local products map for “Rural Appreciation Day” at Kilby Cream
New Discussion: Rupert will work with Sandy Turner of Economic Development and Tourism and Joanne Rickard (sp?) of the Farm Bureau to improve the map so it can be converted into a GIS version. Hope to include the work that George is doing on available public boat ramps in Cecil County.
- **Environmental Issues**
 - Tour of County Landfill
 - Efforts to extend long-term site
 - Improve environmental controls**New Discussion:** Changes being made in the use of current landfill are expected to extend its life for another fifty years.
 - Exploration and action on mining activity in county
New Discussion: Del. Rudolph bill to prevent use of flyash as fill in Critical Area passed in 2010 session. Did so with the deletion of “adjacent to” which may still be an issue for the Stancill’s quarry.
- **Transparent Government**
 - President and Vice President of new County Commission are both founding CLUA members
 - CLUA participation in successful passage of Charter for Cecil County
 - Artesian water/sewer lawsuit heard at MD Court of Appeals (no decision yet)
New Discussion: No sense of when decision is expected. There is the possibility of letting the agreement between the county and Artesian expire, making the case moot, and allowing a restart to get the generally favored service to Elkton West going. This would require action by the new board of County Commissioners to limit the expiration date.
- **CLUA’s visibility**
 - Updated website and CLUA brochure
 - Manned booth at Kilby Cream event using the local products map

Going Forward in 2011

- **Land Use & Agriculture**

- Planning & Zoning changes begin
- Murphy Run development in Colora

New Discussion: This could be an area where an option for remediation in this case could be achieved in a way other than a lawsuit, but none exists today.

- Support Cecil Land Trust farm preservation initiatives

- **Environmental Issues**

- TMDL allocations for Cecil County
- Support growth in 'Corridor' & still meet storm water management requirements
- Stancill's reclamation plan (?)
- York Sand & Gravel proposed surface mine on Belvedere Rd. and bridge over 195

- **Transparent Government**

- Planning & Zoning regulation changes (*mtg on 2/24/10*)

New Discussion:

1. Ed Cairns described analysis that he and ARCA members have done to assure the new ordinance, regs, and maps conform to the 2010 comprehensive plan. One significant issue in the Low Density Residential (LDR) zoning district. This is set up with an increased density provision through the use of TDR's. This disagrees with the intent of the Comprehensive Plan which capped density at 2 dwellings per acre. Intent was also to have TDR density increased applied only in the Growth Corridor which should not include LDR districts.
 2. The deadline for submitting a request for change from the new zoning proposals in 1/31/11, before the three scheduled public meetings before the Planning Commission that begin February 2. Because of the closeness of this date and the lack of public discussion on this process, Paul Harjung suggested a letter to the editor to highlight this for the public. (It didn't happen due to time constraints.)
 3. Because of TDR issue with LDR location group suggested that Jim Mullin be invited to participate in the 2/24 meeting on the new zoning package. Nancy Valentine will invite him.
 4. Also hope to find a land preservation option available to farms of less than 50 acres.
- Change process for developments' informational meetings (*work with D. Rudolph*)

New Discussion: Rupert noted that the evaluation of environmental impact after the public information meeting on the permit for this surface mine highlighted the need to change the scheduling of a public meeting after all relevant investigations are available. CLUA make pick this up with a request for action in the current state legislative session.

- **CLUA's visibility**

- Make it a priority to increase membership and expand visibility
- Participate in Rural Appreciation Day at Kilby Cream (*on 6/25/11*) and Cabin Fever event (*on 3/12/11*)

New Discussion:

1. May also participate in the Cecil County Wade-In on July 9 at North Bay Environmental Camp on Elk Neck. Rupert has details.
2. Steve mentioned the idea of getting a grant to help CLUA communicate its educational meetings and materials to the public. He noted that W.L.Gore has supported such efforts.
3. John Bolinski would like to see a four year Technical High School for the county to provide employable graduates to local trades.

Treasurer's Report (prepared by Wendy Moon):

Current Balance: \$1027.25

Currently there are 8 paid members for 2011 with 5 more memberships being handed in tonight. (There were 20 paid members in 2010.)

Next CLUA board meeting 7 pm Thursday, February 3 at Elkton Public Library.

Next General Meeting on the new Zoning Ordinance, Subdivision Regulations, and Zoning Maps to support the approved 2010 Comprehensive Plan at 7pm at Elkton Library, February 24, 2011.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Valentine