

AGENDA
Advisory Commission on Environmental Quality (CEQ)
April 27, 2016, 7:00 PM

Dept. of Environmental Protection & Sustainability, Room 319: County Office Building,
111 W. Chesapeake Ave, Towson, MD 21204

CEQ meeting dates, membership information, and reports are always available online here:
www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/ceq/index.html

Attendance: Glenn Elseroad, James Deriu, Bill Breakey, Andy Miller, Brian Fath, Valerie Andoutsopoulos, Linda Davis, Rex Wright, Russell Donnelly, Mary Gruver-Byers, Carol Newill, Lois Jacobs, Steve Morsberger

Baltimore County Staff: Brian Lindley, Amelia Atkins, Kui Zhao

Absent: German Mora

Welcome and Introductions

I. Old Business (legislative updates and discussion)

- Report that there were some revisions to the Forest Conservation Act including the roadside tree regulations that did not pass the state legislature. DNR was not really in support of these bills, but there is some discussion of a revised version. There has also been ongoing concern over how easy it is for a property owner to complain about sidewalk problems leading to the County taking down roadside trees for minimal cost without any significant requirement for tree replacement.
- There was discussion of rules related to compensatory mitigation projects. A state bill was included in the legislative session making rules more consistent with the 2008 final mitigation rule by EPA and USACE. This passed the legislature as a bill modifying mitigation hierarchies and removed challenges for using mitigation banks as the first priority.
- The County Council did approve the funding for the Patriot Plaza project. There is a possibility of having some input to make the project more environmentally friendly. Councilman Marks sent to the Deputy County Administrative officer a reminder about getting CEQ involved in the planning of the project. We could request EDSA to come present and discuss the project at one of our meetings.
- Continued discussions on the stormwater management fee, TMDL reductions and the urban tree canopy program.

II. Road Salt (New considerations and potential revisions to the 2009 Road Salt Report)

Russell Donnelly attended the Maryland Water Monitoring Council workshop on April 13th on Road Salt Usage and Environmental Impacts. Massachusetts gave a compelling presentation – they are testing almost every stream in every township, measuring concentrations in the water and in the soils. They are limiting applications based on the most severe measured concentrations. This is a nationwide problem and other states are cutting back as well. Presenter was David Wong, a marine ecologist. Four major impacts were identified: aquatic environment concentrations, macroinvertebrates are declining, sensitive freshwater

species, saltwater succession (plants as well as animals). 68% of chloride in state waters was from road salt. Septic systems and wastewater additives also produce salt in effluent. Massachusetts tries to keep average application rates to 15 tons/mile. How are people reacting to reductions in salt application? They are getting smarter about how they apply and how they remove snow. (For example on roads passing reservoirs, lanes closest to the reservoir are not salted and perhaps only one lane will be cleared for emergency vehicles to access during major snow events.) Conductivity tests on soil and water are compiled into a large database. Application of brine to roads in advance of a storm can also reduce total application needed either during or immediately after a snow event. This does reduce the salt load and the conductivity monitoring effort is used to assess success. In 2015 they realized a 23% reduction in application of salt.

In Baltimore, drinking water concentrations are up to or approaching 300 mg/l.

In Maryland, there are a lot of private contractors that are involved in salt application. They now have to go through a training program to enforce standards. There is an effort to reduce applications through pretreatment. There is a material called Caliper M1000 which has magnesium chloride that is being mixed with the brine in some places. Commissioner Elseroad noted that in some areas, excess salt runs to the edge of the road and kills vegetation which leads to erosion during a storm. This is happening on Mt. Gilead Road which drains into Liberty Reservoir.

How is State practices filtering down to the county? Russell plans to follow up on this issue. USGS presented continuous conductivity monitoring results from streams, ponds etc. The state is monitoring Jones Falls and Gwynns Falls for salinity and monitors some streams in the County for conductivity.

In 2010, a state law was passed recommending best management practices for road salt application. There is now some discussion of a chloride TMDL, which once created would be built into the next County NPDES permit. New TMDL's require implementation plans for reducing loads.

Salt barns are being replaced by salt domes and there will be an effort to keep the salt separated from contact with the soil or potential for contaminating groundwater.

III. New Business

Lois Jacobs noted that initial CZMP issues have already been introduced to the Council. Can we find out whether any of the proposed changes have potential environmental concerns we should be aware of? We would want to communicate before August when final decisions are made. One issue is Towson Triangle where there is a development proposal that is under discussion by Green Towson Alliance with Councilman Marks to see if some preservation of open space can be included. The CEQ thought it would be useful to consult with each of our Council members to find out if there are particular local parcels under consideration that are of concern to them. We can also circulate our previous report sent in July 2012.

IV. Adjourn

Next Meetings: 7:00 p.m., regular meeting

- May 25, 2016