

**ST. MARY'S COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
GOVERNMENTAL CENTER
Tuesday, July 31, 2007**

Present: Commissioner President Francis Jack Russell
Commissioner Kenneth R. Dement
Commissioner Lawrence D. Jarboe
Commissioner Thomas A. Mattingly, Sr.
Commissioner Daniel H. Raley
John Savich, County Administrator
Betty Jean Pasko, Sr. Administrative Coordinator (Recorder)

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 AM.

APPROVAL OF CHECK REGISTER

Commissioner Mattingly moved, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe, to authorize the Commissioner President to sign the Check Register dated July 31, 2007, as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Mattingly moved, seconded by Commissioner Dement, to adopt the minutes of the Commissioners' meeting of July 24, 2007, as corrected. Motion carried 5-0.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

1. Draft Agendas for August 7 and 21, 2007 (no BOCC meeting 8/14)
2. **County Administration**

Commissioner Mattingly moved, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe, to adopt a Resolution for the purpose of re-recording Resolution 2007-31 in order to correct a clerical error in that Resolution. Motion carried 5-0. It was clarified that the clerical error in Resolution 2007-31 was an inadvertent transposing of the ayes and nays.

3. **Local Management Board of St. Mary's Co. (Bennett Connelly, Executive Director;
Ella May Russell, Chair)**

Commissioner Dement moved, seconded by Commissioner Mattingly, to approve and authorize the Commissioner President to sign the FY2008 Community Partnership Agreement with the Governor's Office for Children. Motion carried 5-0.

4. **Sheriff's Office** (*Sheriff Tim Cameron; Erin Shoemaker, Fiscal Manager*)

Commissioner Dement moved, seconded by Commissioner Mattingly, to sign the Mutual Aid Agreement, by and between the entities know as Calvert County, Charles County, and St. Mary's County. Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Jarboe moved, seconded by Commissioner Mattingly, to authorize the Sheriff to add one Lieutenant rank to his authorized staffing effective July 31, 2007. Motion carried 4-1. Commissioner President Russell voted noting that organizational structure changes should be coordinated in concurrence with budget planning and work sessions, which were recently completed for FY2008.

Sheriff Cameron stated that the change is an internal reassignment and although the change is to move one Sergeant to a "rank only" Lieutenant, filling the vacated Sergeant position is not being pursued. Commissioner Jarboe requested monthly or quarterly reports substantiating the program's success.

5. **Department of Recreation, Parks, and Community Services** (*Phil Rollins, Director; Cynthia Brown, Community Services Div. Mgr.; DFC Andrew Holton, Sheriff's Office*)

Commissioner Mattingly moved, seconded by Commissioner Dement, to accept the donated funding from the State's Attorney's Office for National Night Out in the amount of \$680.00 and to authorize Commissioner President Jack Russell to sign the Budget Amendment increasing the project's food line item. Motion carried 5-0.

6. **Office of the County Attorney** (*Liz Passarelli, Real Property Manager; Phil Rollins, Director, RP&CS; Dan Ichniowski, NG&O*)

Commissioner Jarboe moved, seconded by Commissioner Dement, to approve and authorize the Commissioner President to sign and execute the Temporary Railroad Right of Way Easement Agreement for the purpose of constructing a

portion of the Three Notch Trail at the Laurel Glen Shopping Center, California, Maryland, and that the administrative fee of \$500 be waived. Motion carried 5-0.

COMMISSIONER'S TIME

Commissioner Raley

Yesterday was my wife's birthday – Happy Birthday Ann.

Commissioner Jarboe

Received a phone call regarding the round about being constructed in Chaptico. Because of the tight design, truckers are having a difficult time navigating the circle. It is a state highway, so we will need to have the state involved in looking at this. Truckers want to get together to look at the problem.

Commissioner Mattingly

Went to LaPlata for the “Capital for a Day” meet and greet with Governor O’Malley and his cabinet: discussed drought relief, local forum in Hughesville, lunch with farmers, attended the groundbreaking ceremony for the new baseball stadium on Piney Church Road. Extended an open invitation for the Governor and cabinet to visit us. Good turnout and presentation by staff at the public informational meeting regarding the Pegg Road extension project. 24th Annual St. Mary’s County Advanced Life Support (ALS) Installation of Officers Banquet at the Harry Lundeberg School was well-attended. Congratulations to all.

Happy Birthday to my wife, Dennie.

Attended the Special Olympics Sailing Competition at St. Mary’s College. Participants from all over Maryland and Virginia competed in sailing and kayaking events. Some will go on to events in China.

Commissioner Dement

Thanked Commissioner Mattingly for acknowledging his attendance during the new stadium groundbreaking ceremony.

Represented the Board at the Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours hosted by the friends of St. Clements Island and Piney Point Museums and BB&T.

Also attended the ALS annual banquet and awards ceremony at the Harry Lundeberg School.

ST. MARY’S COUNTY WATER POLICY TASK FORCE AND COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENT: UPDATE ON STATUS OF POTABLE WATER

Present: Mr. John B. (Barne)Wheeler, St. Mary's County Water Policy Task Force
Steve King, Director, MetCom

The Water Policy Task Force (WPTF), a subcommittee of the Commission on the Environment, provided an update on the status of potable water supplies and highlighted several significant concerns that could adversely affect the current County Water Management Policy and the adequacy of the County's future water supplies.

Mr. Wheeler provided an overview of County water, including a geological and location description of aquifers and water tables, and the implications of the Maryland Geological System (MGS) 2005 Tri-County Report and the 2002 Anne Arundel Report.

The MGS 2005 Tri-County Report concluded that: Charles County aquifers are inadequate in selected areas, St. Mary's and Calvert Counties' aquifers are adequate, and Patapsco use is not needed in St. Mary's before 2030. Based on population projections, the Aquia management level will be reached in 2025 unless the Patapsco aquifer is used.

The Anne Arundel Report concluded that: Aquia management levels are already exceeded in certain areas, Calvert and St. Mary's planned water use substantially increases the problem, and Aquia has reached its maximum allowable yield by current guidelines.

Mr. Wheeler outlined the Water Policy Task Force concerns:

- St. Mary's County Water Policy envisions continued use of the Aquia aquifer (based on water level projections, specifically for the Lexington Park area, recommending immediate use of the Patapsco).
- Management Level (MDE term – defined as water pre-pump level to 80% top of aquifer) policy and impacts remain unclear
- Sustaining levels of aquifers (alternate sources must be explored) – Water levels are continuing to drop, water is being used quicker than it can be replaced.
- Aquifer Recharge Areas (recharge areas are all outside of St. Mary's County; Indian Head towards Annapolis) must be identified and protected.

The WPTF requested that the Board submit a letter to Senator Roy Dyson and the state outlining the County's water policy and concerns regarding management level policy, and the need for other water sources and recharge areas.

Commissioner Mattingly expressed concern that while St. Mary's County is taking responsibility, it is also a statewide responsibility that can't be resolved by the County alone. It was recommended that in addition to a letter, a meeting would be beneficial. It was also recommended that MetCom's presentation made to the Board several years ago on how aquifers work be shared with Senator Dyson.

Denis Canavan noted that House Bill 11:41 requires every jurisdiction to prepare a water resource element for inclusion in the update of their comprehensive plan by October 2009.

Commissioner Mattingly moved, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe, to direct staff to work with the Water Policy Task Force and the Commission on the Environment to prepare the appropriate letter to Senator Roy Dyson and to the state regarding the County's water concerns. Motion carried 5-0.

MD TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION & SMC DPW&T: PRESENT JUNE 2007 UPDATE TO THE PRIOR TRANSPORTATION DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Present: George Erichsen, Director, DPW&T
Jackie Fournier, Transportation Manager, DPW&T
Kevin Mischler, Senior Associate of RLS Consultants
Lenny Howard, Chief Planner for the MD Transit Administration

Mr. Erichsen provided background information on the preparation of the June 2007 Update to the Transportation Development Plan. The Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) subcontracted with RLS & Associates, Inc., to create a Transit Development Plan for St. Mary's County to provide recommendations for improvement of the public transportation service in St. Mary's County. The presentation by MTA is intended to provide the Board with an overview of the updated plan and recommendations, to obtain the Board's input, and to request the Board's concurrence to proceed.

Mr. Mischler described the information and findings developed for the TDP. The Plan includes information describing community characteristics and existing transportation services, a broad overview of potential demand for transit service in the study area, employment data, a needs assessment, an on-board survey conducted by St. Mary's College students, service improvement alternatives, final recommendations, and a five-year implementation plan.

With the emphasis on improving on-time performance, the presenters discussed several short-term and long-term service improvements. Short-term service improvements included route changes, loop reconfigurations, relocations of transfer locations, and converting many stop requests to regular stops. Long-term service improvements included route restructuring and combination, and fare structure recommendations; i.e., day pass and distance based fares for SSTAP (Specialized Statewide Transportation Assistance Program)

Commissioner Jarboe expressed support for route consolidations. It was recommended that expansion of a route to the airport be considered. Commissioner Mattingly noted that Page 16 does not show Charlotte Hall Library and the Care Center, or the Leonardtown Shopping Center, and Page 39, 4th paragraph, incorrectly notes "Mattingly" as a location. It was clarified that the elimination of a stop at the Calloway Food Lion was due to safety issues caused by going into the shopping center "cross area." Lori Jennings-Harris, Director, Office on Aging, concurred with concerns raised about not making the Health Department/St. Mary's County Nursing Center in Leonardtown a regular evening stop and for the proposed fare structure change.

Ms. Jennings-Harris said the fare change could have a huge impact on seniors living on a fixed income. It was clarified that the Ripple Center will not be impacted by the proposed fare change. Commissioner Raley indicated that he would have a difficult time supporting a doubling of rates.

Commissioner Raley moved, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe, that the Board of County Commissioners acknowledge the Transportation Development Plan as submitted and to instruct staff to work with the MTA and all other interested parties in proceeding with the recommendations as outlined in the Plan. Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Mattingly acknowledged the efforts of the Steering Committee, STS drivers, and staff in helping to improve the County's transit system.

LOCAL MANAGEMENT BOARD: ST. MARY'S COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES PRESENTATION

Present: Bennett Connelly, Exec. Director, Local Management Board (LMB)
Mildred Brooke, Health Management Consultant
Ella May Russell, Chair, LMB
Dr. Kathy O'Brien, Board Member, LMB

At the request of the County Administrator, and with the endorsement of the Board of County Commissioners, the St. Mary's County Local Management Board (LMB) developed an initiative to review the health and human service needs in the County. In the fall of 2006, representatives from health and human services organizations were invited to participate in the process by serving on the Human Services Planning Committee. This committee met on a regular basis to determine the scope of the project and to guide the process through the development of the final report. In January 2007, the LMB engaged a management consulting firm to work with the committee in conducting the review and crafting recommendations to address identified service needs.

The project assessed service needs in twelve areas: poverty, housing, employment, health, substance abuse, mental health, disabilities, domestic violence, children and youth, education, aging and homelessness. The project included data analysis and community and provider input. The number one concern expressed by citizens was affordable housing / workforce housing, followed by limited employment opportunities and barriers, and health issues.

The Commissioners were provided with a report, "Emerging Issues in Health and Human Services for St. Mary's County." The project revealed a number of disconnects and gaps. Dr. O'Brien and

Ms. Russell concluded that all areas and conditions are connected. With the County's growth, there is a need to look at a more integrated way to work on the same issues together. The plan recommends that an Office on Human Service Coordination for St. Mary's County be established with a goal of bringing

all of the lead agency contacts/directors together to set priorities and to coordinate the best service for citizens in need. The Office on Human Services Coordination would have three specific areas of responsibility: planning, coordination, and evaluation.

Mr. Savich suggested that the LMB and County staff, with involvement from all of the various members of the human services community / agencies, work together on a coordinated set of recommendations for moving forward that will be brought back to the Board.

Commissioner Raley moved, seconded by Commissioner Dement, that the Board of County Commissioners authorizes John Savich, County Administrator, with the requested assistance of

Bennett Connelly, the Executive Director of the Local Management Board, to develop a plan with input from the various stakeholders to consider establishing an office which would coordinate human services in St. Mary's County and to come back to the Board with their recommendations by November 1st, 2007. Motion carried 5-0. *Commissioner Raley added that he values the input received today, and that while he would prefer not to create another layer of bureaucracy, he does want to ensure that those who need help are getting it, and that the key things to consider before making a final decision on the proposal are whether the Office will be within County government, the number of support staff, and the role of the office.*

DEPT. OF LAND USE AND GROWTH MANAGEMENT (LU&GM) & ELMS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT/MANAGEMENT PLAN

Present: Denis Canavan, Director, LU&GM, and Chair of the Elms Advisory Committee

In addition to the Elms Management Plan, dated March 2003, Mr. Canavan provided the Board with the following documents: Elms Advisory Committee Members list; St. Mary's County Public Schools Elms Annual Report, dated July 2007; Information for Elms Advisory Committee Annual Report; and the March 11, 2003, Board of County Commissioners meeting minutes.

The Elms is a 1,020 acre property that was purchased by the State of Maryland as a potential location for an electrical generating power. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Power Plant Research Program (PPRP), assisted by the Elms Advisory Committee, manages the site for the state. A 476 acre portion of the site was leased to St. Mary's County in 2004 and continues until 2029.

The Elms Advisory Committee met several times over the last few years with a focus on resolving hunting issues, and in particular, where hunting is to be allowed on site, trespassing on the property, maintenance issues, integration between park activity and the Environmental Education Center, and the progress on implementing the Management Plan adopted by the Board in March 2003.

The Plan recommends a 543 acre Department of Natural Resources area (most of this can be used for a hunting area) that would contain a potential power plant site development envelop, forest preservations, and wildlife habitat areas. The remaining 476 acres would be leased by DNR to St. Mary's County.

The Elms Advisory Committee's management goals for the Elms were stated, in order of importance, as follows:

1. Protect the Elms as a power generation plant site.
2. Protect the environment and cultural resources of the Elms.
3. Encourage and support use of the Elms for environmental education.
4. Encourage and support use of the Elms for recreation.
5. Maintain and manage the entire Elms tract as a single, integrated site.

Mr. Canavan reviewed management issues and progress on implementing the Plan. **Resolving the hunting issue, more particularly, where hunting is to be allowed on site.** Currently, hunting can occur on the majority of the 543 acre DNR portion of the 1,020 acres.

The Board of Education desires to move forward with their environmental program. Relative to the trespassing issue, the Elms Committee suggested expanding the committee by two additional persons, one of which should come from the community.

Using an aerial map photograph, Mr. Canavan, described the property location.

Commissioner Mattingly expressed the need to ensure emergency vehicles have adequate access. Phil Rollins, Director, RP&CS, expressed interest, relative to the beach area, with integrating public use to trails so as to not be in conflict with the environmental education use.

Commissioner Jarboe suggested visiting the outdoor education center at Zekia Swamp in Charles County as a model for finding balance. They have successfully resolved the hunting issue, while continuing to promote environmental educational programs.

Representing St. Mary's County Public Schools, Bradley Clements and Kim Howe reviewed plans for use of the 476 acres leased portion to the County. Kurt Reitz provided an overview of the educational programs offered.

Steve Riley, representing the interests of hunters and research, provided information on the hunting safety record and concern for the incremental loss of area over the past 13 years. Mr. Riley advocated joint use of the property for environmental education and archery only (but not where the students would be).

Dr. Martriano, Superintendent of St. Mary's County Public Schools, said the primary goal is the safety of children.

John Savich, County Administrator, suggested the Board direct Mr. Canavan to take the plan back to the committee for one more attempt to achieve balance, then return to the Board in a more focused way.

DEPT. OF LAND USE AND GROWTH MANAGEMENT: FIRST READING OF PROPOSED ZONING TEXT AMENDMENTS TO CONSIDER (1) PERMITTING UP TO FIVE DWELLING UNITS PER ACRE IN THE OBP ZONE AND, IN THE

ALTERNATIVE; (2) PROHIBITING THE RESIDENTIAL PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT (PUD) IN THE OBP ZONE

Present: Denis Canavan, Director, LU&GM

Mr. Canavan provided a “first reading” of the proposed zoning text amendments and requested that the 30- day comment period and second reading required by Resolution 2005-03 be waived. Two versions of the proposed zoning text amendment were offered. Version One would permit Residential use in the Office Business Park (OBP) up to 5 dwellings per acre, and Version Two would prohibit residential use in the OBP.

Commissioner Jarboe expressed support for “live where you work” programs and cited Challenger Estates as an example of give and take.

Commissioner Mattingly moved, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe, to direct the Planning Commission to proceed with a public hearing and prepare a recommendation for the Board on the number two version as presented by staff, which would prohibit residential use in the OBP, and would amend the language in Section 44.6. Types of Planned Unit Developments to read: Residential PUDs may be located in the RL, RH, RMX, VMX, TMX, DMX, and CMX districts subject to the provisions of this Article and development plan approval. *Commissioner Raley requested clarification that the motion provides for staff to take the proposed text amendment, version two, which would prohibit residential use in the OBP, to the Planning Commission for review and public hearing, and that the net effect will be no residential development allowed in the Office Business Park Zone. Mr. Canavan confirmed that the single purpose of the proposed text amendment is to remove the reference to the residential PUD in the Office Business Park Zone County-wide. Motion carried 5-0.*

DEPT. OF LAND USE AND GROWTH MANAGEMENT: REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF TIME TO CONSIDER PROPOSED ZONING TEXT AMENDMENT TO PROHIBIT RESIDENCES IN THE APZ-2 ZONE

Present: Denis Canavan, Director, LU&GM

Mr. Canavan requested additional time to process the proposed Zoning Text Amendment which prohibits residences in the APZ-2 Zone that was the subject of a Planning Commission public hearing on July 25, 2007. On July 23, the Planning Commission signed a Resolution to recommend approval of the amendments to the Board of County Commissioners. Extending the deadline would allow the Board time to conduct a public hearing on the Planning Commission’s recommendation and to receive public testimony from the hearing and during the open record period.

In response to Commissioner Raley’s question, Mr. Canavan confirmed that if the Board decides to eliminate residential uses in APZ-2 overlay zone, and in the future the Navy does a further noise/encroachment study, the Zoning Ordinance and adjustment in zoning maps for the overlay zone boundary lines would come back to the Board for further consideration.

Commissioner Raley moved, seconded by Commissioner Mattingly, that the Board of County Commissioners extend until October 2, 2007, the deadline imposed by Resolution 2005-03 for approval of a proposed zoning text amendment to prohibit residences in the APZ-2 Zone as recommended by Planning Commission Resolution 07-11. Motion carried 5-0.

**DEPT. OF LAND USE AND GROWTH MANAGEMENT: REQUEST
AUTHORIZATION TO PROCEED TO PLANNING COMMISSION RE DEVELOPER'S
RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES AGREEMENT FOR ST. MARY'S CROSSING
DEVELOPMENT**

Present: Denis Canavan, Director, LU&GM

Mr. Canavan presented a Developers Rights and Responsibilities Agreement (DRARA) associated with the St. Mary's Crossing rezoning application and requested authorization to proceed to the Planning Commission for a public hearing on the Agreement.

Commissioner Raley moved, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe, that authorization be given to Mr. Canavan to proceed with a public hearing by the Planning Commission for their review and recommendation of a Developers Rights and Responsibilities Agreement (DRARA) per Chapter 29 of the Zoning Ordinance and to accompany a filed rezoning to a Planned Unit Development Zone known as St. Mary's Crossing. Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Raley clarified that rezoning approval will still come before the Board for final decision.

**DEPTS. OF ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND LAND USE AND
GROWTH MANAGEMENT: ESTABLISH ANNUAL FEE-IN-LIEU VALUE FOR THE
OPEN LANDS TRUST FUND**

Present: Bob Schaller, Director, Dept. of Economic & Community Development (DECD)
Denis Canavan, Director, Dept. of Land Use & Growth Management

The Economic and Community Development staff conducted a meeting with the Director of Land Use and Growth Management, Chief Financial Officer, County Attorney, Agriculture Manager and other staff from those departments to discuss establishment of a fee in lieu value. Mr. Schaller described the process and the many different scenarios that staff considered to calculate the initial recommended fee in lieu. Analysis included how the initial value may impact market prices and the purchase of TDRs in the future and the need to minimize market impact as much as possible. The majority of those present at the July 24 meeting were most comfortable with the calculation of a fee in lieu at \$20,400.

Mr. Schaller recommended that the Board consider staff's analysis, but utilize the 30-day review period granted with the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance to seek public input on this issue and to

consider placing a cap limiting the number of fee in lieu transactions that can occur in the first year to no more than 25.

Commissioner Jarboe expressed concern that the larger the house, the smaller effect the cost of a TDR would have to the home owner, based on the cost per square foot basis; e.g., if you use \$20,000 as a round number cost for a TDR, this would mean the cost for a 4000 square foot home will average \$5.00 square foot, while a 1,000 square foot cottage will be \$20.00 per square foot. Commissioner Raley expressed concern about the complexity and costs of the TDR program and that he was not in favor of establishing a high price.

It was agreed to schedule this matter on the August 7, 2007, Commissioners' agenda for decision.

Commissioner Mattingly left the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

ADOURN REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

The regular business meeting adjourned at 4:45 pm. The Board will reconvene for a public hearing at 6:30 pm.

PUBLIC FORUM

Commissioner President Russell opened the Forum for public comments.

Craig Buist, 20988 Aster Dr., Callaway

Spoke in support of allowing archery only (in addition to environmental education) on the Elms property. Referenced comprehensive proposal submitted to the Board in November 2006 and again in April 2007.

Terri Doughty, 21825 North Essex Drive, Lexington Park

Resident of Patuxent Housing Development. Very concerned about housing going up behind my home. Hearings were held in the 80's regarding this development. Residents in our development brought forward a petition indicating that we did not want this development, but we got it anyway. It was originally supposed to be single family homes, now it has gone to townhomes. The developer was supposed to leave pockets of trees, but they have clear cut and all the trees are gone, causing trees on my property to come down (as well as my neighbors) during storms costing money to have them removed and fence replaced. Another issue is the connecting of Midway Drive to Pegg Road. Plans showed 60' for width of Midway, it is only 30' and has no sidewalks. Residents have to park on both sides of the road and children are walking in the roadway. Base traffic is going to use this road to cut through between Great Mills and Peggs Roads. This is a definite safety concern. Do we have to wait until a child gets hurt? Soil conservation – showed drainage system for housing. Water is up to 3' at my door. They built the road 10' above our yards, so, of course, water runs down and floods our yards. We still have no storm drains - - should have had in 2003. We have holes in our yards. Does anyone care?

Frank Marquart, Hollywood, President, Fraternal Order of Police, Lodge 7

Spoke to the issue of vesting of Sheriff's Office employees and the recent changes the Board made that become effective in 2010 - - going from 16 years to be fully vested for health insurance purposes, to 25 years. This is not only detrimental for those currently employed, but it also affects our ability to recruit from our local base. Early out for military - if they do this - pay close to triple in health care benefits (if you retire a day earlier than 25 years). We would like you to reconsider this change before it becomes effective and consider changing the years for full vesting for health insurance purposes from 25 to 20 and that a cost analysis be conducted for 20 years (as was done for 25). In the future, we would also like to have a voice at the table so that we can provide input before these types of decisions are made.

Kurt Reitz, Mechanicsville, Environmental Educator at Elms Environmental Center

Spoke regarding land use at the Elms property. Described what land means to us as environmental educators - - the land is our classroom and we need land and space, access to other pools of freshwater and ability to create rich diverse environment for study. Number of visitors has doubled - now up to 7,000, and assumption is that with growth we will double again. We need to be able to plan ahead to accommodate 12,000 annually. Not possible in small space we have now. There is a large scheduling load trying to get all students to Elms in a year - have to cancel due to weather, etc. Currently, we can handle two classes at a time outside and have no indoor classroom capability. In the future, we would like to have five classes a day. If limited to two - no way we can accommodate all.

Susan Gleckel, 24251, No. Patuxent Beach Road, California, Elms Environmental Center Educator

Everyone says Elms Environmental Center is "the best field trip ever." Students are learning about living on a peninsula and many have never been to a beach before. All are so excited to see and learn about the habitats. To become smaller, or not to allow for expansion, is cramping what they need to learn about. There are 3,000 acres to hunt on. We have 400 acres - can't even use of all of it for fear children will be hurt . . . maybe unfounded fear, but fear just the same. Concern is with children. We want to see the area expanded for environmental programs.

Everyln Holland, 24060 Hollywood Road, Hollywood

Have been following the Forms of Government Task Force meetings. Would like to ask that the Board educate the public on all three options, not just the one the Task Force recommends.

Margarita Rochow, 45310 Charles Mill Rd., Hollywood, Environmental Coordinator at the Elms

Reiterated that property has been used for 30 years. The Agreement with the state spells out use for Environmental education in the interim (while not being used for state for its original purpose). Attended the recent energy summit where it was recognized that you

can't have one without the other -- environment and energy. Environmental Center is using 7% of land mass, 7% is available for Park and Rec's use, and 85% is available for hunting. Hunting sill exclusively on 50% of tract. Do what's right for the kids -- affirm what you did with Management Plan and expand the environmental area and move ahead with environmental education in St. Mary's County.

Peg Johnson, Hollywood

Advocate for the expansion of the Elms for environmental education use. Many of the 6th and 7th grade students at Spring Ridge elementary have participated and continue to participate in the program. It is a personal interest of mine. Kids who don't have access to any outside activity benefit greatly from this program which needs plenty of space to make the experience worthwhile. Future leaders of communities visit and it sparks an interest in them. They can experience hands on what protecting the environment means. In Save the Bay magazine article, "No Child Left Inside," talks about making environmental education a subject area of the federal *No Child Left Behind Act, which would lead to increased funding for environmental programs.* . As an advocate for hunting, I propose a compromise: allow hunting on a restrictive use basis, based on the school calendar, with targeted hunting dates which school is not in session.

David Shapiro, Shapiro and Duncan, 40402 Phillips Lane, Leonardtown

My company educates people. Without a plumbing instructor at the Forrest Tech Center for a year – an excellent teacher was let go because he was not a certified teacher. We are losing qualified instructions because they can't be paid enough with a teaching certification. The principal at the Tech Center plans to close down the plumbing course and turn it over to a culinary class. Mr. Taylor interviewed a qualified plumbing instructor whom I recommended, but did not hire him on the spot. *(Mr. Shapiro was provided with contact information for the Board of Education.)*

Michelle Smith, Mechanicsville parent

Have been substituting in schools and concerned about overcrowding. Question is –why don't we build up (two-story buildings) if land is scarce for new schools? At Banneker there are no music or art rooms and teachers are using closets for offices. What is the plan with population increasing to address classroom size.

David Mattingly

Reiterate what ladies (environmental educations) said - - it's said that kids haven't experienced outside and we should take a close look at this matter.

ADJOURNMENT

The public hearing adjourned at 7:34 pm.

Minutes Approved by the Board of County Commissioners on _____

Betty Jean Pasko, Senior Administrative Coordinator