

Meeting Minutes

Land Use & Environment Committee Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission 04/29/08

Attendees:

John McCarthy, Rappahannock County
Lisa Kelley, Madison County
Mary Sherrill, Fauquier County
Deirdre Clark, Fauquier County
Melissa Allen, John Marshall SWCD
Kerry Wharton, John Marshall SWCD
Doris McLeod, DEQ
Matthew Criblez, Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission

2008 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards

Doris McLeod, DEQ Air Quality Planner, presented the new Ozone (O₃) standards to the Committee. Doris outlined the basics of the new standard, how the monitors in the area compare to the new standard, estimates of air quality improvement, and a timeline for standard implementation. Her presentation can be found on the Land Use & Environment Committee webpage at <http://www.rrregion.org/envcmte.html>.

According to current monitoring data, Madison County is not in attainment with the 75ppb (parts per billion) standard. Most of the ozone does not originate from within Madison County, but is transported to the area from industry and vehicle based emissions. Fortunately, there has been a consistent decline in ozone levels at the Madison County monitoring station and it is likely that standards will be met soon. The other monitor within our region is in Fauquier, which currently meets the standards.

Wetland Mitigation Banking

Mary Sherrill, Fauquier County, shared a presentation on wetland mitigation banking in Fauquier County and her concerns regarding their establishment, construction, and long term maintenance. With recent changes, DCR shall be responsible for plan review, inspection, and enforcement on the construction of the banks, thus excluding local government oversight of the facilities. This is of concern in Fauquier County due to the large number of sites and apparent lack of state oversight at the construction of the banks. This is exacerbated due to the necessity of placing wetland banks within sensitive environmental areas. Without local oversight the development sites may not be properly inspected or maintained and could potentially contribute high levels of sedimentation directly into rivers and streams.

Green Infrastructure

Deirdre Clark, Fauquier County, presented the Green Infrastructure concept and how it is currently being developed in Virginia. This concept is designed to analyze and develop

land use planning around critical natural areas and allowing for a sustainable use of that land. This involves identifying and mapping existing core natural areas, developing a plan to link these nodes, and the mechanisms to protect the core areas and linkages. While Green Infrastructure has been developed successfully around Virginia, very little work has occurred in this region. This could be a project that is developed regionally and/or locally. As this region continues to grow, it is an opportune time to plan for growth and simultaneously identify and protect critical natural areas.

Next Meeting:

The committee members present indicated an interest in continuing these types of meetings in the future. It was recommended that meetings be held on a quarterly basis on the 4th Tuesday of the month. The next meeting will be held on **July 29th from 10am-1pm at the Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission conference room.**

Future Topics:

VA Energy Plan
Stormwater