

Attend the AEC's Next Meeting!

The Annapolis Environmental Commission's (AEC) meetings are open to the public. We hope you'll join our upcoming discussion about environmental issues facing our city on Wednesday, July 2, 2014 in the third floor conference room at 145 Gorman Street, Annapolis, MD 21401. AEC meetings are held on the first Wednesday of every month.

Events Calendar

Green Drinks Annapolis, July 9, 2014, 5:30-8 p.m.

No where else in the area will you meet so many eco-minded people from all aspects of our environmental and business community. Come join in and see what all the buzz is about! Blackwall Hitch Seafood Restaurant in Eastport.

9th Annual Chesapeake Watershed Forum, September 26 - 28, 2014

The Chesapeake Watershed Forum is a three day/two night conference held in Shepherdstown, WV that brings together representatives from local watershed organizations and local governments to learn the latest restoration science and direction, network with other groups facing similar challenges, and be inspired to continue the work of preserving and restoring the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Click [here for more information](#).

Maryland Clean Energy Center Annual Conference, October 14-15, 2014

Maryland Clean Energy Center (MCEC) annual two-day conference brings thought leaders from around the country. University of Maryland, College Park. Visit www.mcecs Summit.org for more information.

New Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement Signed in Annapolis

Governors and officials from six states gathered in Annapolis Monday to sign the latest agreement on fighting pollution in the Chesapeake Bay, the nation's largest estuary. Gina McCarthy, administrator of the federal Environmental Protection Agency, also signed the document, which sets 10 goals, including sustainable fisheries, better water quality, reduction of toxic contaminants and dealing with climate change.

Each of the goals has one or more "outcomes." For water quality, the first outcome is to have practices that achieve 60 percent of the nutrient and sediment reduction needed to put the bay on a path toward cleanup.

The second is to have all the practices in place to get to meet federal pollution standards by 2025.

The voluntary agreement, put together under the auspices of the Chesapeake Bay Program, is more extensive than previous deals. It includes measurable goals, more transparency and a mechanism for changing the agreement if evidence warrants change.

The agreement was signed by representatives from Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Washington, D.C., and Delaware. The governors of West Virginia and New York have agreed to sign it and will be forwarded a copy of the agreement's signature page to be included in the final document. Gov. Martin O'Malley, who chaired the Chesapeake Executive Committee, said the document is an improvement on the four previous pacts. "This agreement not only addresses our continuing water quality and land use challenges, it also confronts critical emerging issues like environmental literacy, toxic contaminants and climate change," O'Malley said. He also said the agreement calls upon citizens to get involved and help shape strategies to launch the plan and keep tabs on progress. The first pact was signed in 1983. "With this agreement, for the first time ever, we have a big shift. Going from having (an agreement followed by) 20 years of prayer to having a two-year milestones," O'Malley said at the signing ceremony at Susan Campbell Park on the Annapolis waterfront. - *except from [an article in the Capital](#)*

Development Updates

Here is a list of all projects currently under Forest Conservation Act Compliance Review by the Department of Neighborhood and Environmental Programs (DNEP). Citizens can use the Trakit numbers provided to get the information on all these projects on the City's [eTrakit website](#). Visit DNEP's [FCA site](#) for more information.

Katherine Properties, aka Crystal Spring, 111 acre mixed use development located off of Forest Drive, proposed to include residential, retail and a critical care facility. The majority of the property is forested with several non-tidal wetlands. Revisions to most recent Forest Stand Delineation (FSD, March 5, 2013) received March 18, 2013 and approved by DNEP March 21, 2013. This project has submitted eight versions of their FSD since August, 2011. The approval of the Forest Stand Delineation was appealed and was heard by the Building Board of Appeals. The BBOA granted the motion to dismiss the appeal Sept. 10, 2013 indicating the BBOA did not have authority to rule on the matter as there had been no final determination made by DNEP to which the appeal could be taken up by the BB of Appeals. They also concluded that DNEP does not have the authority to "approve" a Forest Stand Delineation. That decision indicated that challenges to the Forest Stand Delineation would be heard by the Planning Commission at the same time as the Forest Conservation Plan's review. On April 3, 2014 The Circuit Court ruled that DNEP's determination of the FSD not appealable to the Building Board of Appeals. Instead, once the Forest Conservation Plan is submitted an aggrieved party may seek a hearing at DNEP. If the party disagrees with DNEP's decision, the party may appeal to the Board of Building appeals. It is at that time where objections to the Forest Stand Delineation may be heard. The Preliminary Forest Conservation Plan was received May 28, 2013 and posted to the DNEP web site May 29, 2013. City staff sent review comments to the developer June 28, 2013. Since that time the developers have met with City staff and indicated that they intend to submit a new concept plan that moves the CCRC building north of the intermittent stream, in accordance with their understanding of the City's position but they were not willing to move all of the other peripheral buildings north of the intermittent stream. Items on the DNEP Trakit system reflect the old submission and does not represent the latest concept plan. **The developer submitted its preliminary Forest Conservation Plan on June 25th. Trakit: FCP2013-001.**

Hayes Annexation Property, aka Reserve at Annapolis Station, 7.65 acres, multi-family residential development located off of Old Solomon's Island Rd. The part of the site proposed for development is flat, treeless and recently farmed. The remainder of the property is forested with steep slopes. Comments from developer and DNEP have been exchanged regarding FSD review first received Dec. 13, 2012, with most recent comments dated April 26, 2013. This project has submitted three versions of their FSD since June, 2012. Staff met with environmental consultant on site April 30, 2013 to confirm details of the most recent FSD submittal. The FSD was determined to be complete and correct May 6, 2013. **Trakit: FSD2012-005**

Thomas Woods, 1.44 acres, residential use located on Forest Drive near Forest Hills Avenue. The property is forested and immediately adjacent to an apartment complex. The FSD was determined to be complete and correct Dec. 27, 2012. This project has submitted two versions of their FSD since July, 2012. Forest Conservation Plan submitted August 20, 2012 for review. Staff responded October 3, 2013. Developer response and revised plans received February 24, 2014. Currently under review. **Trakit: FCP2014-001**

Primrose Hill, 2 acres residential use development off of Milkshake Lane. The property currently has an historic farmhouse and trees mostly at the perimeter. The most recent revised FSD received February 5, 2013, comments sent to developer March 4, 2013 with an approval of the FSD subject to minor corrections which were received March 6, 2013. The Forest Stand Delineation was determined to be complete and correct March 19, 2013. This project has submitted four versions of their FSD since December, 2012. The approval of the Forest Stand Delineation was appealed to the Building Board of Appeals July 23, 2013. The BBOA granted the motion to dismiss the appeal Sept. 24, 2013 as it was determined to be premature.

Preliminary Forest Conservation Plan was submitted July 5, 2013. Response to developer September 16, 2013. Revised Preliminary Forest Conservation Plan submitted November 14, 2013. Staff responded December 27, 2013. Developer response and revised plans submitted February 11, 2014. DNEP staff responded on March 18, 2014. Currently under review.

Trackit: FCP2013-002

Aris Allen Blvd., Rocky Gorge. 31 townhome lots and 17 single family dwelling lots. Subdivision plat approved September 18, 2008 by the Planning Commission but permits never issued. Revised Forest Stand Delineation received February 19, 2014. Currently under review.

Trakit: GRD14-0006, FSD2014-001.

The Enclave on Spa

1023 Spa Road, 3.819 acres; zoning R2 (0.01 acres), R3 (3.809 acres)

2.997 acres within the Critical Area (IDA), .812 acres (34,559 sf) outside Critical Area.

Proposed, 36 townhomes. Impervious surface existing within Critical Area 82%, proposed reduction to 43%, steep slope to the rear of the property. Current Status: Hearing held before the Planning Commission, 02/20/14 with continuance until 03/06/14. **Trakit PD2013-001**

Chesapeake Grove at Bembe Beach aka the Rogers Property

Rogers Property, east of Bembe Beach Road between Chesapeake Harbor and Baywoods, fronting the Severn River, 4.997 acres entirely within the Critical Area (IDA); zoning R3.

Proposed 44 townhomes. Current Status: Awaiting response to comments from P&Z, Critical Area Commission, DPW and DNEP. **Trakit PD2012-003**

Newest Annapolis Environmental Steward Presented with Certification

The AEC would like to congratulate the BayWoods of Annapolis retirement community for being awarded the City's Environmental Stewardship Certification. The facility has an advanced energy management system, stormwater management system, highly efficient heating and air conditioning equipment, and community volunteers that remove invasive species from the property and maintain oyster growing baskets at the community pier. To read more about their achievements and to find out how your business or community can become an Environmental Steward, click [here](#).

A Reminder about the Stormwater Fee Credit Program

City's residents and businesses can apply for a 50% reduction in their Stormwater Utility Fee by installing an on-site stormwater management facility (such as rain barrels or rain gardens). Please see the [Department of Neighborhood and Environmental Programs Stormwater page](#) for more information.

Anne Arundel County Residents can also qualify for a county stormwater credit. Click [here](#) to find out how.

Using Renewable Energy in the City

For property owners, builders, developers, architects, along with anyone else working with the Planning & Zoning or DNEP agencies, our City will soon have a simple fact-sheet highlighting the benefits and cost-savings of using renewable energy in suitable situations.

- Solar Panels, i.e. Photo-voltaic, 'PV' for short. Many people don't realize the price of solar panels is 1/3 to 1/4 of what they were five years ago. When the cost of solar is 30% of what it used to be, it creates opportunities for using solar. Homes and buildings can now lease solar panels, with zero upfront cost. The monthly lease cost is designed to be less than the reduction in your electric bill. Net result: you're saving money and not using dirty coal (or nuclear).

- Solar Thermal. Using the sun to heat water is a simple operation, and because it's simple, it saves heavy-users of hot water money. The key phrase here is 'heavy users.' Those who use at least 2,000 gallons p/day of hot water. Multi-unit housing, gyms, clubs with showers, and car-washes are great candidates to reduce their heating bills.

- Geo-Thermal. Four feet below the surface most of the USA is 56 Fahrenheit all year. Geo-thermal can be as simple as running pipes into the earth that take advantage of the earth's temperature. In new construction geo-thermal doesn't add much cost and thus becomes a viable option. Summer time brings further benefits as your home brings in cool, 56' temperature from the earth, helping to reduce your air-conditioning bills. In rural areas natural gas often isn't

available, making geo-thermal an attractive option compared to unwieldy propane. Click [here](#) for more information.

Bay "Dead Zone" Larger Than Usual this Summer

The so-called “dead zone” in the Chesapeake Bay could be worse than average at this summer’s peak, but perhaps slightly better than average late in the season. That’s the word from scientists at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science. The primary cause is higher-than-normal excess nitrogen that moved down into the bay from the Susquehanna River, according to the group’s report issued Tuesday. “We had a wetter spring this year. You can see it in all the greening vegetation,” said Donald Boesch, president of UMCES. “When that happens, more rainfall flushes nutrients from the soil, and from farms, into the bay.” The predictions are based on models generated from the amount of nitrogen present in bay waters and the Susquehanna during the spring. The U.S. Geological Survey reported 44,000 metric tons of algae-boosting nitrogen moved into the bay this spring. Both low oxygen (hypoxic) and no oxygen (anoxic) conditions will again be prevalent. The “dead zone” of low or no oxygen is created when algae blooms die and decompose, gobbling up oxygen vital to marine life. Bay creatures need oxygen levels of 5 milligrams per liter, or above, to survive and thrive. Conditions are considered hypoxic when oxygen dips to 2ml per liter and anoxic when it drops below .2. “The hypoxic conditions are still very stressful for fish and other (marine) life,” said Caroline Wicks, program manager for the Integration and Application Network at UMCES. “And the anoxic is no oxygen at all; nothing will live and fish are forced to move away.” An early June study by the state Department of Natural Resources indicated the “dead zone” already was forming in the main stem of the bay.

About 20 percent of the bay had unhealthy levels of oxygen in monitoring done June 2-4. It was the 13th worst early-June reading in the last 30 years. - *excerpt from an [article in the Capital](#)*

Baltimore's Water Wheel Removes Tons of Trash from the Inner Harbor

Baltimore's Inner Harbor is a city landmark teeming with tourists, restaurants and — until recently — floating trash. John Kellett used to walk by Pier 6 every day on his way to work at the Baltimore Maritime Museum on the Inner Harbor. He'd notice the trash floating in the water and hear tourists call the harbor disgusting — and it bugged him. That's when he developed his idea: a big water wheel to collect the plastic cups, cigarette butts and Cheetos bags that flow into the waterway after rainstorms. Kellett approached Baltimore officials about ways to remove the trash — and they listened. The water wheel is now docked in the harbor. "It looks sort of like a cross between a spaceship and a covered wagon and an old mill," says Kellett. "It's pretty unique in its look, but it's also doing a really good job getting this trash out of the water." "I started out thinking, 'Maybe we could bale it like a hay baler.' And then I said, 'Well, that's not necessary; maybe we can make it even simpler — we can just use the power of the runoff that brings it to collect it,' " he says.

Kellett is talking about the runoff from the Jones Falls river. He placed the water wheel right where the river spills into the harbor. That's where trash lingering on Baltimore's streets ends up after rainstorms sweep it into storm drains.

The city used to catch the trash with crab nets. But since the water wheel began churning in May,

it has removed 40 tons of trash from the harbor.

That's made business owners like Bill Flohr very happy. "The water wheel has been a time-saver for us," says Flohr, who runs Baltimore Harbor's East Marina. "It seems to be collecting probably 95 percent of what we normally had to pick up by hand." Flohr likens the trash that comes into the harbor "to having a box of mice, letting them go in a gymnasium, and having two people try to corral them. The mice spread out, the trash spreads out, and it's a long job to get it clean," he says. John Kellett knows his invention doesn't solve Baltimore's trash problem, but he's hoping the thousands of tourists who see the water wheel will realize that every piece of trash that ends up on the ground may eventually float by in the water.

Baltimore wants to make the Inner Harbor clean enough for swimming by 2020. - *from NPR* - [read the full article here](#)

Large Recycling Bins Still Available

The City Public Works Department still have a number of the 64 gallon wheeled, lidded recycling bins available for free for city residents. Visit the Public Works facility at 935 Spa Road between 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. Monday through Friday to get yours. Be sure to bring a current I.D. and a copy of your water bill for verification. To find out more about recycling in the city, visit the [Public Works website](#).

Get in Touch with the AEC!

Do you have any questions or suggestions for the AEC? We'd love to hear from you! Contact us at annapolisenvcom@gmail.com.