

A G E N D A

Baltimore County Advisory Commission on Environmental Quality (CEQ)
December 7, 2022 7 PM Online Meeting on Webex

CEQ meeting dates, membership information, and reports are available at
www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/ceq/index.html

Our thanks to Brian Lindley of EPS for coordinating Webex meetings during the pandemic.

I. Welcome. Everyone mute please.

II. New series on the expected increases in extreme weather and water-related challenges in Baltimore County, their projected impacts and the development of plans for resiliency to protect essential infrastructure and public health. Focus on the water-related challenges in our county, both coastal and non-coastal, that are expected due to global warming and exacerbated or lessened by local decisions and interventions. Goals are to present information and stimulate discussion in support of increasing resiliency through climate change adaptation.

Plan to invite County leaders who are currently involved in making those decisions, and facilitate communication including with the public. Possible topics include flooding from extreme storms, salt water intrusion related to sea level rise, storm water surges, sewage overflows, damage to other infrastructure, affects on access to medical care, changes in disease risks, and so on.

NEED VOLUNTEERS to organize speaker(s) and discussion around a specific topic.

PLEASE READ THIS: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/2022/08/23/flood-united-states-climate-explainer/>

Additional summaries if you are interested:

The current Balt County webpage on sustainability: <https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/departments/executive/initiatives/sustainability/initiatives/>

Brief WYPR 10/10/22 article on plan to control Middle Branch flooding, Harbor Hospital: <https://www.wypr.org/wypr-news/2022-10-10/major-south-baltimore-environmental-restoration-project-to-combat-flooding>

Longer background reading on “Hell and High Water” <https://www.baltimoremagazine.com/section/historypolitics/climate-change-wreaking-havoc-baltimore-infrastructure-public-health/>

CEQ May 2019 report encouraging climate change resiliency work: <https://resources.baltimorecountymd.gov/Documents/CEQ/climateresiliencyreport.pdf>

10/26/2022 Presentation: Is climate change causing more frequent intense rainfall and flooding? Some observations from a 22-year radar rainfall record. by Andy Miller, PHD, UMBC Professor of Geography & Environmental Systems, and recent Chair of the Chesapeake Bay Program Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee.

III. Today's Presentation: "What Agriculture Resilience looks like in the face of extreme weather." Dr. David Ruppert, University of Maryland College of Agriculture & Natural Resources, Assistant Clinical Professor of Environmental Science and Technology, and Program Coordinator of the Agricultural Nutrient Management Program.
Thank you, Steve, for inviting Dr. Ruppert.

IV. Minutes of 10/26/2022 meeting, correct and approve. Thank you, Valerie.

V. Aspects of current efforts to ban plastic bags at grocery stores. Karen Wynn. Councilmember David Marks will introduce legislation in December or January; sticking point is whether to charge for paper bags.

VI. DEPS has posted on the CEQ webpage one of the two May 2022 CEQ reports, specifically Forest Conservation in Baltimore County: Challenges and Opportunities, May 1, 2022.

The 2nd report is available to the public through the CEQ agenda for September, i.e. Chat Questions organized by topic area, asked by the public following a presentation on 5/12/22 by Go Ape at a virtual meeting hosted by the Department of Recreation and Parks, especially addressing Oregon Ridge Park, A Report from the Baltimore County Commission on Environmental Quality 5/18/22.

VII. Oregon Ridge Master Plan process update:

- **November 12 and November 16:** In-person and virtual public meetings presented elements of the upcoming master plan, including separating the park into 3 "core" sections, and a plan for new roads, building locations, parking lots, and septic. "Alternatives" of photos of facades of a new Lodge building, band shell, and Nature Center were provided. Participants at the in-person meeting were happy to hear the Director of Recreation & Parks announce that mountain biking and horses will continue to not be allowed in Oregon Ridge Park; At the virtual meeting, horses were not mentioned in the Director's virtual meeting announcement re mountain biking but during the presentation the contractor said that horses will not be allowed in the "Conservation Core" from the ridge line south, i.e. in the Baisman Run watershed, or in the "Between Cores" section from the ridge line north to the more built core section in the north of the park closer to Shawan Rd (Oregon Run watershed). Stream buffers of 100 ft on each side were recommended, as were impervious surfaces of the new parking areas.
- **Video of 11/16 meeting** is on the master plan webpage; unclear how to see the Chat.
- **January 2023:** Draft master plan will be released and open for public comment. Webpage says "Public meeting on final plan to be scheduled."
- <https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/departments/recreation/programs/oregon-ridge-lodge/master-plan>

VIII. CEQ Meeting dates: 1/25, 2/22, 3/22, 4/26, 5/24

IX. Closing Comments: Carol Newill