

A G E N D A

Baltimore County Advisory Commission on Environmental Quality (CEQ)
January 25, 2023 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. Introduce new CEQ commissioner, Dustin Shearer.

II. This is the 3rd evening of the CEQ 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 is 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, among County and State leaders, academia, private industry, and the public.

The full schedule has been posted on the CEQ webpage.

Background reading and viewing are at the bottom of this Agenda.

III. Dr. Chris Overcash is speaking tonight on “Coastal flooding in Baltimore County” including an overview of SLR/Storm surge/compound flooding for the area as well as more in-depth information on nature-based strategies that could be used. He is Senior Engineer, Deputy Director of Coastal Resilience at EA Engineering, Science, and Technology, Inc., and Instructor in Environmental Health and Engineering at Johns Hopkins Whiting School of Engineering and Bloomberg School of Public Health. He is a CEQ Commissioner.

IV. Update on Forest Conservation topic. Carol Newill. Baltimore County Green Alliance has sent list to the Council of changes they recommend for the County Code. DEPS plans to survey conditions at planting sites, with report probably in Summer 2023.

V. Update on efforts to ban single-use plastic bags at stores. Karen Wynn, Lynda Eisenberg, Valerie Androutsopoulos. Bring Your Own Bag Act was submitted this month at the County Council, sponsored by Councilmembers Marks, Patoka Ertel. <https://resources.baltimorecountymd.gov/Documents/CountyCouncil/Bills%202023/b00123.pdf>
Public testimony is invited at Council work session 1/31/2023 4 pm, in person or online.

Note the CEQ 2011 report “Recommendations to the Baltimore County Council on Single Use Shopping Bags”, on the CEQ webpage:
<https://resources.baltimorecountymd.gov/Documents/CEQ/plasticsreport%20111206.pdf>

VI. Update on Oregon Ridge Master Plan. Carol Newill and Brian Bernstein

VII. Note that the minutes of 10/26/2022 meeting were approved last month with the caveat that Andy could amend the section describing his presentation; that has been done. Minutes of 12/7/2023 meeting, correct and approve.
Thank you, Andy and Valerie.

VIII. Closing Comments: Carol Newill

Upcoming CEQ Meeting dates: 2/22, 3/22, 4/26, 5/24

Background reading and viewing for CEQ Series on climate change, extreme storms, floods and resilience in Baltimore County:

Most important to read: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/2022/08/23/flood-united-states-climate-explainer/>

Additional information:

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>