

MINUTES

**Critical Area Commission for the
Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays
People's Resource Center
100 Community Place
Crownsville, Maryland 21032**

May 3, 2017 **(AMENDED)**

The full Critical Area Commission met at the People's Resource Center, 100 Community Place, Crownsville, Maryland. Chairman Charles C. Deegan called the meeting to order.

Commission Members in Attendance:

Curtis Beulah, Harford County
Gail Blazer, Worcester County – Coastal Bays (Town of Ocean City)
Virginia Clagett, Western Shore Member-at-Large
Deborah Herr Cornwell, Maryland Department of Planning
Carolyn Cummins, Worcester County – Coastal Bays
Brad Frome, Prince George's County
James Gesl, Charles County
Sandy Hertz, Maryland Department of Transportation
Michael Hewitt, St. Mary's County
Mark Konapelsky, Somerset County
Louise Lawrence, Department of Agriculture
James Lewis, Caroline County
Michael McCarthy, Talbot County
Gary Mangum, Queen Anne's County
David Marks, Baltimore County
Patrick Nutter, Calvert County
Stephen Parker, Cecil County
Suzanne Pittenger-Slear, Eastern Shore Member-at-Large
Gary Setzer, Department of the Environment
Donald Sutton, Kent County
Chris Trumbauer, Anne Arundel County

Commission Members Not in Attendance:

Robert Culver, Jr. – Wicomico County
Jennifer Rafter, Worcester County – Chesapeake Bay
Malachy Rice, Maryland Department of Commerce
Don Satterfield, Dorchester County
Catherine Shanks, Department of Natural Resources
Caroline Varney-Alvarado, DHCD

Chairman Deegan greeted the Commissioners, staff and guests. He introduced and welcomed new Commissioner Deborah Herr Cornwell. Deborah replaced Jason Dubow as the designee by the Secretary of the Department of Planning. Additionally, he welcomed new staff to the Critical Area Commission, Tay Harris and Arthur Crum.

Chairman Deegan made a motion to approve the March 1, 2017 Minutes. He asked for any corrections to the Minutes. There was one correction: page 5, paragraph 7, *County's* has been corrected to read *Town's*. Commissioner Marks made a motion to approve the Minutes as amended. Commissioner Beulah seconded the motion. The amended March 1, 2017 Minutes were approved.

University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science, Horn Point Laboratory Improvements – Dorchester County

Julie Roberts presented for Vote the Horn Point Laboratory Improvements.

Ms. Roberts provided a PowerPoint presentation with photographs. She reviewed the staff report, which is incorporated into and made a part of these minutes.

The University of Maryland's Center for Environmental Science Horn Point Laboratory (Horn Point) is proposing to construct a new pole building in order to expand their existing oyster hatchery. This site is located in Dorchester County, west of the City of Cambridge, and is waterfront to a tributary to the Choptank River. The Commission has approved several projects on this site over the years and this project is part of the University's continuing efforts to increase the number of oysters grown for Chesapeake Bay recovery efforts. This property is designated as a Limited Development Area (LDA). Approximately two thirds of this 846-acre site is in the Critical Area.

The University is proposing to construct a 7,500 square foot pole building to house expanded functions of an existing oyster hatchery. In addition, existing gravel areas will be reconfigured to provide an access road for the building. Total proposed lot coverage for the building and access road will be 7,917 square feet. Most of the proposed disturbance will occur in the 100-foot Buffer, over existing developed area.

The applicants have sited the proposed pole building in this area for multiple reasons. The proposed location is adjacent to the existing Aquaculture and Restoration Ecology Laboratory (AREL) building where much of the oyster operation resides. UMCES has outgrown the existing facility and the pole building will allow them to expand operations while maintaining the functionality of the oyster operation. This includes tying into the existing water intake and discharge points to the Choptank River, which is currently covered under their existing NPDES permit. Additionally, the pole building is codependent on the work taking place in the existing AREL facility and must be as close as possible for both the functionality of the operation, as well as the health of the operation. There is no other location near AREL that could accommodate the pole building other than the one selected. AREL itself was sited based on the ability to connect to the Choptank River for its water source. Oyster hatcheries typically need to be located close to the water, as the farther the process is moved from the water source, the fewer nutrients present in the water. These nutrients deplete while traveling through the pipe and pumping systems. Proper nutrient uptake is vital to the survivability of the oyster spat.

UMCES is providing stormwater management for the increase in lot coverage in the area of development.

A micro-bioretenion area will be located within the 100-foot Buffer to treat the runoff from the gravel access areas and the pole barn. Mitigation is required for the pole building housing the oyster hatcheries and the access road at a ratio of 2:1 for a water-dependent use totaling 9,805 square feet. The mitigation required for the clearing associated with the micro-bioretenion area is 1,714 square feet for total of 11,519 square feet of Buffer mitigation. The applicants will be planting in the Buffer across the cove from the development site on the Choptank River.

Notice of the project was published on 3/17/17 in The Dorchester Banner. Two signs with information about the project were also posted on the property as required by COMAR 27.03.01.03. No public comments were received.

On behalf of the Project Subcommittee, Chair Gary Setzer made a motion that the Commission approve the improvements to the Aquaculture and Restoration Ecology Laboratory proposed by the University of Maryland's Center for Environmental Science at the Horn Point Laboratory. The improvements include the construction of an oyster hatchery pole building and the reconfiguration of the existing gravel areas to provide an access road for the building.

Commissioner Beulah seconded the motion. Commissioner Slear had a question as to whether the proposed planting in the Buffer will treat stormwater. Ms. Roberts stated that the planting area is located between a gravel road and tidal wetlands, but it is not adjacent to the proposed development area. The motion was put to a vote and approved unanimously.

Chairman Deegan said he intends to plan a tour of the facility in the future for the Commission members.

State Highway Administration, Cobb Island Bridge Replacement – Charles County

Jennifer Anderson presented for Vote the Cobb Island Bridge Replacement.

Ms. Anderson provided a PowerPoint presentation with aerial maps. She reviewed the staff report, which is incorporated into and made a part of these minutes. She introduced representatives from State Highway Administration to answer any questions; Prason Shrestha, Project Manager, Jon Schmidt, NEPA Compliance and Adriene Metzbower, Critical Area Liaison.

The Maryland State Highway Administration is proposing to construct a replacement bridge just west of the existing bridge that carries MD 254 over Neale Sound connecting Cobb Island to the mainland in Charles County. The proposed bridge will be 570 feet long and will carry two 14-foot lanes and one 5 foot by 8 inch sidewalk with sidewalk light fixtures that will be located on the west side of the bridge. The overall width of the new bridge will be 37 feet.

MD 254 is the only road connecting Cobb Island to the mainland. The existing bridge was constructed in 1963 and is considered to be structurally deficient due to the poor condition of the bridge deck. The construction of a new bridge on a new roadway alignment was chosen as the preferred alternative since it maintains the existing pedestrian access and two lanes of traffic during construction. This alternative also reduces the future bridge maintenance costs by providing a new bridge.

This project extends for approximately 0.4 miles. The total site area within the Critical Area is 2.27 acres. The disturbance within the Critical Area is required for construction of the new roadway approaches,

resurfacing the existing roadway approaches, construction of the bridge abutments, stormwater management facilities, and removal of existing impervious surfaces. Under state development regulations linear projects are reviewed under the requirements of the Intensely Developed Area (IDA).

SHA is providing a 20 foot by 30 foot floating timber platform for the purpose of aiding the contractor during the construction of the bridge. Construction of the bridge supports is typically completed with equipment and materials staged from floating barges, and having a dedicated dock for the contractor will ease access for staging labor, materials, and equipment. The contractor platform will be removed after the bridge construction is complete.

Environmental features include the open tidal waters of Neale Sound, adjacent tidal wetlands, and the Critical Area Buffer. There are no non-tidal wetland impacts or impacts to the 100-year floodplain. There is a total of 71,388 square feet (1.64 acres) of disturbance within the Critical Area Buffer, with the majority of the disturbance (42,341 square feet/0.972 acre) for removal of existing impervious surfaces and construction of stormwater management facilities. There is a total of 5,441 square feet of tree clearing (all within the Critical Area Buffer).

This project received Site Development Approval from the Plans Review Division of SHA on February 16, 2017. Mitigation for development in the IDA must be met by providing stormwater management to meet a 10% reduction in pollutant runoff from the site. Preliminary calculations indicate impervious surface will decrease from 33% to 24%. Due to the reduction of impervious surfaces, the pollutant removal requirement is -0.47 lbs/year, therefore the pollutant removal is satisfied. However, this project is still required to treat an Environmental Site Design (ESD) runoff volume of 3,720 cubic feet. Two micro-bioretenion facilities are proposed that will treat the required Environmental Site Design Volume (ESDv) as well as achieve a phosphorus removal efficiency of 1.08 lbs/year. Both facilities will be located within the Critical Area 100-foot Buffer.

In accordance with the provisions of COMAR 27.03.01.03, public informational signs were posted at the project site on March 6, 2017. SHA held a Public Information Meeting on November 5, 2015 at the Cobb Island Volunteer Fire Department to inform the residents of the bridge replacement project and to get feedback on elements that could be included in the new bridge typical section (such as sidewalks, bike lanes, or shoulders). This project was also put on public notice for MDE with a public notice period that ended February 15, 2017.

The majority of public comments received have been in reference to the once proposed public water access on the Cobb Island side of the new bridge. The consideration for recreational access to waterways in Maryland is a requirement for all transportation projects and was passed by the Maryland General Assembly, Waterway Access Bill (HB 797) several years ago. It is also included in COMAR 27.02.05.03 (3)(c) that State Agencies shall, to the maximum extent practicable, establish areas of public access to the shoreline including footpaths, scenic drives, and other public recreational facilities. SHA and Charles County received significant public comment opposing any water access on the island, and ultimately Charles County opted not to move forward with the water access part of this project. Consequently, SHA removed the proposed public water access from the project.

Given the lack of space onsite within the right-of-way, SHA proposes to mitigate the impacts to the Habitat Protection Areas at an offsite location. SHA identified a site that would have served this project and

potentially several other projects within the watershed. However, the property owner declined to move forward and this site is no longer an option. SHA is requesting additional time to identify a feasible mitigation site for this project.

On behalf of the Project Subcommittee, Chair Gary Setzer made a motion that the Commission approve the replacement of the Maryland Route 254 Bridge over Neale Sound to Cobb Island proposed by the Maryland State Highway Administration. This motion is offered in accordance with the staff report and presentation and the following conditions:

- (1) Prior to the start of construction, the Maryland State Highway Administration shall provide copies of the following authorizations or approvals to Commission staff: Tidal Wetlands License; Water Quality Certification; Erosion and Sediment Control approval; and Stormwater Management approval and
- (2) Within six months of Commission approval, the State Highway Administration shall identify a location that will accommodate the required 64,432 square feet of mitigation and submit the proposed site to Commission staff for approval. Within sixty days of mitigation site approval by Commission staff, SHA shall provide a detailed breakdown of the proposed mitigation to Commission staff for review and approval. The breakdown shall include proposed plantings; landscape schedule; and maintenance and monitoring plan.

Commissioner Frome seconded the motion. The motion was put to a vote and approved unanimously.

Queen Anne's County – Town of Queenstown, Growth Allocation Text Amendments

Nick Kelly presented for concurrence with the Chairman's determination of Refinement the Town of Queenstown, Growth Allocation Text Amendments.

Mr. Kelly provided a PowerPoint presentation with maps. He reviewed the staff report, which is incorporated into and made a part of these minutes. He said Queenstown Attorney Brynja Booth is here today to answer questions.

On April 26, 2017 the Commissioners of Queenstown approved Ordinance No. 17-02, which amends the Town's Zoning Ordinance to allow for alternative standards when applying growth allocation to a property. In particular, the text amendment provides the following:

1. An allowance for the Town to locate more than 50% of its growth allocation allotment within the Resource Conservation Area (RCA);
2. Alternative adjacency standards to locate growth allocation in the RCA; and
3. The ability of the Town to reclassify an area smaller than 20 acres to an Intensely Developed Area (IDA) designation when utilizing growth allocation.

Natural Resources Article §8-1808.1 lists the Critical Area Commission's standards and factors for granting growth allocation by a local jurisdiction. COMAR 27.01.02.06 lists additional regulations for the use of growth allocation by a local jurisdiction. Queenstown's text amendments particularly address the following growth allocation requirements, which are summarized below (*citations are italicized*):

1. Except as provided for in (2) below, no more than one-half of the growth allocation allocated in the

criteria of the Commission may be located in the RCA (*Natural Resources Article §8-1808.1(c)(2)(vi) and COMAR 27.01.02.06-3.C*)

2. In Calvert, Caroline, Cecil, Charles, Dorchester, Kent, **Queen Anne's**, St. Mary's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester counties, if the local jurisdiction is unable to utilize a portion of the growth allocated to the local jurisdiction within or adjacent to existing IDAs or Limited Development Areas (LDA), then that portion of the allocated expansion which cannot be so located under these adjacency standards may be located in the RCA in addition to the expansion allocated in (1) above. This expansion may be allowed if:
 - i. The alternative standard is consistent with the local jurisdiction's adopted comprehensive plan;
 - ii. The Commission has approved the alternative standard as part of the local jurisdiction's program, and
 - iii. The local jurisdiction requires an application for growth allocation to cluster development in the growth allocation area. (*Natural Resources Article §8-1808.1(c)(2)(viii) and COMAR 27.01.02.06-3.D*)
3. A local jurisdiction may use a standard that varies from the Critical Area Commission's adjacency standards¹ if:
 - i. The alternative standard is consistent with the jurisdiction's adopted comprehensive plan, and
 - ii. The Commission has approved the alternative standard as part of a local program. (*Natural Resources Article §8-1808.1(c)(3) and COMAR 27.01.02.06-3.D*)

Additionally, the following requirements in COMAR are relevant to the proposed text changes by the Town to handle IDAs that are less than 20 acres in size:

4. An IDA may located in an area of less than 20 adjacent acres if:
 - a. As part of a local program, the Commission has approved an alternative standard for designation of an intensely developed area; and
 - b. The area is part of a growth allocation approved by the Commission. (*COMAR 27.01.02.03B*)

The text amendments proposed by the Town of Queenstown will accomplish all four allowances summarized above by inserting the following standard in to the Town's growth allocation standard section of the Critical Area Ordinance:

9. The Town Commissioners recognize that the Town may not be able to utilize growth allocation acreage in the locations set forth in subsections 1 and 2 above, and/or may not

¹ (§8-1808.1(c)(2)(i) and (ii)) state the following: When locating new intensely developed or limited development areas, local jurisdictions shall use the following standards:

- i. Locate a new intensely developed area in a limited development area or adjacent to an existing intensely developed area;
- ii. Locate a new limited development area adjacent to an existing limited development area or an intensely developed area;

satisfy the 20 acre size threshold set forth in subsection 3 above, and further recognize that the majority of its critical area lands for which growth allocation is planned are currently classified as Resource Conservation Areas. Accordingly, in the event that the Town is unable to satisfy any or all of the criteria set forth in subsections 1-4, the Town may utilize a portion of its growth allocation in a manner that varies from subsections 1, 2, 3 and/or 4 above, provided that the area to receive growth allocation meets the following standards:

- a. Any development will be serviced by public water and sewer;*
- b. The area is located in a Priority Funding Area;*
- c. The development is consistent with the Queenstown Comprehensive Plan; and*
- d. The development will have an overall economic benefit to the community, or implements a specific goal, objective or policy of the Queenstown Comprehensive Plan.*

The Town of Queenstown has currently utilized 35% of its growth allocation and of that, 37% has been located in the RCA. The Town has recently been working with a developer on a proposed growth allocation that will come to the Critical Area Commission for review in the near future. This growth allocation is to re-designate an area of RCA to IDA. While the Town will still meet the 50% threshold, the growth allocation will not meet the strict adjacency standards and an alternative adjacency standard is needed within the Town's Zoning Code. In reviewing the current Critical Area maps and its Comprehensive Plan, Queenstown has also determined that the majority of the Town's land for which future growth allocation is appropriate is currently designated as RCA. Therefore, the Commissioners determined the standard also needed to allow them to exceed the 50% threshold for locating growth allocation in the RCA so as to not delay future growth allocation requests.

Finally, the Town wanted to include language to allow IDAs created under growth allocation to be less than 20 acres in size. The Town also expects to have future growth allocations that will result in the creation of IDAs smaller than 20 acres. Similar language to permit IDAs that are less than 20 acres has been approved by the Critical Area Commission for the Town of Easton.

The Critical Area Commission has approved similar non-adjacency language for allowing growth allocation in the RCA for Queen Anne's County. The Commission has not yet approved a standard that would allow a local jurisdiction to exceed the 50% threshold for locating growth allocation in the RCA. Prior to the changes to the Critical Area Law in 2008, this cap could have been exceeded on a project by project basis as approved by the Commission. The changes to the Critical Area Law in 2008, as reflected in COMAR, now requires a more specific standard that ties the allowance to a jurisdiction's adopted comprehensive plan. The Commissioners of Queenstown in reviewing the text amendment found that the proposed standards are consistent with the planning objectives that are listed in the Town's Comprehensive Plan for its growth area. Commission staff believes the language proposed by the Town meets the intent of the Critical Area law.

Program Subcommittee Chair Carolyn Cummins said the Subcommittee concurs with the Chairman's determination that the Town of Queenstown Growth Allocation Text Amendments can be reviewed as a refinement to the County's Critical Area Program, as the proposed changes are consistent with the Critical Area Law and its regulations.

Chairman Deegan said as the refinement stands he approves the text amendment as proposed by the Town of Queenstown.

Caroline County – Town of Greensboro Critical Area Map Update

Lisa Hoerger presented for concurrence with the Chairman's determination of Refinement the Town of Greensboro Critical Area Map Update.

Ms. Hoerger reviewed the staff report, which is incorporated into and made a part of these minutes.

As part of the comprehensive overhaul of the Critical Area Law by the General Assembly in 2008, a requirement was included to remap the 1,000-foot Critical Area boundary based on recent technologies. In July 2012, the Commission adopted regulations that address the types of source documents used, the process for updating the maps, and the procedures for classifying newly added lands. Subsequently, each local jurisdiction is undergoing a Critical Area map update.

Commission staff worked with the Town of Greensboro, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, the Maryland Department of the Environment, and Salisbury University to develop updated Critical Area maps for the town. These draft maps were vetted by the aforementioned agencies, were presented at public meetings, and lastly, were delivered to the town for public comment and local approval.

As part of the map update, the Mayor and Town Council approved Ordinance #2016-0-12 on January 5, 2017. This action constituted local adoption of the updated maps. There was a gain of ten acres and a loss of seven acres for an overall net gain of three acres.

Program Subcommittee Chair Carolyn Cummins said the Subcommittee concurs with the Chairman's determination that the Town of Greensboro Critical Area Map Update can be reviewed as a refinement to the Town's Critical Area Program as the map update was completed in accordance with State Law and COMAR 27.01.09.01-8.

Chairman Deegan said as the refinement stands he approves the Critical Area map for the Town of Greensboro.

Calvert County – Town of Chesapeake Beach Critical Area Map Update

Lisa Hoerger presented for concurrence with the Chairman's determination of Refinement for the Town of Chesapeake Beach Critical Area Map Update.

Ms. Hoerger reviewed the staff report, which is incorporated into and made a part of these minutes.

On May 20, 2017 the Mayor and Chesapeake Beach Town Council approved Ordinance 0-17-9 , which updates the Town's Critical Area map in accordance with State Law (Ch. 119, Acts of 2008, §1—4) and the Critical Area Commission's mapping regulations (COMAR 27.01.11).

As part of the comprehensive overhaul of the Critical Area Law by the General Assembly in 2008, a requirement was included to remap the 1,000-foot Critical Area boundary based on recent technologies. Commission staff worked with the Town of Chesapeake Beach, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, the Maryland Department of the Environment, and Salisbury University to develop updated Critical Area maps for the Town. These maps were vetted by the aforementioned agencies, and a draft map was presented to the public during several public meetings. In addition to the public meetings, Commission and Town staff provided assistance by answering property-specific mapping questions via phone and email.

There was a loss of 7 acres and a gain of 42 acres which resulted in the net gain of 35 acres in the Critical Area in the town. Attached to the staff report is a map depicting the existing and proposed 1,000-foot boundary line.

Program Subcommittee Chair Carolyn Cummins said she concurs with the Chairman's determination that the Town of Chesapeake Beach Critical Area Map Update can be reviewed as a refinement to the Town's Critical Area Program since the mapping update is being completed in accordance with State Law and the Commission's mapping regulations, COMAR 27.01.09.01-8.

Chairman Deegan said as the refinement stands he approves the Critical Area map for the Town of Chesapeake Beach.

Calvert County – Critical Area Map Update

Lisa Hoerger presented for concurrence the Chairman's determination of Refinement the Calvert County Critical Area Map Update.

Ms. Hoerger reviewed the staff report, which is incorporated into and made a part of these minutes.

As part of the comprehensive overhaul of the Critical Area Law by the General Assembly in 2008, a requirement was included to remap the 1,000-foot Critical Area boundary based on recent technologies. Commission staff worked with Calvert County, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, the Maryland Department of the Environment, and Salisbury University to develop updated Critical Area maps for the county. These draft maps were vetted by the aforementioned agencies, were presented at public meetings, and lastly, were delivered to the county for public comment and local approval.

As part of the map update, the Calvert County Commissioners approved Ordinance # 13-17. This action constituted local adoption of the updated maps. There was a gain of 949 acres and a loss of 188 acres for an overall gain of 761 acres.

Program Subcommittee Chair Carolyn Cummins said the Subcommittee concurs with the Chairman's determination that the Calvert County Critical Area map update can be reviewed as a refinement to the Town's Critical Area Program as the map update was completed in accordance with State Law and COMAR 27.01.09.01-8.

Chairman Deegan said as the refinement stands he approves the Critical Area map for Calvert County.

Queen Anne’s County – Requests for Extensions

Lisa Hoerger presented for vote the Queen Anne’s County requests for extensions of time to complete local approval of Critical Area updates.

The Natural Resources Article, §8-1807 Annotated Code of Maryland allows a local jurisdiction 24 months to accomplish local approval of their draft Critical Area maps. April 14, 2017 was the 24-month deadline for Queen Anne’s County. Since the County was unable to complete this task for various reasons the County is requesting a 6-month extension to the allotted 24-month time frame to get the local approval of their draft Critical Area maps.

On behalf of the Program Subcommittee Chair Carolyn Cummins made a motion that Commission approve the request of Queen Anne’s County for a 6-month time extension to complete local approval of their Critical Area map of Centerville and the Town of Church Hill. The 6-month time lime limit shall commence as of the date of this meeting or beginning on May 3, 2017.

Commissioner Trumbauer seconded the motion. The motion was put to a vote and approved unanimously.

Town of Centerville (Queen Anne’s County) and Town of Church Hill (Queen Anne’s County) - Requests for Extensions

Lisa Hoerger presented for vote the Town of Centerville and the Town of Church Hill’s requests for extensions of time to complete local approval of their Critical Area map updates. The 24-month deadline to complete local approval expired on April 14, 2017, and both towns are requesting an additional 90 days to complete local approval.

On behalf of the Program Subcommittee Chair Carolyn Cummins made a motion that the Commission approve the 90-day time extension to complete local approval of their Critical Area map update for the Town of Centerville and the Town of Church Hill. The 90-day time limit shall commence as of the date of this meeting or beginning on May 3, 2017.

Commissioner Trumbauer seconded the motion. The motion was put to a vote and approved unanimously.

Town of Queen Anne (Queen Anne’s County and Town of North Beach (Calvert County) – Requests for Extensions

Lisa Hoerger presented for vote the Town of Queen Anne and the Town of North Beach’s requests for extensions of time to complete local approval of their Critical Area map updates. The 24-month deadline to complete local approval expired on April 14, 2017 and both towns are requesting an additional 60 days to complete local approval.

On behalf of the Subcommittee Chair Carolyn Cummins made a motion that Commission approve the 60-day time extension to complete local approval of their Critical Area map update for the Town of Queen Anne and the town of North Beach. The 60-day time limit shall commence as of the date of this meeting or beginning on May 3 2017.

Commissioner Trumbauer seconded the motion. The motion was put to a vote and approved unanimously.

Queen Anne’s County – Town of Queenstown, Growth Allocation Text Amendments

Kate Charbonneau informed Chairman Deegan that there was a request from Commissioner Marks that we go back to the Queenstown refinement request and let the Minutes reflect from this morning’s conversation with the Program Subcommittee that the Subcommittee was not unanimous in concurrence on the refinement decision. There were two *no* votes; Commissioner Hewitt and Commissioner Marks. Commissioner Lawrence abstained from vote.

LEGAL UPDATE: There are no legal updates at this time.

NEW BUSINESS: Chairman Deegan said he will try to do the Poplar Island boat tour again. Contact Shirley if you are interested and we will set a date for that, as well as the Horn Point Oyster Laboratory.

OLD BUSINESS: There was no old business to come before the Commission.

Commissioner Suzanne Pittenger-Slear explained to the Commission the importance of Wetlands Month. American Wetlands Month was created in 1991 by Environmental Protection Agency to celebrate the importance of wetlands to the Nation’s ecological health. It’s our opportunity, as wetland professionals, to educate Americans about the value of wetlands as a natural resource. Visit a wetland, share interesting facts about wetlands with your family and friends, and do something to benefit a wetland habitat (recycle, pick up trash, etc.). She said for the whole month you can do something to benefit wetlands.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Shirley M. Bishop, Commission Coordinator.