

**TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MAKEFIELD  
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 2009**

The regular meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council of the Township of Lower Makefield was held in the Lower Makefield Township Municipal Building on Wednesday, April 8, 2009. Vice-Chairman Rick Ewing called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

**Those present:**

**Environmental Advisory**

**Council:**

Jim Bray, member  
Laura Brandt, member (absent)  
Alan Dresser, member  
Rick Ewing, Vice-Chairman  
Geoff Goll, Chairman (absent)  
Lisa Grayson-Zygmunt, alternate (absent)  
Gail McMaster, member  
Joseph Sundeen, member

**Others:**

Terri Appleton, Supervisor Liaison (absent)  
Greg Caiola, Supervisor Liaison alternate  
Jim Majewski, Township Engineer

**APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 11, 2009 MEETING MINUTES**

Mr. Dresser moved and Mr. Bray seconded and it was unanimously carried to approve the March 2009 meeting minutes as written.

**GOVERNOR'S ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE AWARD**

Mr. Bray announced that Lower Makefield Township was chosen as one of the 16 recipients of the 2009 Governor's Environmental Excellence Award. The awards dinner hosted by the PA Environmental Council will be held on April 22, 2009 in Harrisburg starting at 5:00 pm and he invited all of the Council members to attend.

**STORMWATER NPDES**

Mr. Majewski explained that the Township NPDES is coming up for renewal and there is certain criteria that must be met to re-issue the permit. Mr. Majewski presented a Power point presentation explaining where our storm water flows to, how storm water is regulated and most municipal systems, including Lower Makefield has two underground systems where sewer waste is treated and storm water is not treated. He explained the sources of water pollution and how it affects aquatic life.

Mr. Majewski stated the Township must renew the permit for its storm water management program. The program has several components including public outreach, construction and post construction site management and good housekeeping practices. He explained the type of outreach the Township has done in the past include using the Township website to include volunteer opportunities, links to storm water related websites and notifying the public about recycling. The Township needs to put storm water related articles in its upcoming newsletters. The DEP would like the Township to solicit public participation with assistance from the EAC to organize stream and roadside cleanup.

Mr. Majewski talked about the storm water drain-marking program in the Township and the need to mark the storm drains so people don't dump illegal substances in the storm drains. Mr. Majewski stated that the Township has an ordinance that prohibits dumping illicit discharge into storm drains. He also talked about construction site management and showed some pictures of irresponsible construction site management where an owner has been sited.

Mr. Majewski asked how could the EAC assist with the NPDES requirements? He suggested putting articles out to the community, solicit greater public participation, organize stream or roadside cleanups and educate the community not to dump in storm sewers.

Mr. Ewing stated the EAC would add storm water education as an ongoing project for all future agendas.

## **DEER MANAGEMENT**

Mr. Ewing stated that Mr. Goll put the deer management issue on the agenda for discussion tonight to determine if the EAC should take a position on the deer issue or not. In Mr. Goll's absence he submitted his position on the deer issue in a memo to the Council to be put into the record. He is in favor of a deer hunt that is quick and efficient over a short period of time. He is against spending taxpayer money on inefficient or cruel killing (bow hunting).

Mr. Bray said he is not in favor of any lethal option, however, if lethal measure are approved then he is in favor of sharp shooting as the more humane method. Whatever deer reductions method is chosen, Mr. Bray suggested the reduction progress be monitored and a report on their effectiveness be given to the EAC.

Mr. Dresser stated he is also in favor of birth control if that comes available. Mr. Sundeen asked what is the public opinion. Mr. Dresser recalled a news article that the public majority agreed the deer should be addressed. Mr. Ewing stated the EAC should give its opinion about the environmental impact of the deer and reducing the deer population.

The Council discussed the pros and cons of giving an opinion on the issue or not. Mr. Sundeen moved to recommend to the Board of Supervisors that the EAC be in favor of reducing the deer population to benefit forest ecology. Ms. McMaster seconded the motion. The Council voted and the result was Mr. Sundeen, Ms. McMaster, Mr. Ewing and Mr. Dresser voted yes to the motion and Mr. Bray voted no to the motion.

### **GLOBAL WARMING CONFERENCE**

Mr. Sundeen stated that everything is going well, the mailings have gone out, press releases have been sent and speakers have been confirmed. Mr. Sundeen talked about jobs that need to be done before the conference.

### **GREEN BUILDING CODE**

Mr. Ewing stated the Green Building Code is on the Board of Supervisors agenda for May 20<sup>th</sup> and he is working on the final proof. He stated that Lorna Rosenberg from the EPA and Spenser Finch or a representative from his office would be at the Supervisors meeting.

### **BUCKS BEAUTIFUL**

Mr. Bray stated that Bucks Beautiful is a three-day event at Delaware Valley College the EAC had a booth at. The event was great exposure for the EAC and they sold 22 Native Plant books.

### **PA ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL MEETING**

Mr. Bray stated he recently spoke about the Township Environmental Steward Award and other Township accomplishments at the PA Environmental Council Meeting in Philadelphia. Mr. Bray stated he was asked to speak at the upcoming ICLEI conference in White Plains, New York.

## **STIMULUS FUNDING SEMINAR**

Mr. Bray stated he and Mrs. Mazzitelli attended a Stimulus Spending Seminar in Norristown this week. The seminar focused on storm water and drinking water projects only. He stated the funding only applies to projects that are shovel ready with all permit approvals. The next application deadline is May 18<sup>th</sup>. One project for consideration for this funding could be Edgewood Village and storm water infrastructure system repairs and upgrades. Mr. Bray stated that he is excited because funding is coming available for energy upgrades and he would keep an eye out for more information.

## **PROJECT UPDATES**

**Solar** – Mr. Bray stated he and Mr. Fedorchak are working a solar system for the Township complex. Mr. Bray stated he attended a solar conference last month, which gave him a lot of information. He stated we can look at solar in two ways, one would be for someone else build and own the solar system and the Township would lease the system or the Township could build and own the solar system. Mr. Bray stated he would look at the prices for both alternatives.

**School Education** – Ms. McMaster stated that she is scheduled to give five classes. The first of the five classes are at William Penn Middle School on April 15<sup>th</sup> and Walt Disney Elementary School in May. She stated she would call and email the Parochial and Private schools about the educational program.

## **LAND USE REVIEWS**

**Big Oak** – Mr. Dresser stated comments were sent out a week ago and noted there are some problems with the plans.

**Dogwood** – The ERSAM was received.

**Fieldstone** – No activity.

**Frankford** – The EAC has not been asked to comment because the exception has not been accepted or denied. Two more Zoning Hearing Board meetings have been scheduled on the matter.

**Harbison** – No activity.

**O'Rourke** – No activity.

**Middlemiss** – No activity.

**Scammel's Corner** – No activity.

**Matrix** – Mr. Goll will need to review the plans and Mr. Dresser will make comments.

**OPEN DISCUSSION**

Mr. Bray stated that Yardley Borough took advantage of the Tree Vitalize program recently and the Borough tree plantings look great. He suggested Lower Makefield think about enrolling in the Tree Vitalize program next year.

Mr. Bray stated the next Cool Cities meeting is scheduled for April 14<sup>th</sup> and the Committee is working on the action plan.

Mr. Ewing asked for an update on Smart Power and the installation of the solar system. Mr. Bray stated he talked with the new Director and he said he would make sure it would happen soon.

Ms. McMaster stated she knows of software that takes pictures of trees and identifies them which could help with the Heritage Tree Ordinance the Council is proposing.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Geoff Goll, Chairman