

EAQAC Minutes

June 8, 2011

Absent: Alan Miller, Steve Shaw, Sam Raker

March, April and May minutes were approved.

Chairman notes:

Four candidates will be interviewed for the three vacancies. Members were asked what attributes should be looked for and suggested length of time in Montgomery County and geographic diversity within the county.

DEP Update:

The budget cuts meant the loss of the post of Air Quality Planner, which will be added to the duties of the Environmental Policy and Compliance Division Chief (Stan Edwards). MoCo was the only county in Maryland with an Air Quality Planner position. A question was raised as to whether EAQAC should become more involved in aspects of air quality because of this loss. Eric suggested that Chapter 3 of the County Code (air quality) could be reviewed, and EAQAC could help. The indoor air section of the County Code is 10 years old. Eric will send a link to the Code to Members. He will ask Stan Edwards to come to the next meeting of EAQAC to discuss this issue.

The next meeting will be the 2nd Wednesday in July (the 13th). In September EAQAC will revert to meeting the first Wednesday of the month.

The Commercial and Multi-Family Rebate Program has approved 18 projects using approximately 1/3 of the available funds. The second round is now closed for which there are approximately 100 applications.

The Residential Green Guide is close to completion and is expected to launch in October.

Issues to Address:

Attic Spray Insulation (Bernie Bloom)

Attic spray insulation increases the R-value and decreases infiltration by forming a closed cell foam. However, it is made from many toxic chemicals, and if applied too thickly it gets too hot and toxic fumes are released into homes. There are 3 main risks associated with this type of insulation:

1. Fire hazard

2. Attics vents sprayed closed leading to moisture and mold
3. Toxic vapours and fine particles spread throughout the house.

No building permit is required in MoCo for this type of insulation. The manufacturer has no responsibility regarding remediation if a problem occurs. Remediation can be extremely expensive, including loss of home. Permits should be required by contractors which include warnings. It should be considered a misdemeanor event if a permit is not obtained.

Currently about 6 companies have 90% of beltway business.

EAQAC approved the suggestion to draft a letter concerning these issues to Dept of Permit Services, DEP, Dept. General Services, Interagency Comm. in Energy Management (Eric chairs), MoCo Public School Construction Div and Dept Consumer Protection.

New Roadway Tool (Steve Gibb)

Studies show that there are adverse health effects from living within 100ft of a main road. EPA is developing several tools addressing this topic. Steve suggested that these should be looked into to see if any of the tools are appropriate to recommend for use to MoCo. Steve will continue looking into this and will update EAQAC at the next meeting.

Action Items:

1. Eric will send a link to Chapter 3 of the County Code regarding Air Quality. Will ask Stan Edwards to attend the July EAQAC meeting.
2. Bernie write letter concerning spray insulation.
3. Steve to continue researching roadway tools for presentation at July meeting.
4. Eric will send Chair contact information for MoCo hybrid bus distribution