

**MINUTES**  
**ENVIRONMENT & NATUARAL ASSETS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Wednesday, September 27, 2023**  
**Conference Room, Admin. Bldg. – 10 a.m.**

**Present:** Sharon Santacroce (Chair), Anne O’Connell, Karen Detter, John Maziuk, Patty Gamby, Patricia Garcia, Tim Peck, Karen Baldwin, Jeff Heavner (Board Liaison). Pat Benner was excused.

**Call to Order:** Sharon Santacroce called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM

**Chairman’s comments:** None

**Public Comments:** None

**Approval of Agenda:** Motion by *Anne O’Connell* and seconded by *Karen Detter* and approved unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion by *John Maziuk* and seconded by *Karen Baldwin* and approved unanimously.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- South Pond Buffer/Erosion Plan –Maryland Coastal Bays approved the grant for this plan. This grant approval needs to proceed to the U.S. EPA for final federal approval of funding.
- Habitat modification for South Gate pond – we await response from OPA on acceptance of Tributaries company proposal.
- The Executive Director of Assateague Coastal Trust (ACT), Brenda Davis, was present to discuss their program including monitoring of water quality in nearby waterways and helping to enforce the state Critical Areas laws. Ms. Davis noted that there is a funding grant available to purchase water quality test kits. A few committee members volunteered to participate in water quality monitoring in ponds and streams within Ocean Pines. ACT will provide the test kits to perform this monitoring and will complete the sample analyses at their local office. The committee reviewed our concerns over implementation of tree cutting permits within the 100-ft Critical Areas waterways and the enforcement by the county on the intent of these laws. A committee member requested an explanation from Public Works on why the additional fees for tree removal are necessary. ACT will contact state representatives to review this issue. Ms. Davis noted <https://www.theswimguide.org/> is a good resource for assessing whether it is safe to swim in local waters. A committee member suggested that the swim guide address be posted on a sign at the Swim & Racquet Club beach.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- Storage of duck/goose warning signs at South Gate pond – these signs have been falling down or moved out of place. Committee members noted that they have reset the signs when needed. The committee concluded that that keeping the signs year-round around the pond would be cost-effective and practical to avoid time and costs to move and store the signs each year. The alternative is to store the signs during the winter months when geese populations

are very low. A committee member suggested that each of the members might consider adopting one of the signs and check their positions periodically.

- Selection of new committee chairperson – with Sharon at the end of her term and retiring from the committee, the committee completed voting of a new chairperson. The committee expressed their appreciation of Sharon for her hard work on the committee for the last five years and her role as chairperson. Two persons were nominated including Patricia Garcia and Tim Peck. The majority of votes were for Mr. Peck, which the committee accepted as the new chairperson. Mr. Peck noted appreciation for selection and discussed his commitment to maintaining high motivation of committee members and always to seek consensus on committee actions and decisions.
- With Sharon leaving the committee, a new member can be selected to fill the committee roster.

Date of next meeting – October 23, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. in the Administration Bldg. Conference Room

**Adjourn**