

**MINUTES**  
**ENVIRONMENT & NATUARAL ASSETS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ENA)**  
**Wednesday, June 26, 2024**  
**Conference Room, Admin. Bldg**

**Call to Order:** Tim Peck called the meeting to order at 10:10 AM

**Present:** Tim Peck (Chair), Brian Burgess, Patricia Garcia, Anne O'Connell John Maziuk; Jeff Heavner (Board Liaison); excused Karen Detter, Patty Gamby, Pat Benner, Don Wolski.  
Guest: Dr. Frederick Kutz.

**Approval of Agenda:** Motion by *Brian Burgess*, seconded by *Patricia Garcia* and approved unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes (5/22/24):** Motion by *Patricia Garcia*, seconded by *Brian Burgess* and approved unanimously.

**Chairperson's comments:** Tim Peck noted that the meeting is being recorded as part of normal Ocean Pines Association (OPA) business practice. Tim noted that during discussion of business in this meeting, he wants to emphasize attention to strategies for this committee to have a more positive effect in its recommendations and actions.

**Public Comments:**

A guest attended the meeting online, Dr. Frederick Kutz. Dr. Kutz, formerly a scientist with the U.S. EPA, briefly reviewed his background. He has been a resident of OP since 1978. He was involved with a joint project with the EPA to initiate the Maryland Coastal Bays Program in 1987. The attempt was to include a larger region from southern Virginia up to Delaware, however, the southern Virginia counties declined to participate, where the current program extends from Assawoman Bay to Chincoteague Bay.

Jeff Heavner noted the following updates he received from the General Manager (GM) as the interface ENA committee issues: planning continues on the South Gate pond shoreline improvements, which will include a plan for sufficient access for anglers to fish at the pond and to install the fish-line debris tubes around the pond.

It was discussed to submit a committee recommendation on native tree selection for OP. Tim can use information obtained from a scientist at Maryland Department of Natural Resources on recommended trees. Such a recommendation statement may encourage OP to begin planning for trees.

**ONGOING PROJECTS (see status table below)**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- Geese crossing signs status: it was noted that another sign has been missing for a few weeks, which was located on Ocean Parkway near the fire house. Jeff noted that he observed one sign near the library damaged and lying on ground. A separate check confirmed that the sign has been re-erected on this location; however, subsequently it was noted that the sign is now missing. Brian Burgess volunteered to be the next quarterly sign maintainer.
- Teach a Kid to Fish Day 22 June: Patricia as the team leader gave an after-action review. Patricia and Tim attended this exhibit. The set up of the overall event was designed to get

participants registered and informed on how to bait their fishing gear. The ENA exhibit table emphasized the fish-line debris tube prototype with relevant subject coloring book handouts for children; however, Patricia noted that the exhibit did not seem to have a clear purpose in the overall event. Nearly 50 participants attended the event with children aged from approximately 4 to 15 years. The value of the ENA exhibit was discussed. Tim noted that it gave a good opportunity to meet the Anglers Club and discuss their environmental issues. Participating in this annual event was considered beneficial for this interaction with the club as well as a public educational opportunity for ENA. Repeating the exhibit at the OP fishing contest at this pond in July was not considered important this close to the June event.

- Greenstreet article: this article has been submitted to OP and Patricia noted the article emphasized invasive species commonly used in home landscaping, and noted the State classifications of Tier I banned plants and Tier II as plants allowed, but planted with caution.
- Rt. 90 Pond nature signs: it was discussed that as part of a more effective strategy for the committee that this project will be postponed as a lower priority until next year to allow concentration on current projects and responses are received on other outstanding charging documents (see status table). Patricia suggested that we meet with the Recreation & Parks committee to discuss. Tim that any other trail improvements is directed only by that committee. This particular project will require a considerable budget to purchase and install several durable signs around the pond. Working through any project in OP has proven to take many months to submit committee recommendations and obtain approval. As projects are approved for action, new projects can then be planned.
- Educational workshop event on application of Critical Areas laws. Assateague Coastal Trust (ACT) and MCBP are planning a workshop event on this subject later in 2024. Tim will provide updates as he receives them.
- Planning for new project on water quality monitoring and working with Marine Activities committee. Tim noted that the purchase of 10 water test kits has been approved by OP and they should be arriving soon. Three test kits will be available for anyone on the ENA committee to use and report data.
- Environmental communication project: as a future project: as noted for the pond signs above, this project will be planned in the future. This is a challenging project to obtain several levels of approval to include environmental best-practice guidelines in the OP home owner's association documents.
- Communication of issues to info@oceanpines: mulch volcanoes around OP trees and observed sediment erosion into Manklin Creek. As Don Wolski and Patty Gamby were absent, there were no updates on these issues. Tim noted that the sediment erosion issue could be submitted to the Marine Activities committee.
- Adopt-a-park program: Tim noted that most committee votes for a park selection fell with the Swim & Racquet park. This effort could also incorporate cleaning the oyster cage set up at this location. Tim will submit the application to OP for this park.
- Oyster cage: installed at Swim & Racquet park gazebo in early June. Tim noted that a new SOP will be drafted on the needed monthly maintenance of the cage. Each committee member contributed \$5 to pay for the cage and seed oysters.

## **NEW BUSINESS (no items)**

## **DISCUSSION**

John Maziuk noted that he attended a recent public forum in Ocean City on the proposed wind turbine project off of the Ocean City shoreline. He noted that a majority of participants including local elected officials and Ocean City residents strongly objected to the project.

Mr. Kutz thanked the committee for its work and recommended that it continue collaborating with MCBP and ACT.

Date of next meeting – July 24, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. in the Administration Bldg. Conference Room. Meetings will continue to follow a 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday schedule each month for the year.

**ACTION ITEMS**

- Geese sign maintenance July-September: Brian Wolski.
- Oyster cage SOP: Tim.
- New ENA recommendation for native trees: Tim.
- Adopt-a-park application: Tim.

**RECOMMENDATIONS TO BOD (via BOD Liaison)**

**ONGOING PROJECTS – OUTSTANDING ISSUES**

PROJECT - ISSUE	INITIATION	STATUS
Installation of fish-line tubes	June 2023	Charging document submitted
White Horse Park, new trees	Aug.2023	OPA action postponed
Goose egg addling	Sept.2023	OPA action postponed
Turtle sanctuary logs	Feb. 2024	Charging document submitted
Oyster cage operation	May 2024	Installed early June. New SOP.
HOA best practice packet	Apr.2024	Future project
Litter cleanup event	May 2024	Future project
Invasive plant removal	May 2024	Future project
Rt 90 Pond nature signs	Jan. 2024	Postponed. To contact R&P committee.

**Adjourn:** Motion by *Patricia*, seconded by *Anne O’Connell*. Meeting adjourned at 1100.