

GOVERNOR'S LEAD POISONING PREVENTION COMMISSION

Maryland Department of the Environment
1800 Washington Boulevard
Baltimore MD 21230

Approved minutes as written (4/7/11)

Thursday, March 3, 2011

COMMISSIONERS IN ATTENDANCE

Alvin Bowles, Patrick Connor, Cheryl Hall, P. Randi Johnson, Edward Landon, and Patricia McLaine.

COMMISSIONERS UNABLE TO ATTEND

Tanya Clayborn, Melbourne Jenkins, Barbara Moore, Delegate Nathaniel Oaks, Pam Putman, Linda Roberts and Mary Snyder-Vogel.

GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

Lou Dorsey – Legal Aid Bureau, Tim Wheeler - Baltimore Sun, Wes Stewart – CECLP, Michael Papi – JHHC, Sammi Turner – JHHC, Dana Schmidt – MMHA, Tom Leitzer – JHHC, Lauren Necochea – BCHD, Donna Webster – WCHD (via phone), Joseph Wright – MDE, Kirsten Day – MDE, Rebecca Singleton – MDE, and Tracy Smith - MDE.

Introductions – The meeting began at 9:40 am. Alvin Bowles will be facilitating this meeting and future meetings until the Governor appoints a new Chairperson.

Old Business – Approval of the minutes from the February 17, 2011 were postponed. Several changes were submitted to Tracy Smith. The Commission will review these minutes, with changes, at the April meeting.

Future Meeting Dates

First Thursday of every month. All meetings are scheduled for 9:30 am – 11:30 am at the Maryland Department of the Environment, 1800 Washington Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21230. The next Lead Commission meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 7, 2011, in the AERIS conference room.

Legislation:

HB 1254 – Alvin stated that we would like to stagger returns for registration so the work is spread out. There are 30,000 returns. People are calling in at the same time we are trying to get things out. There will be no change in fees. Not sure if Bill is out of rules committee.

HB 527 & 1033 – Lead safe improvements tax credit and lead paint dust testing.

Pat Connor – Asked if the Department will have time to review the Bill to see if language about statement of work is being struck. Wants to make sure this doesn't happen because inspectors can't stipulate to HEPA vacuum use.

Alvin – The Department can always review the Bill and make comments. All lead-related bills are reviewed.

Pat McLaine – want discussion on section A2 in Bill 1033.

Pat Connor – says it's included in A1,2

Wes Stewart – House Bill 1033 on the House side, different bill on the Senate side. The Governor is in support of Bill. Very confident with Maggie McIntosh sponsoring. Dust testing language is supposed to mirror Comar. Baltimore - A lot of progress collectively, but not a leader anymore. HUD funded study in Baltimore to see if visual inspection was sufficient. 73% passed visual but failed dust. Need to have safer standard. 73% of owners are already using dust testing.

Pat McLaine – Information is very clear in regard to children. We have supported it before, but her concern is what is being removed from this Bill (taking out structural defects, etc.). We need to understand what's being taken out.

Wes – Opposition in past was to cost. Many of these things are already part of the housing code. Require that they meet housing code and that solves the problem. If everyone complied with the housing code, we would be a long way to ending poisoning.

Ed Landon – Adopted livability code as of last year. Each jurisdiction can follow different code if they want but most have adopted it and some have made amendments to it. 57 jurisdictions can now modify to their liking. Question as to who enforces this. It gives everybody guidance.

Cheryl Hall – Does the Department of Housing make recommendations? Ed Landon stated “No, not really”.

Patrick Connor – Pg 3, 18-22. Will the Coalition look at reference? Things are not there anymore that were before. Wes stated “Yes, it will be corrected.

Patrick Connor – Can we have IPC in reference?

Wes – When you get that specific, you lose people. It is better to be broad if you want the Bill to pass.

Ed Landon – Read livability code definition. This is what is on the web page. It says enforcement is local. If a jurisdiction has a different maintenance code, that's okay.

Patrick Connor – Can the Coalition look at striking statement of work? Can we look at putting that back in? It will leave inspectors in a quandary.

Wes Stewart – Part of the dust testing is verifying that stuff was done.

Pat McLaine – Is there any reason it doesn't say rules and regulations? Statement of work was created for visual inspectors to verify work was done that inspector can stipulate to.

Wes Stewart– Regarding sills and wells, if lead free, will not have to be done again.
Alvin Bowles– We need to poll members thru e-mails to see if we'll support this Bill since we do not have enough members in attendance at today's meeting.
Pat McLaine – It would be a good idea to ask for votes on all 3 of these Bills.
Alvin – When you vote, copy everyone. The e-mail needs to go out today or tomorrow because next Wednesday is the hearing date.
Wes Stewart– Tax Credit Bill hearing is today. \$1 Million limit.
Alvin Bowles– By noon Tuesday we'll be ready to do letter or not.

Pat McLaine – Loss of federal funds to City. Ed Landon and Pat McLaine worked on the letter of concern, but the decision was already made to move responsibilities into the City Department of Housing. It is still important to send a letter reflecting that it is important the abatement services be picked up and the difficulty involved in getting things up and running. Maintain strong infrastructure within the program. The letter will ultimately go to the Mayor.

Ed Landon – In short, what are they going to do about what they're losing?

Agency Updates:

MDE – Currently working on the FY-2012 CDC Grant application for submission.
Alvin Bowles announced that Wicomico County is back in grant.

DHMH – Not represented

DHCD – Nothing to report at this time.

BCHD – Making sure we continue as much as possible.

MIA – Nothing to report at this time.

OCA – Cheryl Hall – nothing to report at this time

Donna Webster (WCHC) via phone – reminded the Commission of the May meeting to be held at the Fire Department in Salisbury. Donna would like an attendance count submitted prior to the meeting.

Ed Landon suggested changing the meeting time to 11 am – 1 pm due to the distance in traveling.

Patrick Connor asked Donna if the Commission could see the City Sweep area in Wicomico when the meeting is held there. Donna Webster said she will have a power point on “City Sweep”.

Coalition - Wes Stewart – Appreciates the support of the Income Tax Funding Bills. EPA Renovation Rule went into full effect on 12/31/10. Our concern is workers will go down to lower level. Maryland has a stricter standard than EPA.

Alvin Bowles – There is no Renovation Rule at MDE. They are not involved this year. MDE hasn't been given any authority in regard to the EPA rule.

PPMCO - Sammi Turner – Introduced Tom Leitzer who coordinates with other agencies to cover holistic issues. Tom's primary responsibility is to promote the Medicaid program. Tom meets with the Governor and church leaders, businesses, etc. to get the word out about identifying individuals in each community who need help. He covers the entire State. Priority Partners distributes food as well. Food is one way to get people out so other needs can be met as well. All services are free. Call 410-762-5342 to request a presentation or visit their website, www.PPMCO.org.

Meeting adjourned 10:30 am.