

WESTCHESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY

MINUTES: July 8, 2008

MEMBERS (E&E): Chair: Abinanti; Legislators: Harckham, Myers, Oros, Rogowsky

IN ATTENDANCE: STAFF: C. Crane, T. O'Connell; GUESTS: B. Randolph (CEO); D. Cartwright (Greenburgh Conserv'n. Outreach); J. Picco, L. Remedios (W.P. Times)

Environment & Energy Committee meeting called to order at 3:00 pm.

Item(s) Discussed: **Proposed Climate Change Resolution**

Chair Abinanti commenced the meeting with a discussion of a proposed climate change resolution. Leg. Oros inquired how the greenhouse gas emissions are quantified. Leg. Rogowsky stated that the county had utilized an inventory program developed by ICLEI to estimate emissions. The committee members deliberated whether the resolution applied to the county as a whole or only to county government. Review of the Global Warming Task Force (GWTF) action plan by committee staff indicated that the GWTF's recommendations applied to the entire county, and the resolution would similarly apply to county-wide emissions. The committee revised the resolution to clarify that the milestone reductions are i) 20% below 2005 emission levels by 2015, ii) 80% below 2005 emission levels by 2050.

The committee members discussed whether the County Board would be legally bound by the emission reduction milestones in the resolution. Members generally agreed that the Board resolution expresses County policy and is a goal. Upon the motion of Leg. Harckham, seconded by Leg. Myers, the Committee voted to approve the resolution (all in favor).

Upon the motion of Leg. Myers, seconded by Leg. Rogowsky, the Committee approved the meeting minutes of March 31st, April 7th, and April 14, 2008 (all in favor). Leg. Rogowsky noted that certain airport projects are presently before the Board of

Acquisition and Contract (A&C), but these projects may be included in the environmental review process for which the County Board is lead agency and for which review had not yet been completed. Leg. Myers said that one project was anticipated to have an environmental impact. Leg. Rogowsky said that he would inquire of the Administration about these projects.

Upon the motion of Leg. Myers, seconded by Leg. Harckham, the Committee voted to adjourn (all in favor). The meeting concluded at approximately 3:40 pm. [An audio recording of this meeting is on file]