



THE TALBOT RIVER PROTECTION ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

2010

Cutting Down Trees at Easton's Newnam Airport by Callum R. Bain



Some years ago a public opinion survey asked citizens to rank Doctors, Teachers, Ministers and Politicians in order of merit. At that time (perhaps not now) Doctors were trusted and Politicians were bottom of the list.

Fortunately Talbot County and Easton have a fine reputation for electing or appointing good people to govern the community or of voting them out of office if the need arises.

These officials are open to public testimony which may be formally or informally conveyed. Some times a single individual speaks or a

representative testifies on behalf of a civic group such as the Talbot River Protection Association Inc. (TRPA). Recently the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) published a legal notice in which the Newnam Airport was requesting to cut down trees to the stump in the guise of airport safety. At least three other requests were granted and this was an additional request. TRPA requested a public hearing which was held by MDE on April 15th, 2010. TRPA felt the removal of additional trees at the Airport would have an adverse impact

effect on the rivers and creeks in close proximity of the property as well as disturbing the Delmarva fox squirrels (an endangered species) and the tranquility of nearby residents.

At the hearing TRPA was joined by The Democratic Environmental Forum, LEAD (Limit Easton Airport Development, The Issak Walton League, the Treekeepers Association and the Community and Environmental Defense Services. There are likely to be additional hearings on this matter and if so it would help to have more concerned citizens in attendance to encourage sensible and well-informed decision making.

The letter which follows this brief introduction shows that MDE are reviewing our concerns before making a final decision on whether or not to grant the request for the permit.



Invitation to all to attend TRPA's Annual Meeting June 10,
2010, 5:30 pm at the Historical Society Auditorium.



MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Water Management Administration

Nontidal Wetlands Division

District Court/Multi-Service Center • 201 Baptist Street • Salisbury, MD 21801

Phone: (410) 713-3685 • Fax: (410) 713-3686

Martin O'Malley
Governor

Shari T. Wilson
Secretary

May 19, 2010

Talbot County Council
c/o Michael Henry, Airport Manager, Easton Airport
29137 Newnam Road, Unit 1
Easton, Maryland 21601

Application Tracking #200961402
WMA #09-NT-2068
Project: forested wetland conversion
Easton Airport, Easton, Maryland

Dear Mr. Henry:

Your Joint Federal/State Application for the proposed conversion of forested nontidal wetlands into non-forested wetlands at the Easton Airport, Easton, Maryland is being reviewed. Following the Public Information Hearing of April 15, 2010 our review of the application has determined that additional information is required. Please provide the following:

1. Please provide documentation from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) that directs or requires the Airport to extend runway 4-22. This documentation should be specific to the Easton Airport and not a recitation of 14 CFR Part 77.
2. The airport has indicated the project purpose as being public/aircraft safety and that this issue was identified as an issue in 1998 in the Preliminary Obstruction Analysis. Now 12 years later is safety the project purpose and why has so much time elapsed since the initial height/clearance discovery? Please provide documentation from the FAA that is specific to the Easton Airport that indicates a time frame for the safety issue to be remedied or approved.
3. The April 20, 2010 letter from the FAA is a reconfirmation of obstruction requirements but the letter does not specifically address whether it is an FAA requirement to remove trees to the ground as opposed to tree topping or crowning to remove trees from penetrating Part 77 surfaces. Please provide documentation that specifies the FAA requirement of removing trees to the ground.
4. Please provide plans that depict Part 77 surface elevations overlain over each proposed wetland impact area.



Mr. Henry
Page Two

5. Please provide a copy of the executed and recorded conservation easement for Delmarva Fox Squirrel habitat on the Phillip Councell property on Plugge Road.
6. Please provide a water management plan for the airport watershed.
7. Removal of trees within stream and riparian wetland systems can adversely affect water quality. There are two stream systems located within the proposed tree removal areas. The Department would like to discuss the potential for substantially increasing minimally managed stream buffers for these two stream systems.

Once the above information has been received the Department will continue its review of your project. Should you have any questions regarding this letter please contact me at (410) 713-3685 or akampmeyer@mde.state.md.us.

Sincerely,

Alan R. Kampmeyer

Alan R. Kampmeyer
Project Manager
Nontidal Wetlands Division

cc: Elisa Deflaux - Talbot County Planning and Codes
Jennifer Lutz - URS Corporation
David Hardin - Restoration Ecological Services, Inc.
Cherry Keller - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

6\ARK\0961402c.IRF



The President's Message

It is with great excitement and pride that I greet you as the new President of TRPA.

I will be presenting an award this year, an Appreciation Award to our own Pat Betlejewski who has been the President for many years maintaining TRPA's respected and honest reputation making us all extremely proud. She has worked very hard to produce great board meetings, annual meetings, newsletters and has diligently kept up the membership drive. She recently stepped down from this presidential post to Treasurer and will continue to be recognized for her good work over the coming years. We all thank you Pat for all you have done for TRPA. Well done!

My goal is simple: I wish to improve communications with our members and encourage those willing to lend an additional hand to please do so.

President's Hot Topics

- Stormwater management. Our current project is to bring Easton's Airport into compliance with the 2007 Stormwater act. Water quality is one of the greatest challenges we face as a society. TRPA strives to meet that challenge both now and in the future.

- Easton Point, "Willey's Riverside Park" as we have chosen to appropriately name it. This land is mostly located between Port Street and Glenwood Avenue to the east of Easton. At one time this land was the town dump then a maintenance plant leaving behind quantities of rusting metal and debris now hopefully to become a living shoreline.

- Membership drive. New members and especially worker bees are always welcome. Additional information of these topics and issues TRPA is working on may be found on our website www.talbotrivers.org. Please take time to visit other areas of our website such as our links and letters. I hope you like our redesigned site and find it to be helpful.

Christine Sweeney
President



You may have questions and or ideas about what TRPA is doing and we want to hear about your thoughts and opinions. Please submit a "Letter to the Editor" by written letter or e-mail. We plan to read your e-mails or letters and respond via the appropriate officer or committee chairperson. Representative e-mails or letters will be published in our newsletters.

E-mails can be sent to info@talbotrivers.org.

Letters can be sent to: Talbot River Protection Association Attn: Patricia Betlejewski • P.O. Box 2234 • Easton, MD 21601

Which Detergent Should You Choose?

Citizens and civic organizations have been calling for new legislation to further regulate phosphates used in the manufacture of household and commercial detergents for years. They have succeeded to some extent as seen by bans initiated in 1993 to no longer use them in laundry detergents. Some dish washing products, however, may contain phosphates at concentrations far in excess of the 0.5 % level recommended by some Federal, State and local agencies. We scanned products in two large retail outlets and did not find any laundry products that contained phosphate. By contrast, seven of the fifteen brands of dish washing or hand washing products checked contained 3 to 8 % phosphate. Although most dish washing products were labeled “no phosphates”, one stated that if the imprinted product code started with a “z” it contained trace amounts of phosphate, or if it started with a “p” there might be phosphate of up to 4 %. We also noted that ingredients in some clear plastic containers were difficult to read because labels were visible only through the rear of the bottle.

Phosphates are among the most difficult chemicals to regulate and manage in the environment. They have been used for well over 50 years and replace a chemical known as ABS (alkyl benzene sulfonate) that causes excessive foaming in waste water discharged from treatment plants. By contrast to ABS, phosphates support nutrient enrichment and may cause blooms of toxic algae, oxygen depletion, and fish kills in lakes and rivers. They also interfere with the coagulation of sludge in sewage treatment plants allowing bacteria and viruses to remain free in waste water discharged into the environment. Phosphate pollution in the Great Lakes and other large bodies of water, and reports of phosphate levels of up to 15 % in some environmental samples, have lead to improved management practices by both Canada and the United States.

In 1993, after years of effort, civic organizations like BASIC (Bolder Area Sustainability Information Network) in Colorado, and OCA (Organic Consumers Association) in Minnesota, were successful in influencing manufacturers to stop adding phosphates to laundry detergents. Now, some 16 years later, citizens and local officials in Seattle, Washington, have succeeded in banning the sale of dish washer detergents with more than 0.5 % phosphate. The ban will become State-wide in 2010, and many other states are now following suit. Some citizens in Washington now shop out-of-state for detergents with phosphates and call themselves “detergent smugglers”.

A new bill calling for a ban on phosphate use in detergents was introduced to Congress this year (Consumer Reports, April 3, 2009).

List of Products in Food Lion and Walmart in April, 2009

Dish and Hand Liquids

No Phosphates

Ajax • Mr. Clean • Dawn • Green Works
Ivory • Joy • Palmolive • Spic & Span

Phosphates

Cascade All in 1 (liquid) – up to 5%
Cascade Dawn (liquid) – up to 4,5%
Cascade Dawn (solid) – up to 6,4%
Electrosol Finish not more than 8.3%
Finish – 3.7%

*Product Code – first letter “z” (trace amount)

-first letter “p” (up to 4%)

Laundry Detergents*

All • Arm & Hammer • Cheer • Tide • Purex • Wisk

* None of the laundry products contained added phosphates.

Editorial Comment

We thank Dr. Thomas Sawyer a long standing member of TRPA for contributing some of the information and research. TRPA asks you to select products that do not contain added phosphates.

Talbot River
Protection Association
invites everyone to our

June 10th, 2010

Annual Meeting

“Our Bay - Our Responsibility”

Thursday June 10th, 2010 from 5:30-7:30pm

Social time 5:30pm – 6:00pm

Program 6:00 – 7:30pm

Located in the

Historical Society of Talbot County's 2nd Floor Auditorium

25 South Washington Street, Easton, MD

“Our Bay Our Responsibility” is an opportunity to learn about the bay’s critical watersheds and why they are important to our everyday lives, from providing the water we drink to protecting the streams we fish and enjoy. The event will also be an opportunity to meet and network with other people interested in watershed management.

**info@talbotrivers.org
www.talbotrivers.org**

Please Help TRPA Keep Our Rivers Clean

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Amount Enclosed _____

I would like to become more active with TRPA.

Please contact me. _____

Annual individual or family membership can be any one of these levels:

Partnership - \$1,000.00 and over,

Sustaining - \$500.00 to \$999.99,

Participating - \$100.00 to \$499.00, or

Caring - \$25.00 to \$99.00.

Membership dues and donations are tax deductible.

TRPA is a 501(c)(3) corporation.

Mail to TRPA, PO Box 2234, Easton, MD 21601

Please encourage your friends and neighbors to become member of TRPA !

Officers and Board

Christine Sweeney

President

Callum R. W. Bain, MD

Executive Advisor

Cleo Braver

Board Member

Pat Betlejewski

Treasurer

Dennis Grote, MBA

Secretary

Milton C. Irvin, MA

Board Member

Dorothy R. Mowry, Ph.D., LLD

Board Member

Robert Stanley

Board Member

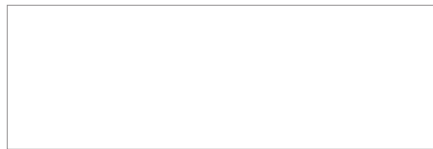


The opinions of the authors of the articles in this newsletter are solely theirs and are not indicative of positions taken by the board of directors or officers of the Talbot River Protection Association

www.talbotrivers.org

Tel: 410-822-0019 Fax: 410-822-8702

info@talbotrivers.org



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Easton, MD
Permit 311

The Talbot River Protection Association
P.O. Box 2234
Easton, Maryland 21601