

QUESTIONS FOR CANDIDATES



On June 26th we will have our primary elections for Anne Arundel County Council and County Executive as well as for state candidates. CEPA would like to find out the County candidates' thoughts on issues we have been working with. The League of Conservation Voters and Sierra Club have already given them a list of questions having to do with the environment, but we noticed that there were some issues that CEPA has been working on that were not covered. Consequently, we will ask both the Democratic and Republican candidates for County Council and County Executive the following questions and publish their answers in our Fall 2018 Newsletter.

1. Much of the stress on our environmental resources comes from rapid development in AA County. Currently, our tax/fee policies act as an incentive to rapid growth by failing to recover the full cost of infrastructure to mitigate adverse impacts on the environment and quality of life. If you agree, how would you correct this mistake?
2. Presently, things like the value of forests in absorbing CO2 and reducing stormwater runoff are not considered in evaluating development projects. There have been studies on the monetary value of such "ecoservices" which could be used for that purpose. Should the value of ecoservices be considered in impact studies and impact fees for development?
3. The Wolman report recommended various measures to manage our water resources more effectively. One of the recommendations, arguably the most important one, was to install more monitoring wells. Should more monitoring wells be installed for monitoring our aquifers?
4. Groundwater is the source of drinking water for Anne Arundel County residents, and supplies are shrinking. How would you protect critical ground water recharge areas in West County?
5. In the last Maryland legislative session, a bill was passed by both houses which authorized the Maryland Department of the Environment to develop proposed requirements for residential graywater use. This would be subject to local (county) plumbing codes. Should requirements for residential graywater systems be developed for AA County?
6. CEPA has been overseeing the monitoring of the closed unlined PST Landfill in Harwood for several years, and the landfill has been directed by means of a consent decree to develop a plan to mitigate the several toxic substances found. The other unlined landfills are not subjected to the same scrutiny. Should the monitoring of all the unlined landfills in AA County be reviewed by a third party?
7. A bill requiring that, for changes in zoning, the Director of Planning and Zoning must certify that the change complies with the GDP was not passed during the last session, This measure would prevent one person, through "councilmanic privilege," from deciding on such changes. After the new GDP is effective, should changes in zoning have to be so certified?