

**COE agenda 2-1-2017**  
**Written by Thomas Brewer, COE President**

**Annual Report**

-I submitted the Annual Report and received confirmation that it has been delivered to the Commissioners.

**WSA program**

-Nicole sent out an email with links for the St. Mary's County Watershed Stewards Academy. She noted that there will be events held next Tuesday, February 7<sup>th</sup> and the following Wednesday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, both from 6-7:30pm. I plan to post the information on Facebook. Are there any other ways in which we can further advertise for the program?

**Food Waste Study**

-Nicole sent out a link to an Ohio State study about food waste. Half of participants were given an information card regarding education on food waste harms and the other half were given a card on financial literacy. Half of each group were told that leftovers from their plate would be composted and the other half were told their scraps would go into the landfill. The researchers concluded that effects of the information given cancelled each other out and the net amount of scraps were in the range of an uninformed individual. I believe the results would have been different if participants were also informed that food not taken would be donated to those in need. Those that were told their food waste would be composted may not have been as frivolous if they knew the untouched food would go to a food pantry.

**Solar**

-Mike sent out the solar installation numbers from SMECO and they are quite encouraging. The number of installations has practically doubled every year since 2008!

**Public School response**

-Mr. Walker, the Assistant Superintendent of Supporting Services, replied to my follow-up email regarding recycling containers and the Trex competition. He stated that because of new statutes, recycling containers were required at large functions and in cafeterias. He asked that we provide any specific examples if there are not sufficient containers at events, so I will relay this to those that told me there were not containers available at athletic events. He expressed interest in the Trex competition, but said that with the lack of guidance and support from the central office, they will not be participating this year. He did state that changes may be occurring to provide more support for recycling programs and may occur this summer to be ready for the new school year in September. I recommend that we revisit the Trex competition with him this summer and be mindful of recycling containers, or the lack thereof, at large events.