

Friends of Lancaster County LLC Meeting July 11, 2006 7:00PM

Charlie Costello called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

Approximately 25 members were present.

The speaker for the evening was Delegate Robert J. Whittman, PHD, Director of Field Operations for the Virginia Department of Health Division of Shellfish Sanitation.

Dr. Whittman described the mission of the Shellfish Sanitation group which is to assure that scallops, clams and oysters taken from our waters are safe to eat. This includes testing for fecal bacteria and toxic algae. Samples of water are taken from 2174 stations. These samples are now being put into an online database available at

<http://www.vdh.state.va.us/OEHS/Shellfish/index.asp>

In total the staff analyzes 24000 samples per year. In addition they also monitor processing and aquaculture facilities with 3600 plant inspections per year.

During the Q&A session Dr. Whittman noted that it is very difficult to say where any type of pollution is coming from. Testing can identify some types of bacteria by source but it is limited and expensive. In response to another question VDH does not monitor nutrients or O2 levels in the water.

Following Dr. Whittman's presentation a general member meeting was held. Charlie Costello discussed the comments to the Comprehensive Plan that were recently sent to the Planning Commission. They are also located on our web site <http://folcva.org> Charlie also explained the process underway to request a boundary line adjustment by the towns. It was noted that litigation is expensive and usually some type of agreement is worked out. Some concerns were expressed during the meeting about the possibility that the Rappahannock Record has changed what it accepts for publication.