

**ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY
COUNCIL – JANUARY 17, 2007
@ 3:00 P.M., Room 003
Carroll County Office Building**



**James E. Slater, Jr., AICP, QEP
Environmental Compliance Officer
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MINUTES

- Members Present:** Karen Merkle, Chair
Robyn Gilden, Vice Chair
Sher Horosko
Bob Foor-Hogue
Jim Johnson
Christopher Spaur
David Pyatt
Brian Rhoten
- Members Absent:** None
- County Government:** Cynthia Parr, County Commissioners Office
Commissioner Michael Zimmer
Terri Jones, County Attorney's Office
James E. Slater, Jr., Office of Environmental Compliance
Jeff Keefer, Office of Environmental Compliance
Ann L. Baugher, Secretary to EAC
- The Press:** Carrie Knauer, Carroll County Times
- Other Attendees:** Catherine Shanks, Department of Natural Resources
Bret Grossnickle, Mayor of Union Bridge
Cody Saville, Carroll Land Service, Inc.
Glenn Edwards, Carroll Land Service, Inc.
Charles Zeleski, Carroll County Health Department
Ed Singer, Carroll County Health Department
Brian Flynn, Carroll County Health Department

CALL TO ORDER - Ms. Merkle, Chair, officially called the meeting to order at 3:03 P.M., welcoming guests, press, County staff and Commissioner Zimmer. Ms. Merkle then asked for approval of the December 20, 2006 minutes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - MOTION NO. 1-07: Motion was made by David Pyatt, and seconded by Christopher Spaur, to approve the minutes of December 20, 2006, as presented. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS - None

Changes to Agenda:

- Chair Merkle moved item b., under number 7, to c.; and added as item b.; "Draft letter to MDE on MTBE cases. New Business, item number 9 was moved to number 8 and item number 8, Council Members-Issues for future consideration was moved to number 9. Added under number 10, Under Announcements from the Chair, item b. Maryland Environmental Summit and item c. Carroll County Water Summit.
- Mr. Jim Slater called the Council's attention to the information packets before them on articles relative to Council business at hand.

OPEN FORUM - None

PRESENTATION – Ms. Catherine M. Shanks, Director of Chesapeake Bay Policy and Coordination Division, Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) gave a brief presentation on “*Developing Basin Tributary Strategy Implementation Plans and the Chesapeake Bay 2000 Agreement*”. Ms. Shanks brought the Council up-to-date on the plan status and stated that joint efforts are on-going between the DNR, MDE, Maryland counties and municipalities within the counties. Meeting compliance of the issues is a huge task involving many hours by dedicated staff and monetary resources that will greatly strain the budgeting process and taxing authorities. Ms. Shanks stated an option to achieving the tasks within the plan and agreement would be to hire a consultant. The goal of this implementation plan and the Bay agreement is improvement of water quality and water resources. Ms. Shanks invited Council members to join any or all of the three (3) volunteer tributary teams located in Carroll County’s watershed.

A question and answer period followed. Mr. David Pyatt complimented Ms. Shanks on this well-thought out program. Ms. Merkle thanked Ms. Shanks for coming and briefing the Council on this water quality project.

UNFINISHED OR ONGOING BUSINESS:

Monthly Update regarding MTBE issues – CCHD – Mr. Brian Flynn presented updates on the Council’s MTBE spreadsheet, which are a part of these minutes. He stated that he was unable to contact MDE, Mr. Jim Richmond, for updating items under State responsibility. Continued discussion was heard on the clarification of the data within the spreadsheet so a baseline document can be established from the current draft. Ms. Merkle asked Ms. Gilden to work with Mr. Flynn and Ms. Baugher to clarify the categories. This spreadsheet will be forwarded to all EAC members one week or more before the following month’s scheduled EAC meeting. Council is to review the chart and direct all questions to Mr. Jim Slater, who will investigate, and address these concerns at the next EAC meeting.

Ms. Merkle thanked Mr. Brian Flynn, CCHD for the update and hard work on this spreadsheet.

Frederick County incinerator evaluation – Discussion was heard on this evaluation, along with Carroll County’s own involvement in their pursuit of Waste to Energy, as a member of the Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority. A presentation on this issue will possibly be an agenda item at the February or March, 2007, EAC meeting. The Council did not feel knowledgeable enough, about the current RFP or the timeline, for decisions about Carroll’s involvement in the incinerator project to make any recommendations. Further research and presentations of information by many parties will be conducted prior to any recommendation from the council.

Change A Light, Change The World – Ms. Sher Horosko thanked Carrie Knauer, Carroll County Times writer, for the very informative article on this issue. Ms. Horosko advised the Council she spoke to the Lowe’s of Westminster manager about the possibility of a CFL (compact fluorescent lights) campaign. The manager was interested and advised Ms. Horosko she would discuss it with the regional manager. Ms. Horosko will follow up on this matter.

Ms. Robyn Gilden stated she read an article in September of 2006, that Wal-Mart supports the use of CFLs and may be willing to talk about disposal.

Mr. Slater added possibly the EAC could possibly persuade retailers to carry all types of CFLs, not just soft white.

Ms. Horosko and Ms. Gilden will continue their research in order to bring a project proposal before the Council in the near future.

COMMITTEE/WORK TEAM REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS:

MTBE Work Team – Individual USTs – Meeting of Fuel Oil Dealers scheduled for March.

Draft letter to MDE on MTBE cases – As a follow-up to the December, 2006, EAC meeting, Ms. Merkle presented a “form letter draft” that will be utilized by the Council and mailed to MDE for their response on MTBE cases that may include status, expedition of treatment installation, sampling results reporting, treatment system installation, etc. No formal action was taken.

2007 Environmental Awareness Awards Committee – Mr. Foor-Hogue reported the nomination packets and/or posters have been circulated ~ colleges, libraries, cooperative extension service office, FFA, Rotary Club, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, cable viewing, at the State of the County luncheon, the January 13, 2007 showing of “*An Inconvenient Truth*,” as well as displayed at two (2) locations within the County Office Building. To date, two (2) nominations have been received.

Ms. Merkle reported Mr. Jim Johnson will address the County Roundtable meeting on January 18, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. about the Environmental Awareness Awards.

Mr. Foor-Hogue stated Wal-Mart has been contacted to be an award sponsor.

The members discussed possible ways to screen applications and establish a judging panel. Ms. Merkle will work with the Committee Chair to establish the process.

Mr. Johnson thanked Cindy Parr for a job well done at the Carroll County Arts Council January 13, 2007, showing of the global warming documentary and announcing the EAC is seeking nominations for these 2007 awards.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. **Fluoride In Water** – Ms. Horosko and Ms. Gilden presented information gathered from research about Fluoridation of Water. A lengthy discussion followed among many members on the pros and cons of fluoride added to public drinking water. Mr. Bret Grossnickle, Mayor of Union Bridge, gave Council members a copy of the “Review of the 2006 United States National Research Council Report: *Fluoride in Drinking Water*.” Mr. Grossnickle stated his opposition to adding fluoride to the public water supply. Ms. Horosko and Ms. Gilden both agreed on the need to 1) get the message out regarding the risk of adding fluoridated water to powdered baby formula; 2) that all Carroll County public drinking suppliers add to their annual Water Quality Reports, also known as Consumer Confidence Reports, whether or not they add fluoride to their drinking water and if added, include the levels within the table portion of the reports.

Chair Merkle will pursue getting Dr. Elizabeth Ruff, MD, of the Carroll County Health Department, to meet with Ms. Horosko and Ms. Gilden to get her perspective on the issue and possibly speak on “fluoride” at the February or March, 2007 meeting.

- b. **Maryland Environmental Summit** – Ms. Merkle attended this session on January 15, 2007, in Annapolis. She reported that it appears that there will be many environmental bills entered

NEW BUSINESS *(continued)*:

this year and there was much optimism that there could be significant action taken on environmental issues in this year's General Assembly. Ms. Merkle encouraged the Council to attend next year and felt it was a very worthwhile day.

- c. Carroll County Water Summit – Ms. Cindy Parr briefed the EAC on this February 3, 2007 3-hour “presenter session” to be held at Winters Mill High School, with a follow-up to be held in March, 2007. The Environmental Advisory Council and the Planning Commission have been invited.

COUNCIL MEMBERS – Issues for future consideration

Ms. Robyn Gilden recommended the Council consider recommending to the commissioners they work with the County delegation in Annapolis to adopt legislation on the “Clean Cars” issue. She will follow the bill and report back, when appropriate, to the Council.

Mr. Jim Johnson made a motion the Council consider second-hand smoke. The motion was amended and passed as follows:

MOTION No. 2-07: Motion made by Sher Horosko, seconded by Robyn Gilden that “Council consider second-hand smoke as an issue in the event that the State does not introduce anti-smoking legislation or an anti-smoking bill is not passed in 2007.” Motion carried, with one dissenting vote.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Chair Merkle announced: 1) the February, 2007 EAC meeting, and all future meetings in 2007, will be held on **TUESDAYS.** The next meeting will be held on February 13, 2007, in Room 105 at 3:00 p.m. instead of Room 003/004.

ADJOURN - MOTION NO. 03-07: Motion made by David Pyatt, seconded by Robyn Gilden, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 5:43 p.m. Motion carried.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is **Tuesday**, February 13, 2007, at 3:00 p.m. in Room **105**.

NOTE: ROOM AND DAY CHANGE FROM WEDNESDAY MEETINGS TO *TUESDAY* MEETINGS IN 2007

Please inform the secretary if you are unable to attend