

Carroll County
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
MINUTES
Karen L. Merkle, Chair
Tuesday, July 10, 2007 @ 3:00 p.m.
Room 003/004, Carroll County
Office Building



Cynthia M. Parr
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Members Present:

Robyn Gilden, Vice Chair

Sher Horosko
Brian Rhoten
Dan Andrews
Jim Johnson
David Pyatt
Christopher Spaur
Kim Petry

Members Absent:

Karen Merkle

County Government:

Cynthia Parr, County EAC Liaison
Ann L. Baugher, Secretary to EAC
Terri Jones, Esquire, Deputy County Attorney
Ted Zaleski, Director of Management & Budget
Commissioner Julia Gouge

The Press:

Carrie Knauer, Carroll County Times
Laura McCandlish, Baltimore Sun
Balmukunddas A. Patel, Baltimore Sun

Other Attendees:

Kurt Deery, Vince Campanella and Ed Morton, Lehigh Cement
Terry Cummings, Chesapeake Bay Foundation
Paul Sudano, Union Mills Resident
Mary Anne Kowalski, Westminster Resident
Rebekah Orenstein, Tri-Street Neighbors
Perry Jones, Resident & Former Commissioner
Rob Slade, Hampstead Resident

Gregor Becker, Sierra Club
Ellen Cutsail, Union Bridge Council
Cody Saville, CLSI
Tim Richards, Citizens for a Green Mt. Airy
Steve Reynolds
Tracy Davis, Westminster Resident

CALL TO ORDER - Ms. Robyn Gilden, Vice Chair, officially called the meeting to order, in Ms. Karen Merkle's absence, at 6:30 P.M., welcoming all council members, guests and new EAC member, Dan Andrews. Ms. Gilden then asked for approval of the June 12, 2007, minutes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - MOTION NO. 15-07: Motion was made by Jim Johnson and seconded by Brian Rhoten, to approve the June 12, 2007, minutes as presented. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS – None

OPEN FORUM –Mr. Paul Sudano, from the Union Mills area, off of Saw Mill Road, addressed the EAC regarding his concern about the water quality in Bear Branch after reading an MDE report referenced in the Carroll County Times and ask for EAC consideration in possibly posting signs in the recreation areas.

Ms. Horosko also read the report and thanked Mr. Sudano for expressing his concerns and suggested that possibly the EAC could hear more about the study in layman's terms. Ms. Gilden asked Ms. Cindy Parr if it was possible to get someone to speak to the EAC on this matter.

Ms. Parr said she would ask Mr. Tom Devilbiss, Deputy Director of Planning, to attend next month regarding this topic.

Ms. Rebekah Orenstein, a Westminster resident, expressed her concern regarding the incinerator issue and doesn't want to go through what the residents did 15 years ago, again. Ms. Orenstein asked the EAC to address recycling and management of waste in our landfills and asks all options are considered when the council makes their recommendation to the BOC.

Ms. Mary Kowalski seconded Ms. Orenstein's comments asking the EAC to look into every alternative in keeping our environment in mind when making this decision.

Ms. Gilden confirmed the EAC's commitment to considering a broad range of waste management strategies and that the topic has been on the agenda for the past several months and will continue to be on it for the foreseeable future.

Mr. Tim Richards, Citizens for a Green Mt. Airy, a Grassroots Environmental Group, inquired as to what the County is looking at regarding Alternative Energy with regards to wind turbines, solar panels, or geo-thermal systems. Then Mr. Richards announced that Mt. Airy is holding an Alternative Energy Workshop @ 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 11, 2007, in the Mt. Airy Town Hall, including Mr. Tom Williams of Freedom Energy Solutions.

Mr. Jim Johnson added that the County has incorporated green technology into construction of the Finksburg Library and the new Ebb Valley School will be utilizing geo-thermal technology. Mr. Johnson also added the current County ordinance does not allow the use of wind turbines.

Ms. Gilden informed Mr. Richards that at the June, 2007 EAC meeting, a motion was made to review current regulations with regard to Alternative Energy.

Ms. Parr responded to Chair Gilden's inquiry as to when the EAC would have this item on the agenda, replying September, 2007.

Ms. Parr also added the County is up for receiving an award from NACO for their green building efforts and additionally, classroom number four (4) at Carroll Community College will be a green building.

Mr. Dan Andrews added the Governor is to announce on July 25th a 15% reduction statewide in energy usage with the hope the Governor increases the incentives, which is 20% right now, to make it more attractive to people to go to renewables.

Ms. Gilden thanked Mr. Sundano, Ms. Orenstein, Ms. Kowalski and Mr. Richards for attending and presenting their concerns to the EAC for future consideration.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION: Mr. Terry Cummings, Manager of Advocacy and Outreach, in the absence of Ms. Kim Coble, Executive Director, Chesapeake Bay Foundation presented on the topic "The Bay, Growth and other Tough Topics".

Mr. Cummings spoke about the Foundation's 190,000 members in Pennsylvania, Virginia and Maryland, their many goals, including reducing the nitrogen load to the Chesapeake Bay by 20 million pounds. The goal is halfway met, with current reductions at 10 million pounds and CBF-backed legislation like the Healthy Air Act, Clean Cars Act and the Flush Tax helping attain the reductions. The next area of

education and technical support for reductions will be targeted toward the agricultural community. The last area, that will be more difficult and expensive to address, is storm water management.

Mr. Cummings fielded many questions from the EAC on fee incentives, technical support barriers, trying to obtain more monies in the Chesapeake Bay region through the Federal Farm Bill and the imbalance of western states obtaining more funding than eastern states, closing with the key being citizens need to voice concerns to their elected officials.

Vice Chair Gilden thanked Mr. Cummings for his presentation and possibly coming back and talk about the Green Fund.

UNFINISHED OR ONGOING BUSINESS:

PRESENTATIONS

Waste Management:

Municipal Waste Options: Mr. Ed Morton, Heidelberg Cement presented information on European processes of waste. A CD was given to the Secretary to be electronically sent to all EAC members along with an e-mail video regarding Sweden’s waste management processes. Mr. Morton spoke to the EAC on the Lehigh initiative and their use of dried pelletized sludge for over a year. Mr. Morton then asked the EAC for a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners echoing the request Mr. Kurt Deery, also of Lehigh, made in his June 12, 2007 presentation to the Council to allow permanent Biosolids storage at Lehigh replacing the current temporary storage zoning ordinance expiring on November 4, 2007.

Ms. Sher Horosko added the use of the dried pelletized sludge saves one ton of coal an hour and no complaints have been received by Union Bridge community members regarding this process while maintaining emission levels at or below state permitted levels.

Request for Permanent Storage of Biosolids at Lehigh:

Ms. Horosko then made a motion, seconded by David Pyatt, motion carried following brief discussion.

MOTION NO. 16-07: Recommend to the Board of County Commissioners to change the zoning ordinance from temporary to permanent storage of Biosolids, meeting all the criteria of the temporary use, be granted.

Waste Stream RFP – Update: Ms. Cindy Parr, updated the EAC that upon their recommendation an RFP was sent to five (5) vendors, of which a few were on Mr. Neil Seldman’s recommendation list, with only a sole bid received. Ms. Parr explained that this bid, if accepted, would not supply the data wished by the EAC in a waste sort, but such information could be supplied for an additional estimated cost of \$150,000.00 plus. Ms. Parr stated the County’s Enterprise Fund does not have this kind of funding and added she has spoken to Mr. Davidson, of Montgomery County, at length, and is awaiting the composition study done previously in Montgomery County. Mr. Michael Evans and Ms. Vinnie Legge are also in contact with the State of Delaware for a copy of the same type of study done there. Mr. Evans feels, as Mr. Davidson agrees, that waste streams in Carroll County and Montgomery County and Delaware are homogeneous so the studies would be comparable and could avoid this expense in Carroll County, if their studies were utilized for our own waste sort composition evaluation. Ms. Parr indicated these studies could be reviewed and DPW could come back to the EAC with a report.

After much discussion between Council members, including the need to encourage recycling and composting as primary strategies, placing a timeline on the conclusion of the waste management issue, consensus was reached to have the DPW present a report to the EAC based on their professional opinion.

The report would include refreshing the Council on the percentage recycled in Carroll County and how those percentages are calculated by Ms. Legge.

Ms. Gilden thanked Messrs. Cummings, Morton and for their presentations and Mr. Deery's clarification on the request for a change from temporary to permanent storage of Biosolids via a zoning ordinance change.

Monthly Update regarding MTBE issues – CCHD – Cindy Parr advised the EAC, in the absence of Brian Flynn, CCHD, of one slight change since last month - the hook-up to Manchester public water by Mr. Vince DePalmer.

The EAC requested an update on the Sullivan Trailer Park be e-mailed to them.

COMMITTEE/WORK TEAM REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Water Conservation Committee update – A draft matrix of potential recommendation topics, developed during the prior two (2) committee meetings, was distributed for review and comment by the EAC. Ms. Robyn Gilden, chair of the committee, reported she has also contacted all municipalities on their present water conservation policies/procedures. Ms. Gilden then announced the next Water Conservation meeting would be held on Thursday, August 2, 2007, at Carroll Community College from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Mr. Robert Burke, Director of Finance, Carroll County Government will speak on "Understanding the Water Rate Structure" and Tom Devilbiss will discuss various local and state policy issues. Ms. Gilden advised comments and feedback are welcome along with sitting in on this session without further commitment, and added Kim Petry and Chris Spaur also serve on this committee.

NEW BUSINESS – None

COUNCIL MEMBERS – ISSUES FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION:

- Mr. Jim Johnson again asked for the priority list established by the EAC to be brought back before the Council for revising
- Mr. Andrews announced that on July 21, 2007, Mt. Airy will be meeting to discuss their Water Conservation Plan that will include measures to cut consumption.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Vice Chair Gilden announced the August, 2007 EAC meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 14, 2007, at **3:00 p.m.** in Room 003/004.

Ms. Parr reminded the EAC about the Solid Waste Forum on Saturday, July 14, 2007 to be hosted by Frederick and Carroll Counties, held at Frederick Community College in the Kussmaul Theatre in Frederick, MD

ADJOURN - MOTION NO. 17-07: Motion made by Sher Horosko, seconded by David Pyatt, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m. Motion carried.

The next regularly scheduled meeting, an afternoon meeting, will be held **Tuesday, August 14, 2007, at 3:00 p.m.** in Room 003/004.

Please inform the secretary if you are unable to attend