

Carroll County
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
MINUTES
Karen L. Merkle, Chair
Robyn Gilden, Vice Chair
Tuesday, October 9, 2007 @ 6:30 p.m.
Room 003/004, Carroll County
Office Building



Cynthia M. Parr
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Members Present:

Karen Merkle, Chair
Robyn Gilden
Sher Horosko
Brian Rhoten
Dan Andrews
Jim Johnson
Christopher Spaur
David Pyatt
Kim Petry

Members Absent:

None

County Government:

Cynthia Parr, County EAC Liaison
Ann L. Baugher, Secretary to EAC
Terri Jones, Esquire, Deputy County Attorney
James E. Slater, Jr., Environmental Compliance Officer
Gale Engles, Stormwater Mgmt & Sediment Control Supervisor
Mike Evans, DPW Director
Ralph Green, General Services Director

The Press:

Carrie Knauer, Carroll County Times

Other Attendees:

Richard Anthony, Resource Assessment Associates
Beth Barr, resident
Ellen Cutsail, Union Bridge Council
Kim Stenley, Sierra Club
Cody Saville, CLSI
Perry Jones

Brian Flynn, CCHD
Gregor Becker, Sierra Club
Robin & Jean Mercer, resident
Kathy Murphy, resident
John Lopez, FPACC
Tina & Jerry Sheeler, residents

CALL TO ORDER - Ms. Karen Merkle, Chair, officially called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. welcoming all council members and guests. Collectively, the Council welcomed Ms. Merkle back after her short leave.

Ms. Merkle then asked for approval of the September 11, 2007, minutes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - MOTION NO. 29-07: Motion was made by Sher Horosko and seconded by Robyn Gilden, to approve the September 11, 2007, minutes as presented. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS – 1) Chair Merkle thanked Ms. Gilden for chairing the last two meetings, in her absence. 2) Chair Merkle advised the members to review the handout on the County’s adoption of Ordinance 07-15 - changing the zoning ordinance from the temporary storage of Biosolids to permanent storage. 3) Ms. Merkle reported the EAC’s role in the airport expansion will be to review and comment on the Delta Airpark Assessment report upon its completion. 4) Ms. Parr shared that Editor Jim Lee, Carroll County Times, has approved an “environmental column”, should the EAC wish to explore this outreach source for County residents. The column would appear every two to three weeks and include

articles from other environmental groups as well. Chair Merkle advised further discussion of this topic would be added to the November agenda under New Business.

OPEN FORUM – None

UNFINISHED OR ONGOING BUSINESS:

MTBE monthly update: - Only update reported by Brian Flynn, CCHD is the Sheetz in Manchester is going to install infiltration galleries for the discharge water from their remediation system.

Keymar update on public comment time – 9/11/07 meeting – relative to last meeting, Mr. Ralph Green, Ms. Gale Engles and Ms. Terri Jones each updated the EAC on the progress of the Bruceville Road, Mehring property since the last EAC meeting. Ms. Horosko shared photos with the Council and Bruceville Road residents thanked the EAC for their assistance in the cleanup to date and asked for their continued involvement until all their concerns are resolved.

Mr. Brian Flynn added, VOC sampling was performed at five (5) Bruceville Road addresses with all the results negative. Their office is preparing a mailing of letters reporting these results to sampled sites.

TMDL update – September 20, 2007 information meeting – water quality of Double Pipe Creek & the Monocacy River Basin: Ms. Parr advised the EAC that MDE’s presentation shows site levels at such a place they are unobtainable with reductions of 98% needed. Unfortunately, the meeting did not include implementation strategies. Ms. Parr is scheduling MDE’s return in early November, 2007, to address these strategies.

Rick Anthony, Resource Assessment Associates: Mr. Anthony, whose firm was awarded the Resource Assessment bid, presented briefly on meeting with various County stakeholders this week, completion of the draft report by the end of November with final report completion in January, 2008. Mr. Anthony fielded several questions from the EAC including waste composition being pretty much the same from city-to-city, sorts into 12 categories as marketable commodities, their potential revenues, especially the huge in paper recycling savings in energy and range of resource values, etc.

Continuation of the Waste Management member discussion: The Council picked up where they stopped at the September meeting with discussion and review of the Solid Waste Task Committee recommendations. The following motions were made by the EAC for forwarding to the BOC.

Motion made by Sher Horosko, seconded by Robyn Gilden. Motion was carried 8 to 1.

MOTION NO. 30-07: “That the BOC support the implementation of a Pay as You Throw Program and commission the EAC to work in concert with the Department of Public Works to create a community process to design the essential elements of the program.”

The above motion was made after discussion of two (2) options. The first was recommending Pay as You Throw now; the other was to set up a community process to define elements of how to accomplish a Pay as You Throw program. In both options, council unanimously supported Pay as You Throw.

Such a study should include the following elements:

- Establishing a Pay as You Throw Work Group comprised of members from the EAC, Department of Public Works, elected officials, local haulers, local businesses, school representatives and area residents to set program goals, identify potential barriers and methods of overcoming the barriers,

determine code changes that might be necessary to implement the program, assist in the design of the program, conduct public outreach to educate citizens about the benefits of pay as you throw in terms of waste reduction, cost reduction and general economic fairness to consumers and businesses.

- Evaluate container and pricing strategies
- Create rate structure design based on waste collection forecast.
- Determine program costs
- Establish base line data in tons of recyclables collected to measure effectiveness of Pay as You throw on waste reduction and resource recovery
- Identify and expand recycling options that will encourage recycling and support residences and businesses in trash reduction strategies.

Motion by Sher Horosko, seconded by Kim Petry and carried.

Motion No. 31-07: “That the BOC undertake a study of the feasibility of creating a County wide composting facility that could remove the organic materials from our waste stream, turn such materials into marketable/usable products for local farmers and reduce green house gases caused by the decomposition of organics in the landfill.”

Compost. Composting is key to achieving 50% and higher diversion levels and doing so cost-effectively. Keeping organics and putrescibles out of landfills will make landfills less of a nuisance and source of pollution. Emphasize backyard or at-home composting followed by community composting. Target many types of clean organic materials and offer year-round, frequent, and convenient collection.

On farm composting: studying the feasibility of creating a permitting process that allows local farmers to accept yard waste, separated food scraps, and soiled papers from school cafeterias or restaurants that could be used as a soil amendment while generating tipping fees for farmers.

Requiring residents and businesses participate in recycling and composting programs. Local ordinances can either require residents and businesses to source-separate or ban them from setting out designated recyclable or compostable materials with their trash.

Motion by Sher Horosko, seconded by David Pyatt and carried.

Motion No. 32-07: “That the County begin the process of acquiring property, sized according to the recommendations in the Resource Assessment study to serve as a landfill for the residual waste, that can neither be recycled or reused from the plurality of front end resource recovery initiatives employed. The goal should be to reduce our solid waste to such an extent that only 10-15% by volume is landfilled in five-to-seven years.”

Since land filling and burning are two of the most cost intensive waste management options for any county or municipality, the objective is to reduce dependence on those options as aggressively as possible. Even with well developed front end resource recovery options, there will always be a percentage of waste that needs to be buried in a secure landfill. The identification of a site and the construction of a landfill requires many years to operationalize. This work should begin immediately.

Motion by Sher Horosko, seconded by Robyn Gilden and carried.

Motion No. 33-07: “That the County enter into contract renegotiations with Waste Management, with the intent of gradually decreasing the percentage of trash committed for delivery and increase the percentage of recyclables under the contract for each of five years, and that the County reserve the right under the contract to sell unused capacity to other counties if it does not meet the required minimum of trash to be delivered in any given year.”

Under the current terms of our contract with Waste Management the County must deliver a base number of tons of trash per year to be hauled to a landfill in Virginia. As the County shifts its emphasis from a “bury” approach to a “resource recovery approach” there will be less and less trash to haul to Virginia. The County must take care not to create a disincentive to pursuing recovery strategies in the near term (the next five years), i.e. penalties for not delivering the threshold of trash required in the new Waste Management contract. The Council recommends a gradual decrease in the amount of trash “promised” to Waste Management per year:

Example: 100 tons per day (illustration only)

Year 1: 100%

Year 2: 90%

Year 3: 80%

Year 4: 70%

Year 5: 60%

COMMITTEE/WORK TEAM REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Cool Counties Committee update – Dan Andrews reported his committee has received approval on the member list by the BOC. The first meeting is set for Wednesday, October 17, 2007, at 1:00 p.m. in Room 300. Agenda includes understanding global warming, reviewing the Cool Counties Agreement signed by the BOC, and performing County building energy usage/audits, with completion by year’s end. Future goals include having Montgomery County Audit office address the EAC on the millions saved by their audit.

Environmental Awareness Awards – Ms. Kim Petry advised the 2008 awards would maintain past categories focusing on resource savings by having nomination forms e-mailed, and physical awards made of recyclables. Ms. Petry asked for 100% voting by the EAC for the awardees. Ms. Parr will check if the County will pay for the 2008 awards or sponsors should be solicited. Plans are to present awards in April, 2008 during County Government Week.

NEW BUSINESS – The 2008 meeting schedule was presented.

Motion No. 34-07, made by David Pyatt, seconded by Dan Andrews to adopt this schedule as presented. Motion carried.

COUNCIL MEMBERS – ISSUES FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION:

- Water Conservation Final Report comments – Ms. Robyn Gilden reported the County Water group will review this report at their October 17, 2007, meeting.
- Chair Merkle asked the members to think about the idea of the Carroll County Times environmental column that will be discussed at the November meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Builders for the Bay Symposium - Ms. Merkle and Mr. Johnson attended and reported back on the mission of getting the Bay “cleaned up.”
- Ms. Merkle congratulated Carroll County in being number one in the country in their commitment on the “Change A Light” campaign.
- Chair Merkle announced the November, 2007 EAC meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 13, 2007, at **3:00 p.m.** in Room 003/004.

- Mr. Andrews reminded the Council – Zoning hearing for Wind Turbines on October 10, 2007 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.; the upcoming Maryland Heartland Sustainable Living Fair to be held at the CC Farm Museum on May 24, 2008; and the need for a collection site for broken Compact Fluorescent Bulbs (CFLs).

ADJOURN:

MOTION NO. 35-07: Motion made by Sher Horosko, seconded by Jim Johnson, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m. Motion carried.

The next regularly scheduled meeting, an afternoon meeting, will be held **Tuesday, November 13, 2007, at 3:00 p.m.** in Room 003/004.

Please inform the secretary if you are unable to attend

Environmental and Resource Protection\ECO Files\EAC\MINUTES\2007\October 9, 2007