

<p>Carroll County ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES Karen L. Merkle, Chair Kim Petry, Vice Chair Tuesday, August 12, 2008, @ 3:00 p.m. Room 003/004, Carroll County Office Building (COB)</p>		<p style="text-align: right;">Cynthia M. Parr Chief, Administrative Services 225 N Center Street, Room 300 Westminster, MD 21157-5194 Telephone: 410-386-2232 Fax: 410-386-2485 cparr@ccg.carr.org</p>
---	---	--

Members Present:

Karen Merkle, Chair
Kim Petry
Robyn Gilden
Dan Andrews
Brian Rhoten
Chris Spaur
David Pyatt
Sandy Zebal

Members Absent:

Richard Haddad

County Government:

Cynthia Parr, County EAC Liaison
Terri Jones, Esq., Deputy County Attorney

Ann L. Baugher, Secretary to EAC
Janet Doody, Bureau of Resource Mgmt

Other Attendees:

L. Ellen Cutsail, Union Bridge Council
Charles Zeleski, CCHD

Dawn Eldridge, CCHD
Doug Howard, CATS

CALL TO ORDER - Ms. Karen Merkle, Chair, officially called the August 12, 2008, meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

Ms. Merkle began by welcoming Robyn Gilden back to the EAC meetings after an extended medical leave.

Ms. Merkle then asked for approval of the June 10, 2008, minutes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MOTION NO. 56-08: Motion was made by Robyn Gilden, seconded by Chris Spaur, approving the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS – Cindy Parr responded to an e-mail from Mrs. Mercer regarding the Bruceville Road situation. Ms. Parr advised Mr. Mehring’s BZA hearing will be on the 26th of August and clean-up is proceeding towards where it should be according to communications received from County inspectors who are routinely visiting the site.

OPEN FORUM – None

PRESENTATION: - Mr. Doug Howard, Executive Director, Carroll Area Transit System spoke to the EAC on “Transportation Services and Environmental Considerations”. Mr. Howard advised the EAC that Carroll Area Transit System (CATS) is open to any environmental considerations the Council has to offer and explained the many environmental considerations CATS has already put into place in the transportation business. Mr. Howard advised CATS’ fleet, handicapped equipped, is comprised of approximately 25 shuttle-type buses and 6 mini-vans having recently added their first gasoline bus to their fleet. CATS offers “on demand” service, 80% of their current ridership, along with scheduled shuttle routes, primarily transporting to supermarkets, work, medical appointments, Senior Centers and the

Carroll Community College, along with looking to add a variety of vehicles such as mini-vans, a car and a vehicle smaller than an SUV for diversification and economy. Mr. Howard indicated CATS is currently testing a driver being assigned to two vehicles to have the option of taking a smaller vehicle during off-peak demand. Mr. Howard emphasized to maximize financial cost, filling their buses is their focus. Ridership has increased with the high price of gasoline along with a shuttle stop at the Carroll Community College. Plans are to coordinate into the current four (4) shuttle runs, transfer connection availability adding even more convenience to riders. CATS makes efforts advertising their service to likely ridership.

Mr. Howard answered various questions the Council had. Members of the Council asked Mr. Howard if any research had been done looking into shuttling outside the borders to the Owings Mills Metro and giving possible consideration to using bio-diesel as opposed to regular diesel. Mr. Howard may be reached at doug4cats@aol.com; or, for more CATS information, click on www.carrolltransit.org.

Ms. Dawn Eldridge, Community Health Improvement Area Manager, CCHD – advised the EAC on what the Resource Conservation Coalition – Partnership for a Healthier Carroll County has done in the community and inquired on just how they may assist the EAC on environmental matters. Ms. Eldridge reported the groups goals are awareness and education. Partnership for a Healthier Carroll County (www.healthycarroll.org) acts as a coordinating hub linking the community together in the pursuit of health. Ms. Eldridge gave the Council a copy of “Healthy Carroll Vital Signs II”, a 10-year tracking indicator on key issues including water quality and supply. Ms. Eldridge wanted to let the Council know this Partnership is out there promoting at community events and happy to support EAC efforts.

The Council discussed partnering with this group may be a means of outreach.

Ms. Merkle thanked Mr. Howard and Ms. Eldridge for addressing the EAC.

NEW BUSINESS: -

Kim Petry was nominated, via e-mail, prior to the meeting, to serve as Vice Chair with no additional nominations received from the floor prior to voting. Ballots were passed out; Kim Petry was elected unanimously.

The Bylaws and Chapter 16 of the Code of Public and Local Laws of Carroll County were reviewed and discussed by the Council. Discussion of various issues included election by the Council for the Chair and Vice Chair, each to serve a 2-year term; whether or not the Tree Commission should remain in the ordinance as an EAC function; and, eliminating specific language in Section 6, paragraph two as to duties and responsibilities of EAC members. Chair Merkle asked the Council to review the “draft” passed out that members commented and discussed, and, come to the September, 2008 meeting prepared to vote on the changes discussed at this meeting, along with any that may be discussed prior to a motion. Ms. Terri Jones advised the Council that changing the ordinance would take approximately 30-to-60 days allowing for public notice and a public hearing. Ms. Jones advised the ordinance and bylaws should be consistent as they will be presented as a package with the signing of the ordinance being a prerequisite to the adoption of the bylaws.

The proposed 2009 meeting dates were adopted.

2009 MEETING DATES ADOPTED: MOTION NO. 57-08: Motion made by David Pyatt, seconded by Brian Rhoten, to adopt the 2009 meeting dates as presented. Motion carried.

The 2009 Environmental Awareness Awards criteria and nomination form changes were explained by Kim Petry, Chair of the Environmental Awareness Awards Committee. Along with Ms. Petry, Robyn

Gilden, and Sandy Zebal agreed to serve on this committee. Ms. Petry will be submitting the forms to the County's Department of Technical Services to prepare the documents in a PDF format where applicants may complete on-line and submit electronically to avoid paper waste. The Council left minor detail changes in the awards criteria up to the committee and then voted on the 2009 revised nomination and categories form.

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS CATEGORIES ADOPTION: MOTION NO. 58-08: Motion made by Kim Petry, seconded by David Pyatt, to adopt the awareness awards categories and nomination form as presented, with criteria detail to be at the discretion of the Environmental Awareness Awards Committee. Motion carried.

COUNCIL MEMBERS – ISSUES FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION:

- Chair Merkle asked Cindy Parr to inquire if the Carroll County Times offer is still open for an EAC column. This issue will be on the September agenda to include a revisited concern if all EAC members or an appointee or appointees shall review each article written prior to submission.
- A lengthy discussion on promoting rain barrels ended with Chair Merkle advising the Council she would send something to the Board of Commissioners, in response to Commissioner Zimmer's question to the Council, stating the EAC supported rain barrels in their Water Conservation Plan and feels an internal agency should pursue this worthy venture.
- Mr. Dan Andrews briefed the Council on possibly recommending to the BOC a "property tax incentive" for County residents utilizing renewable energy and utility-derived wind energy.
- Mr. Chris Spaur believed that since the County neither supplies, transports, nor regulates energy that the proposal was outside of County government purview. Mr. Spaur noted that in contrast, previous effort to change zoning to allow wind energy was appropriate, since County is involved in land zoning.

After much discussion, a motion was presented.

RECOMMENDATION FOR PROPERTY TAX CREDIT: MOTION NO. 59-08: Motion made by David Pyatt, seconded by Kim Petry, "Recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners to establish a position, with assistance from EAC members and staff to propose to the 2009 General Assembly, a tax credit for renewable energy and utility-derived wind energy in the form of a property tax credit to Carroll Countians. Motion carried six (6) yes; one (1) abstaining.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – None

ADJOURN: MOTION NO. 60-08: Motion made by Brian Rhoten, seconded by Sandy Zebal, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 5:22 p.m. Motion carried.

The next regularly scheduled meeting, an **afternoon** meeting, will be held **Tuesday, September 9, 2008, at 3:00 p.m.** in Room 003/004.

Please inform the secretary if you are unable to attend