



Carroll County Environmental Advisory Council (EAC)

Josh Hatkin, Chair

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2014 Annual Report

2014 WORK PLAN PROGRESS

Booklet – 2014 Environmental Stewardship in Carroll County:

The Board of County Commissioners tasked the Environmental Advisory County (EAC) to prepare a document that demonstrates Carroll's environmental stewardship and some of the good work being done by the County.

COMPLETED



Energy Use & Cost Savings:

The EAC was still in the process of updating the 2008 study, as included in the 2014 work plan. Josh Hatkin, EAC Chair, took over the lead on the project from EAC member Kim Petry.

In July 2014, the Board approved a contract with Johnson Controls (JC) to perform an energy audit on County facilities. Since JC's work included much of what the EAC project would have covered, instead, a new project will be included in the 2015 work plan in which the EAC will participate in the JC project by providing input to the staff committee reviewing JC's work and recommendations.

DISMISSED

Solid Waste Subcommittee Service on Solid Waste Advisory Council (SWAC):

Two members of the EAC's Solid Waste Subcommittee were appointed by the Board to the Solid Waste Advisory Council. The purpose of the group is to serve in an advisory capacity to

the Department of Public Works regarding implementation of recommendations from the Solid Waste Work Group's report, input on potential capital projects and future directions, as well as public outreach efforts. The Subcommittee would serve as liaisons between the two groups to allow for additional collaboration and input.

ONGOING

Solar Facilities:

The Board tasked the EAC with studying location and financing information related to solar panels/farms. Task 1 was completed by the EAC. Staff recommended changes to the zoning code and presented the proposed changes to the Planning Commission for review and recommendation. Changes to the County Code were adopted by the Board in August 2014, except for changes related to the Agricultural zone.

Tasks 2 and 3 of the original work plan involved research on grants, as well as options for property owners to obtain credits from utility companies and State and federal agencies. As much of the information is already available online, and summarized nicely in the document *DSIRE SOLAR POLICY GUIDE: A Resource for State Policymakers*, the EAC prepared a cover memo and forwarded this document to the Board.

COMPLETED

ACTIONS TAKEN

- ◆ *Booklet – Environmental Stewardship in Carroll County:* A booklet was created that highlighted these activities and accomplishments. EAC members presented the completed document to the Board in

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open session on May 13, 2014. Hardcopies were distributed, and the document is available to view or download on the EAC webpage.

- ◆ *Energy Use & Cost Savings:* Josh Hatkin, EAC Chair, as well as member David Hynes, met with Ray Prokop, Director of Facilities Management with Carroll County Public Schools (CCPS), several times to learn what has done to reduce energy use and avoid costs. Mr. Prokop briefed the EAC on CCPS's efforts at the August 2014 meeting.
- ◆ *Solid Waste Advisory Group (SWAC):* The SWAC held its first meeting on July 31, 2014. Three subsequent meetings were held in 2014. The members developed a mission statement, are establishing their goals, and determining their direction. The SWAC toured the Howard County composting facility in October. KCI, a consultant working with the County's DPW staff to evaluate the Solid Waste Management Plan, presented on the status of this project.
- ◆ *Solar Facilities – Code Changes:* Staff recommended changes to the zoning code and presented the proposed changes to the Planning Commission for review and recommendation. A member of the EAC served on a special committee to review changes for the Agricultural zone and prepare a report and recommendation to the Board by the end of 2014.
- ◆ *Solar Facilities – Educational Materials:* The EAC prepared a cover memo and forwarded the document, *DSIRE SOLAR POLICY GUIDE: A*

Resource for State Policymakers, to the Board.

- ◆ *Work Plan:* The EAC approved its 2014 work plan in January 2014. In November and December, the EAC drafted a work plan of proposed projects for 2015 in preparation for the annual joint meeting with the Board to be scheduled in February 2015 (to allow the new Board some extra time before meeting) and approved the proposed work plan (pending Board concurrence) in December 2014.
- ◆ *Annual Report:* The 2014 annual report to the Board was drafted in November, then reviewed and approved in December 2014.

CITIZEN CONCERNS/ISSUES

The following concerns or issues were brought to the EAC's attention. The EAC responded or referred the individuals to the appropriate agencies.

- ◆ *April:* Restocking fish in stormwater pond after construction
- ◆ *August:* Development of a forested area

INFORMATIONAL BRIEFINGS RECEIVED

- ◆ *January:* Code Changes re: Solar Energy
- ◆ *August:* Ag Tire Drop-off program
- ◆ *August:* Energy Use & Cost Savings at Carroll County Public Schools (CCPS)
- ◆ *August:* Code Changes re: Solar Energy
- ◆ *September:* Carroll County Stormwater Permit Status
- ◆ *November:* Status Update re: Carroll County & Municipalities MS4 Memorandum of Agreement

MEMBERS

No new members were appointed, and no existing member's terms expired during 2014.

<u>Member</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Term Expiration</u>
n/a	n/a	n/a