

**ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY  
COUNCIL – MAY 17, 2006  
@ 3:00 P.M., Room 003  
Carroll County Office Building**



**James E. Slater, Jr., AICP, QEP  
Environmental Compliance Officer  
225 N. Center Street  
Westminster MD 21157-5194  
410.386.2756**

## **MINUTES**

**Members Present:** Robyn Gilden, Co-Chair  
David Pyatt  
Christopher Spaur  
Sher Horosko  
Jim Johnson  
Brian Rhoten

**Members Absent:** Karen Merkle, Chair  
Robert Foor-Houge  
Kevin Dayhoff

**County Government:** Commissioner Perry Jones  
Cynthia Parr, County Commissioners Office  
Timothy Feeser, County Commissioners Office  
Steven Horn, Director of Planning  
James E. Slater, Jr., Office of Environmental Compliance  
Joe Varrone, Administrator, Performance Auditing & Special Projects  
Tom Devilbiss, Chief, Bureau of Resource Management  
Ann L. Baugher, Secretary to EAC

**The Press:** Carrie Knauer, Carroll County Times

**Other Attendees:** Henry Hepner, Resident  
Cheri Grubby, resident/Carroll Joint Neighborhood Association  
Mary A. Kowalski, resident/Carroll Joint Neighborhood Association  
Patsy Annis, resident/Carroll Joint Neighborhood Association  
Reider J White, MDE, Out Reach Section of Air & Radiation Mgmt Administration  
Russ Ulrich, Baltimore Metropolitan Council  
Lillian Bunton, Baltimore Metropolitan Council  
Vince Campanella, C&A Associates  
Kent Martin, Plant Manager, Lehigh Cement  
Peter Lukas, Former Plant Manager, Lehigh Cement  
Ellen Cutsail, Union Bridge Council Member  
Charles Zeleski, Carroll County Health Department  
Lynne Spector, Zephyr Environmental  
Jennifer Seinfeld, Zephyr Environmental

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### **CALL TO ORDER:**

Ms. Gilden, Co-Chair, chaired the meeting in the absence of Chair Karen Merkle. Ms. Gilden officially called the meeting to order at 3:09 P.M. by asking for approval of the April 19, 2006 minutes.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**MOTION NO. 38:** Motion was made by Jim Johnson and seconded by David Pyatt, to approve the minutes of April 19, 2006, as presented.

## **COMMUNICATIONS:**

Mr. Slater announced correspondence regarding two (2) issues were distributed to the EAC.

1) letter regarding the airport expansion by Mr. Joe Varrone, Administrator, Performance Auditing and Special Projects, was sent to the Carroll Joint Neighborhood Association; and, 2) notes on the Parrott Materials Public Information Meeting held May 16, 2006, at the Mt. Airy Library.

## **OPEN FORUM:**

Ms. Gilden indicated the Open Forum is an opportunity for County residents to express concerns or to propose issues to be considered as future EAC agenda items. Ms. Gilden stated that after comments are made, the council will have the opportunity to ask questions. She asked that their comments be brief since any comments made are for consideration by the Council to address at future meetings not on today's agenda.

- Mr. Henry Hepner – Carroll County resident, attending his third EAC meeting, reaffirmed his concerns stated at the March 15, 2006 and April 19, 2006 meetings, on issues of public dumping in the Saw Mill Road area, the halt of trash pickup, safety patrols once a week and not following through on items stated in a letter he received from the Department of General Services several months ago. Mr. Hepner feels the County is responsible for covering up hazardous materials and the property owner should not be liable for this cleanup. Mr. Hepner has difficulty respecting the County when people are afraid of stepping on someone's toes and failing to protect the watershed. Mr. Hepner acknowledged he had received a letter from Maryland Department of the Environment regarding tire cleanup on Saw Mill Road.

Mr. Slater gave the EAC an update on MDE's involvement in handling the tire cleanup on Saw Mill Road and the good job they did on a similar situation in Detour, MD. MDE advised this process would take some time and when MDE contacted Mr. Shriver, owner of the property where the tires had been dumped, Mr. Shriver thought all the tires were removed.

Ms. Gilden asked if there would be a follow-up to the trash not being picked up and apologized to Mr. Hepner for not knowing the status of Ms. Horosko's involvement in the tire removal issues in her absence.

Mr. David Pyatt stated he was okay with the fact this project was moving forward.

- Ms. Cheri Grubby, a resident and member of the Carroll Joint Neighborhood Association (CJNA), the first of three (3) members present to express their opposition of the Carroll County Airport expansion, gave the EAC a letter, dated May 17, 2006, from the CJNA, (copies of this document were mailed to all EAC members.). Ms. Grubby affirmed concerns of runway runoff, wetland areas and questions relative to jurisdictional determination and forest preservation. Ms. Grubby thanked the EAC for listening, asking for possible suggestions in keeping involved in protecting these areas.

Mr. Spaur told Ms. Grubby there are regulated and unregulated wetlands. There are expiration dates due to environmental changes, over time, as is the case for jurisdictional determination that situations may and do change over the course of time.

In response to Ms. Grubby's concern about airport runoff, Mr. Slater advised that runoff is managed by permit at the airport whereby compliance is necessary to maintain their permit.

- Ms. Patsy Annis, also a Pinch Valley resident asked the EAC why the County would wait to perform an environmental assessment for the airport until after the expansion plan is approved. She also stated her concern for input and fairness in the airport expansion project as well as qualified parties involved in the environmental assessment.

Mr. Slater stated the assessment is done with a specific plan in mind, so the information is relative to the approved plan. The environmental assessment will be done by URS and the Department of Natural Resources will be involved who have a full-staff of experts in this field.

Mr. Varrone stated that URS is No. 1 Engineering firm in the United States for the third year in a row.

Ms. Gilden said the local URS office welcomes community input while doing their assessment.

- Ms. Mary Kowalski, a resident from the airport area, attending her second EAC meeting, emphasized her concern for safety of residents, potential historical sites potentially being disrupted and the majority of the residents feeling the frustration "there is nothing they can do." Ms. Kowalski wants to see the potential airport expansion project be an open process where the community is well informed of its progress.

### **COUNCIL MEMBERS CONCERNS:**

Ms. Gilden thanked the EAC for their well wishes during the recent birth of her daughter.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Mr. Kent Martin, new Plant Manager of Lehigh Cement, gave a brief introduction of himself. Mr. Martin wishes to continue keeping open the lines of communication that Lehigh is very proud of and Mr. Peter Lukas had done as the previous Plant Manager.

The EAC warmly welcomed Mr. Martin.

### **MTBE monthly update contamination issues in Carroll County:**

Mr. Charles Zeleski, CCHD, reported that he had only one case of MTBE to report since the last EAC meeting. That site is Sullivan Trailer Park on Old Westminster Road, across from Sandymount Road, where contaminant levels were found to be at 20 ppb. Mr. Zeleski reported the levels are dropping since MTBE was found at this site. A public meeting was held on May 4, 2006. No MTBE was found in the surrounding areas by the CCHD and isolated to wells serving the trailer park.

Mr. Zeleski informed the council that the CCHD has begun their monitoring program and completed the first round of sampling in areas where MTBE was discovered. The CCHD is sampling

homes that had <20 ppb and will have the results shortly from this first round of testing with anticipation of levels decreasing at these sites.

Ms. Sher Horosko asked in reading the newspaper articles on this specific property as to how did the CCHD handle the owner not having to install a filter at this trailer park, what did their department think and what could be done.

Mr. Zeleski responded there is no set standard since the MTBE ppb is an action level. Legally, Mr. Zeleski stated, the owner of the community water system in this trailer park does not even have to notify tenants but in this case, the owner did notify them. The CCHD will continue to sample monthly for trend or peak discovery. MDE's Oil Control Program has monies available in their fund to assist property owners in situations like these. The owner has agreed to install treatment. Additionally, Mr. Zeleski stated the CCHD will continue to monitor the progress of a MTBE standard being set from the current action level.

Mr. Zeleski reported he is working on a protocol for MTBE investigations and timelines to give the public an idea of just what to expect after a contamination of MTBE has been identified.

Mr. Zeleski also said the CCHD reviews subdivisions of existing properties and recently advised a property owner on tank spill containment that can be installed underneath the tank that should a leak occur, it would contain the leak with no impact to their water supply.

Mr. Pyatt stated Mr. Zeleski's report was very thorough.

Mr. Slater updated the EAC on taking some issues before the Commissioners of Carroll County.

- 1) The letter under Motion No. 32, approved 3/15/06 is in the process of being sent to the CCHD.
- 2) Motion No. 33 approved 3/15/06, Mr. Slater has already spoken with local oil companies regarding scheduling ways to encourage homeowners to remove their underground tanks.
- 3) The CCC, did not offer any guidance or survey preferences, advised Mr. Slater that the EAC should take the lead in picking priority topics from the EAC final survey results.

### **Final Survey Results:**

Ms. Gilden stated that next on the agenda, under New Business, the council would get a brief overview of air quality and water. Ms. Gilden stated that water resources and environmental education would most likely be a part of all EAC topics.

Mr. Pyatt brought up Mt. Airy is beginning their search for water resources and shortly there would be a meeting with the town, MDE and an engineer. Mr. Pyatt will keep the council informed as things progress as to any involvement the EAC may wish to consider.

Mr. Johnson and Ms. Horosko indicated they would be willing to serve on a sub-committee for Green Buildings.

Interest to serve on an Environmental Policy in Land Use sub-committee, in the future, was shown by Mr. Pyatt and Ms. Gilden.

Mr. Slater added that Mr. Rhoten and Mr. Foor-Hogue are currently serving on the Awards sub-committee with Mr. Slater and Ms. Merkle.

The EAC discussed the survey topic results, dated May 3, 2006, as ranked by the council. Discussion was heard on forming sub-committees incorporating public expertise on various survey topics simultaneously, confirming goals and outcome, time and energy to accomplish multiple tasks or taking the items one at a time. Mr. Rhoten recommended the Council follow the priority topics as reported in the Council's survey. No formal action taken.

The EAC asked Mr. Slater to coordinate the topic of water at the June, 2006, meeting. What we know, what we don't know and what we can do about water.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Mr. Russ Ulrich of the Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC) spoke on regional Air Quality, one of the biggest challenges the BMC faces. Mr. Ulrich stated that 1/5 of all emissions are from single occupancy vehicles (SOVs) with May, 2006 as "Clean Commute Month". Cutting down on SOV use, utilizing mass transit and teleworking, if an option, along with ride sharing, and car pooling are some ways everyone can help with air quality.

Mr. Ulrich informed the EAC three (3) Clean Car Clinics were scheduled in Maryland. Certified technicians will be on site to perform complimentary inspections on fuel economy; and, a clinic will be held in Carroll County, at the Town Mall in Westminster, MD on Saturday, June 10, 2006. The BMC has well advertised this event.

Clean Air Partners and MDE coded Ozone Days many years ago; Mr. Ulrich suggested residents of Carroll County pay attention to these codes to maximize their outdoor enjoyment on the better air quality days. Mr. Ulrich thanked the EAC for allowing him to speak on Air Quality.

Ms. Gilden on behalf of the EAC thanked Mr. Ulrich of the BMC, Lillian Bunton, BMC Rideshare Coordinator and Mr. Reider J. White, MDE, Out Reach Section Director Air & Radiation Management Administration for attending.

2. Mr. Tom Devilbiss, Bureau Chief of Resource Management showed a presentation on all areas his Bureau handles for Carroll County - *Forest Conservation, Landscaping, Stormwater Management, Environmental Inspections, Floodplain Management and Water Resources*, being their main focus. He also showed which chapter of the code is applicable to each of these areas. (Copies of his presentation were mailed to each EAC member). Mr. Devilbiss' dedicated staff is comprised of 15, of which five (5) very busy inspectors perform between 1,100 – 1,300 inspections each month. Mr. Devilbiss said before any permit is issued in the County, all Federal and State permits must be issued. Mr. Devilbiss also told the EAC that Carroll County is a leader in the State of Maryland in retention in keeping forests that are there, there. Resource Management is very proud of that achievement. Mr. Devilbiss feels Carroll County is a leader in the state in environmental programs also. He closed informing the EAC that his staff is always at their disposal. Copies of the manuals on diskette will be given to the EAC when the manual revisions are completed.

Mr. David Pyatt in working with Mr. Devilbiss, remarked that Resource Management is truly ahead of the curve.

Mr. Brian Rhoten asked Mr. Devilbiss if the County submits plans for County projects. Mr. Devilbiss responded that is currently the case.

3. Mr. Joe Varrone gave the EAC an update on the airport expansion. Mr. Varrone stated the expansion, should it be approved, would cost 75 million, funded 95% with federal money, 2.5% with state money, leaving the remaining 2.5% being paid by Carroll County. Mr. Varrone gave the EAC a copy of the capital project which would pay for the County's share. Mr. Varrone explained that the airport, owned by Carroll County, is an Enterprise Fund, meaning it is a stand alone fund paying its own way, a separate business. The expansion would generate revenues to the County's tax base as well as revenues to the Enterprise Fund. There are no plans in this expansion for a tower, meaning no large commercial carriers could utilize this airport. The 737s that will be using this airport have a passenger capacity of 20.

A 20-year Master Plan for the airport is to be completed by the end of 2006. Upon completion of the Airport Master Plan, a public meeting where residents may share their concerns with the Commissioners will be held.

Ms. Horosko asked what prompted the airport expansion now.

Mr. Varrone told the EAC the expansion was prompted by private corporations and their desire to utilize this airport for their corporate jets. The current runway is 5,100 feet and proposed to expand to 6,400 feet. If the Airport Master Plan is adopted, then an Environmental Assessment will be done. This assessment will take, conservatively, 18 to 24 months, or longer. Mr. Varrone is uncertain just how many additional acres will be needed to extend the runway an additional 1,300 feet.

Several questions and comments from the Council were addressed to Mr. Varrone on the airport expansion update:

Mr. Spaur said the project is at the basic point and a good time for concerned residents to become involved. He raised the question "Is the EAC in a proponent role, if the County moves forward with the airport expansion project?"

Ms. Horosko pointed out the intensity of public comment and it has not yet been determined if there is a need for this expansion. The feeling residents have of being left out is very real and they have projected a lot of energy voicing their concerns.

Mr. Rhoten asked how much land will need to be purchased to expand the runway.

Mr. Varrone responded he did not yet know how much land would be needed.

Ms. Horosko asked if Mr. Varrone if "take" meant eminent domain?

Mr. Varrone responded affirmatively and stressed that this project is a together/we and not an us/them process.

Ms. Gilden stated the EAC hears the residents' concerns and interests in the airport expansion project and indicated it is still early enough in the process to become involved. Ms. Gilden thanked all for coming.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Mr. Rhoten commended Ms. Gilden on her chairing of the meeting. No other announcements were made from the Chair.

**UPCOMING JUNE MEETING:**

Mr. Tom Devilbiss will attend to further discuss “water”.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOTION NO. 39:** Motion made by Brian Rhoten and seconded by Jim Johnson, to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 5:43 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is June 21, 2006, at 3:00 p.m. in Room 003. Please let the secretary know if you will not be able to attend.