

**ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY
COUNCIL – JUNE 21, 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
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MINUTES

Members Present: Karen Merkle, Chair
Robyn Gilden, Co-Chair
Christopher Spaur
Sher Horosko
Jim Johnson
Brian Rhoten
David Pyatt
Robert Foor-Houge

Members Absent: Kevin Dayhoff

County Government: Cynthia Parr, County Commissioners Office
Timothy Feeser, County Commissioners Office
James E. Slater, Jr., Office of Environmental Compliance
Tom Devilbiss, Chief, Bureau of Resource Management
Hugh Murphy, Hydrogeologist, Bureau of Resource Management
Jeff Keefer, Office of Environmental Compliance
Tom Robertson, Bureau of Facilities
Ann L. Baugher, Secretary to EAC

The Press: Carrie Knauer, Carroll County Times
Kelsey Volkmann, Baltimore Examiner
Laura McCandlish, Baltimore Sun

Other Attendees: Cheri Grubby, resident/Carroll Joint Neighborhood Association
Mary A. Kowalski, resident/Carroll Joint Neighborhood Association
Allan Heilig, Meadow Creek Homeowners Association
Karen Carroll, Haines Realty
Helen Wolfe, Woman's Club of Westminster
Kurt Deery, Lehigh Cement
Ellen Cutsail, Union Bridge Council Member
Charles Zeleski, Carroll County Health Department
Ed Singer, Carroll County Health Department
Brian Flynn, Carroll County Health Department

CALL TO ORDER:

Ms. Merkle, Chair, officially called the meeting to order at 3:03 P.M., by asking for approval of the May 17, 2006 minutes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION NO. 40: Motion was made by Sher Horosko and seconded by Bob Foor-Hogue, to approve the minutes of May 17, 2006, as presented, with the following corrections:

- 1) On Page 4, Ms. Slater was *corrected* to read, **Mr. Slater**.
- 2) On Page 5, 1st paragraph, second to last sentence, *added*, **Mr. Rhoten recommended the Council follow the priority topics as reported in the Council's survey.**
- 3) On Page 6, mid-page, added *after* "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?"**

COMMUNICATIONS:

- 1) The Carroll County Health Department submitted to the State their Protocol for Petroleum Release Investigations, included in today's handout.
- 2) Mr. Slater also called attention to the handout distributed to the EAC today on Green Building Network Announcements & Tour Reminder for their use and information.

OPEN FORUM:

Ms. Merkle 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. Merkle stated that after comments are made, the council will have the opportunity to ask questions. She asked that comments be kept at a maximum of three (3) minutes, due to a heavy agenda and any comments made are for consideration by the Council to address at future meetings not on today's agenda.

- Ms. Helen Wolf – Woman's Club of Westminster – asked the EAC to adjust their microphones so they could be heard by the audience.
- Mr. Allan Heilig – Meadow Creek Homeowners' Association – Mr. Heilig wanted to go on record and asked that someone look into a proposed asphalt walking trail, in the Meadow Creek Development. Concerns include the walking trail being close to a natural spring feeding into wetlands and keeping this clear in the winter might involve salt run off. Mr. Slater advised Mr. Heilig that since this development is within the City of Westminster, a copy of the minutes would be forwarded to them.
- Ms. Cheri Grubby – Carroll Joint Neighborhood Association – provided a handout of material to the EAC and asked if any noise monitoring studies have been done at the airport and what part would the EAC play in the airport expansion. Mr. Slater indicated he was unaware of any noise monitoring studies being done and the EAC may be given information when the environmental assessment is done. Ms. Merkle stated if this expansion moves forward, the EAC may be asked to provide feedback. According to Joe Varrone's timeline, the reports from the assessment may not be completed until sometime in 2007.

Ms. Merkle thanked residents for coming and sharing their concerns with the EAC.

COUNCIL MEMBERS CONCERNS:

Ms. Merkle thanked Ms. Gilden for chairing the May, 2006, meeting in her absence.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

MTBE monthly update contamination issues in Carroll County:

Mr. Brian Flynn, CCHD, gave the monthly update. First, he reported two (2) new cases of MTBE since the last EAC meeting.

- 1) a. Grave Run & Hoffmanville Roads - discovered after a family in this area began noticing some health problems. Their home had a level of 210 ppb. Four (4) additional sites were tested; the levels in three (3) of the four (4) sites was greater than 20 ppb. Letters were sent to 80 residents and 20 additional properties were sampled. There will be a public meeting in mid-July regarding this case. Mr. Flynn told the EAC that it is too early to tell the source of this contamination.
- b. Middleburg Road, in the Village of Middleburg – odors reported in water. Levels were found >20 ppb and one at 160 ppb. Five (5) additional properties were sampled, three (3) of the five (5) had detections <10 ppb. Additional sampling will be done and reported to the EAC at the July, 2006 meeting.
- 2) Gamber – Mr. Flynn informed the EAC that MDE is taking the lead installing monitoring wells at several sites. A heating oil tank was removed, found to have a perforation, and under further investigation.
- 3) Royal Farms - Additional sampling has been done indicating another sources or sources. Several residential storage tanks are being investigated.

Ms. Horosko asked how much time to put monitoring wells in place and if this process was an easy one.

Mr. Slater, after speaking with Mr. Jim Richmond of MDE, told the EAC that it takes time to obtain entry rights to install monitoring wells.

Ms. Horosko asked if the CCHD had an update on MTBE for Hampstead and is it true that the residents having MTBE problems would not be annexed into Hampstead.

Mr. Flynn said that only a small amount of residents were seeking public water and the remainder that are on wells have treatment systems in place. The CCHD samples have shown these sites below the actual level, however, they remain on the sampling schedule.

Mr. Slater advised the EAC on the contents of a letter he received from MDE, dated June 15, 2006, addressed to Colonial Pipeline and BP Oil Company, Inc., asking for information and a response to several items. Subject, abandoned pipeline running through Carroll County that may still contain residuals.

Mr. Ed Singer, CCHD, said this response was requested prior to subdivision approval.

Mr. Singer said the contamination protocol was completed and even though they were not required, a copy was sent to MDE for their input. These guidelines can be amended, if necessary. Mr. Singer said the CCHD is more interested in drinking water quality while MDE is more interested in cleanup.

Mr. Charles Zeleski said while putting together the protocol, long-term trial and error results were incorporated.

Mr. Pyatt said the document appears to be a common sense document of 20-years of lessons learned.

Ms. Horosko made a comment that the protocol is very good and what stays with her is the long time period to get the state lab results. She feels we might ask the BOC to set aside a pool of money, say \$200 per test, so residents can get the results faster than the state turnaround.

Mr. Flynn indicated that if they push the lab, it is possible to get a turnaround in 2 to 3 weeks. If all the blanks are complete on the form and they highlight groundwater contamination, the lab results are obtained faster.

Mr. Zeleski stated their advice is, if you smell or taste something, don't drink the water. Notify the CCHD.

Ms. Horosko asked at what level would you smell or taste MTBE?

Mr. Zeleski said between 20 to 40 ppb. Some individuals can smell at 10 ppb while others don't taste or smell until levels reach 50 to 60 ppb.

Ms. Merkle asked if any funding is available to the residents to assist them in MTBE contamination.

Mr. Zeleski said the CCHD has been unsuccessful finding funds.

Mr. Rhoten complimented the CCHD on doing a good job in the protocol, what was unclear before is now clear. This will assist the EAC when upset residents come in since the guidelines are now on paper.

Mr. Singer added, the frustration the community experiences is the MDE process and who does what, identifying the responsible party and the length of time it takes to decide who will do what and when.

Mr. Zeleski added that in their contact letters to residents, information is included should they wish to contact their own lab for a fee. A lot of issues are addressed by the CCHD, i.e. letters to the community, sampling, before MDE is involved.

Ms. Horosko reiterated her concern for a more concrete solution to the timeline and nothing conveys caring more than an expeditious response. She questioned the CCHD on who will be the point person advocate to advance a remediation situation in a community, who will keep MDE's feet to the fire so this is not such a long process; and, how is the FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) coming along.

Mr. Zeleski responded that the FAQ is not yet done. They are working on expanding the FAQ so not solely MTBE, but to include other issues regularly covered by the CCHD.

Mr. Singer said he'd like to see the Gamber issue further along; however, MDE does not want to pick up the tab if a private party is responsible and all this takes time as part of the overall process. The CCHD tries to expedite matters, and to do this, they try to work cooperatively with all involved agencies.

Mr. Zeleski said once a responsible party is confirmed, feet are then held to the fire. The system does work and the reality is in getting the information to the involved parties.

Ms. Merkle asked, where there is no known source, is it up to the resident to buy their own water?

Mr. Singer responded that if over 20 ppb, MDE will install filters. He agrees with the resident from Gamber who attended the April meeting and her concern of keeping the involved residents up-to-date on the progress of the investigation. Mr. Singer will have his staff bring all information in their regular communication with Jim Richmond, MDE to each EAC meeting on the most current MTBE status.

Ms. Merkle said the CCHD has fact sheets to give to citizens and the CCHD affirmed that statement.

Discussion was then heard from several EAC members considering a motion brought to the floor:

Ms. Gilden said she had two items she wished to be considered now or later: What does the EAC consider success in their advocacy role, what are the benchmarks, or what recourse would the EAC take if not successful or receptive.

Mr. Pyatt understands Ms. Horosko's concern and agrees with the advocacy role and the motion is a good way to pursue this.

Mr. Rhoten, for the record, wants to be clear that the EAC is an advocate; but doesn't want to project to the public that people shouldn't take care of themselves. Being advocates is the reason for the EAC and he agrees in sending the letter.

More discussion on the timeliness of MTBE reporting continued from the council with the CCHD, concluding with a motion.

MOTION NO. 41 was made by Sher Horosko, seconded by Robyn Gilden, and carried,
to ask the Board of County Commissioners that the EAC assume an advocacy role to advance MTBE remediation efforts through periodic contact with MDE, details of which will be further defined.

Ms. Gilden and Ms. Horosko volunteered to assist Ms. Merkle in putting this letter together with input by the CCHD and Mr. Slater. The contents of the letter to MDE will be brought back before the EAC for comment before submitting to the Board of Commissioners.

Ms. Merkle thanked the CCHD for their monthly update.

Mr. Slater brought up the tank removal public relations project. Ms. Merkle asked for a volunteer to work with Mr. Slater on public information for the media, news, cable, etc. on this project. Ms. Merkle advised she will call the EAC to see who would assist in this project. Ms. Horosko said the CCHD would work with the EAC to get information out.

Lehigh Biosolids Workgroup Update:

Ms. Horosko reported on the Biosolids Workgroup Lehigh plant tour on June 7, 2006. The group was impressed with the way the biosolids were handled, i.e. storage, use and the odor from burning the biosolids was almost non-existent. The test burn has been delayed since Synagro, unable to supply Lehigh with enough material, has been delayed until July. At the conclusion of the 4-week test burn, some air quality data will be available. The Johns Hopkins group agreed to draft a proposal to apply for funding to evaluate this use of biosolids, the combustion process in cement plants versus the conventional disposal of biosolids for land application. Dr. Tom Burke of Johns Hopkins, serves on the National Academy of Sciences, where these conversations take place. The success of this application would greatly expand the arena into a much larger venture. When the draft proposal is received, the Biosolids Workgroup will again sit down, at Mr. Derry's request, with Lehigh to discuss the proposal as well as being reviewed by the EAC.

Ms. Horosko added that Lehigh's Chief of Alternative Fuels, Mr. Ed Morton, is traveling around Maryland visiting wastewater treatment facilities. He has been quite successful in sharing this concept of using dryers for biosolids disposal. Positive results have been received from Elkton, Salisbury and Easton, Maryland, as well as Washington County. All have or are about to install dryers. Not only will it address the solid waste issues in Maryland, but it will serve as an alternative fuel source as well.

Jim Slater informed the EAC he will distribute Mr. Morton's CDs at the annual training session for the Towns in Carroll County, to be held on Friday, June 23, 2006, at Carroll Community College.

Mr. Deery from Lehigh informed the EAC that their supplier promised more loads the week of June 21, 2006, for the test burn. Their goal is to see how the combustion system will react, since it currently burns 30 ton of coal an hour and using biosolids, it would burn only 2 to 3 tons per hour. This will be a learning curve for the operators. Lehigh is looking forward to the compliance testing. Mr. Deery informed the EAC that the Town of Union Bridge was scheduled to tour the plant that evening.

Ms. Merkle thanked Ms. Horosko for her organization and keeping the group on task; and, what a wonderful community business partnership Lehigh has been. This venture has a whole lot of potential with broad reaches. Ms. Merkle also asked Mr. Deery if a tour could be arranged in the fall for the EAC and the Tech Council as well. Mr. Deery said that would be no problem.

Mr. Slater commented as someone who had seen the old plant before the kiln was constructed and the new plant's technology is leaps and bounds above the old as well as the housekeeping.

Saw Mill Road update:

Mr. Slater reported to the EAC that the County has decided to take on the responsibility of cleanup of Saw Mill Road. MDE has been notified and Mr. Shriver has volunteered to be a part of it. A plan will be assembled and submitted to MDE.

Ms. Robin Gilden inquired of Mr. Slater if the plan will be written so the property does not get back to the way it was in the future. Mr. Slater believes it will be a part of the plan.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. EAC member to participate in the Waste To Energy project with the DPW Director, J. Michael Evans - Mr. Slater asked the EAC for a volunteer to sit on the Waste To Energy Committee with Mr. J. Michael Evans.

Ms. Gilden asked for more details on what serving would involve.

Ms. Merkle asked the EAC to contact Mr. Slater for more details and if interested in serving on this committee.

2. 2006 Environmental Awareness Awards – Ms. Merkle asked Mr. Bob Foor-Hogue, Chair to report. Mr. Foor-Hogue stated this award would be resurrected again to raise environmental awareness in the County. The group discussed changing the application used previously from three (3) to five (5) categories to include students and agriculture. Timeline would be Outdoor Day (formerly known as Earth Day) in April, 2007. The Committee is reviewing the application and looking to put a space in for sponsors. The next meeting will be on July 13, 2006, at 10:00 A.M., at Carroll Community College.

Ms. Merkle apologized to the council for not getting out an e-mail prior to the meeting as to what the Council would like to focus on and what they still want to know on the issue of “water.” Ms. Merkle asked the EAC to discuss this after Mr. Devilbiss’ presentation.

- 3. Mr. Tom Devilbiss, Bureau Chief of Resource Management, showed a presentation on *Water Resource Planning and Management in Carroll County* to the EAC. He informed the Council of many agencies on the local, State and Federal level involved in water, i.e. CCHD and MDE. Mr. Devilbiss called his presentation “Water Resources 101” in Carroll County. Highlights of the presentation: Piney Run was built for flood control, water supply source, and recreation, in that order. His office monitors this potential water supply and has for many years. It has excellent water quality and one of the best fisheries in the state. Mr. Devilbiss has water quality available should the EAC like that information. He is in the process of writing a Watershed Protection Plan for Piney Run. Monitoring is ongoing for Gillis Falls since approximately 2000. His staff also monitors approximately 41 wells. Carroll County is No. 1, at the top of the watershed and every stream flows into another watershed except the South branch of the Patapsco. “Every drop starts here.” Comments on this tag line was well-received by the EAC. Mr. Devilbiss told the EAC they work very closely with the towns on water appropriations, well testing, etc. He introduced, Mr. Hugh Murphy, a hydrogeologist, a very valuable member of his staff. Putting the water back into the ground, called infiltration, is a main goal in Maryland. Special studies and tracking are done by Water Resources’ staff to accomplish this goal. Water supply development is very complicated and the biggest challenge is the administrative process. Mr. Devilbiss indicated that Gillis Falls, if not for administrative and political obstacles, it would be an operating water supply today. Mr. Devilbiss concluded his presentation by offering his services to the EAC on any issues he handles. (Copies of his presentation were given to each EAC member).

- Mr. Slater informed the EAC that all potential water supply sources must go through the State and it is a very long process.

- Mr. Chris Spaur wanted to endorse this effort and the EAC should pat themselves on the back for making water, number one on the priority list.
- Ms. Gilden asked if the County is still considering Piney Run as a potential water supply source. Mr. Devilbiss advised the EAC that this Board is not. Ms. Gilden also asked what public education has been done and how is it distributed. Mr. Devilbiss said they don't have the time or staff to do formal presentations on education other than Outdoor Day; however, they speak whenever asked. In his opinion, the biggest learning needs are the misunderstanding of water and just how it gets from the source to the tap.
- Mr. Pyatt asked Mr. Devilbiss would he be able to assist Mt. Airy. He said he is working with Mr. Woodhull.
- Ms. Gilden asked if radon and lead are problems in drinking water in Carroll County and if it is prevalent enough to be a topic for the EAC to consider.
- Ms. Ann Baugher, Secretary to the EAC, stated that these issues are addressed in the annual Water Quality Reports and copies of the 2005 reports will be forwarded to the members by the Department of Public Works. Also, Water Quality Reports for the past five (5) years can be seen on the Carroll County website under the Utilities web page for the areas served by the Bureau of Utilities – Bark Hill, Pleasant Valley, Bramble Hills and the Freedom District.

Ms. Merkle again thanked Mr. Devilbiss for coming and asked that Mr. Devilbiss possibly return when the EAC sees where it may be going to assist in a solution to specific areas.

Ms. Merkle asked the EAC to respond to her by next week with topics they wish to address.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

No announcements were made from the chair.

UPCOMING JULY MEETING:

Ms. Merkle asked the EAC to forward their list of potential “water” topics they wished discussed at the July, 2006 meeting by June 28, 2006.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION NO. 42: Motion made by Dave Pyatt and seconded by Brian Rhoten, to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is July 19, 2006, at 3:00 p.m. in Room 003. Please let the secretary know if you will not be able to attend.