

**ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY  
COUNCIL – AUGUST 16, 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**

<b>Members Present:</b>	Karen Merkle, Chair Robyn Gilden, Vice Chair Brian Rhoten Jim Johnson David Pyatt	<b>Members Absent:</b>	Sher Horosko Christopher Spaur Robert Foor-Houge
<b>County Government:</b>	Cynthia Parr, County Commissioners Office Timothy Feeser, County Commissioners Office James E. Slater, Jr., Office of Environmental Compliance Hugh Murphy, Hydrogeologist, Bureau of Resource Management Timothy C. Burke, Senior Assistant County Attorney Tom Devilbiss, Chief, Bureau of Resource Management Jeanne Joiner, Project Coordinator, Planning Kelly Ziad, Comprehensive Planner II, Planning Ann L. Baugher, Secretary to EAC		
<b>The Press:</b>	Carrie Knauer, Carroll County Times		
<b>Other Attendees:</b>	Dwayne Martin, resident Daniel Andrews, Sierra Club Cody Saville, Carroll Land Services, Inc. Ken Hunter, Carroll Land Services, Inc. Charles Zeleski, Carroll County Health Department Jeff Glass, Asst. Director, Streets & Utilities, City of Westminster		

---

**CALL TO ORDER** - Ms. Merkle, Chair, officially called the meeting to order at 3:07 P.M., by asking for approval of the July 19, 2006, minutes.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES - MOTION NO. 45:** Motion was made by David Pyatt, and seconded by Robyn Gilden, to approve the minutes of July 19, 2006, as presented, with the following corrections:

- On Page 2, third paragraph from the top, second sentence, “does not have any jurisdiction” changed to “will not be commenting”
- On Page 2, third paragraph from the top, last sentence, “would” changed to “might”
- On Page 2, third to the last paragraph, third line, “EPA” changed to “MDE”
- On Page 4, under Green Building Report: 5<sup>th</sup> line, changed “LEED building in Carroll County” to “Carroll County Government “LEED” Building.”

**COMMUNICATIONS** – Chair Merkle stated a letter was mailed to the fuel dealers, dated August 1, 2006, inviting them to a meeting at the Carroll Community College on September 8, 2006, from 9:00 A.M. until 11:00 A.M. in Room M157 to discuss storage tank issues.

**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.

- Mr. Dwayne Martin of Millers, MD, who also attended the July, 2006 EAC meeting concerning his own MTBE contamination situation, returned to ask the EAC to consider proposing something to assist other homeowners who have MTBE contaminated wells.

Ms. Merkle advised Mr. Martin that the County is looking into a possible contract with a local laboratory to perform the second test, to confirm the results of the first test done by the CCHD in hopes of expediting the remediation process and the timely installation of filters and such by MDE.

Ms. Merkle stated to Mr. Martin that the County was meeting with MDE on Thursday, August 17, 2006 about various matters, one being this issue.

Ms. Cynthia Parr added that if the Board of Commissioners approve, there will be a revolving fund established and available to homeowners where MTBE contamination levels are above 20 ppb. The costs of this second lab test would be paid by Carroll County. Other initiatives the County had in mind involved County liability, while the County paying for the second round of testing eliminated that potential. Since MTBE is a State issue, the County Commissioners felt all liabilities should remain with them.

Mr. Slater added that since the Board of Commissioners have committed to assisting residents on cutting down turnaround time for these contamination cases, should this method fail, the issue would be revisited with the option of trying something else.

- Mr. Martin thanked the EAC for their perseverance.
- Mr. Daniel Andrews of the Sierra Club spoke to the EAC about his involvement with global warming awareness. Mr. Andrews stated the club's efforts locally, in the beginning stages, are focusing on: the "Cool City's Campaign", which began with Mayor endorsement, in Seattle, Washington. Local warming awareness is being addressed by the Sierra Club in the form of community meetings, the first to be held on September 11, 2006, at the Westminster Senior Center; and, the film showing, "An Inconvenient Truth" on October 5, 2006, at Carroll Community College. Mr. Andrews asked the EAC to feel free to contact him or any member of the Sierra Club if they can be of assistance or if the EAC would be willing to meet with them to jointly work on an action plan and ways to educate the populous about global warming. Mr. Andrews offered his services on Saturday mornings from 8 A.M. to Noon at the Farmer's Market in Westminster. Mr. Andrews will be sending Cool City Campaign and global warming material to Mr. Jim Slater for forwarding to all EAC members.

Various EAC members commented on the challenge of this issue along with the depth of its implementation and their support. Ms. Merkle added that the EAC is tasked with public education around environmental issues. This could be something that the Green Building work team could expand upon in playing a role on this issue.

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

**PRESENTATION** – Mr. Jeff Glass, Assistant Director for Streets and Utilities, Department of Planning and Public Works, City of Westminster spoke on Continuation of Water Supply Inquiry – The Westminster Perspective. Mr. Glass presented background on a potential water shortage should the City begin a 100-year drought. The City, presently, has a sufficient water supply which includes the “to be constructed” Medford Quarry along with the way the Koontz Creamery water is treated. Mr. Glass asked the County for help in their future water source needs, mentioning Union Mills and Gillis Falls as potential reservoir sources and utilizing Big Pipe Creek, for future Westminster growth. Mr. Glass added that the City is in the process of initiating a water conservation program that will be a win/win situation to both the residents and the City.

Mr. Slater told the EAC that obtaining additional surface water sources is an extensive and complex process with the bottom line being the balance between justifying the need against the impacts, such as reservoirs at Union Mills and Gillis Falls. Mr. Slater indicated that it could take seven to ten years from the analysis to flooding the dam.

Mr. Glass addressed questions from the Council summarizing that he’d like to see the process begin for both dams now and water source problems should be addressed regionally.

Ms. Merkle thanked Mr. Glass for speaking to the EAC on the present and future water needs for the City of Westminster as well as the County.

**UNFINISHED OR ONGOING BUSINESS:**

**MTBE Monthly Update** - Mr. Charles Zeleski, CCHD, informed the EAC that the round of tests in the Hoffmanville and Grave Run Road area are complete. MDE wants to remove three (3) tanks, the source of the contamination, as quickly as possible. He had no other changes on cases to report except a new contaminated site has been identified in the north east part of the County. The letters have not yet gone out to potentially involved parties. At that time, Mr. Slater will be informed of the location of this new site.

**MTBE Work Team Update** – Ms. Robyn Gilden, Ms. Sher Horosko and Ms. Merkle met with the CCHD on two occasions discussing several items - how they could work together more collectively on mutual issues, putting together the FAQ, and visiting MDE to discuss what is happening on MTBE issues in Carroll County, MDE’s timeline processes, i.e. filtration system installations and how those times might be shortened, and the possibility of conducting an educational workshop partnered with State, County, and local participation.

**UST (Underground Storage Tanks) Removal Program** – Ms. Merkle, in Ms. Horosko’s absence, had reported earlier under “Communications” the September 8<sup>th</sup> meeting with local fuel companies.

**2006 Environmental Awareness Awards Committee Report** - Mr. Jim Johnson, in Mr. Foor-Hogue’s absence, reported their work team is reviewing documents for formulating the requirements for application and how the program will be administered. The Committee is looking for Community sponsors to have possibly cash awards along with plaques. This committee should have more to report to the EAC at the September, 2006 meeting.

**Water Management Team Update**– The work team met on August 4, 2006. Mr. David Pyatt stated water management will be an issue for many years to come. Water availability impacts growth and development as has been seen in Mt. Airy.

Mr. Johnson added their focus is on how to store water, conserve it, and find new sources.

Mr. Slater added that our role as educators cannot be discounted.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Mr. Jim Johnson spoke on Waste Management and the growing concern for waste disposal. Mr. Johnson feels the EAC should educate the public on alternatives and hazards available for waste disposal. Mr. Johnson will continue to report to the EAC his involvement on the Waste-To-Energy Committee. Since this issue is potentially three (3) years away, it is not pressing, presently.

**MOTION 46** – Motion made by Mr. Jim Johnson, seconded by David Pyatt: “The EAC is requesting the Office of Environmental Compliance to submit in their FY08 (July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008) operating budget, an appropriation request of \$500.00. The appropriation, if approved by the Board of County Commissioners, will be used by the EAC members for registration fees to attend seminars/meetings on environmental topics. Criteria to be determined.”

### **COUNCIL MEMBERS CONCERNS:**

Mr. Brian Rhoten suggested that we utilize the County’s website for EAC communications, all at one location, to include items such as committee and work team updates that can then be chosen for press releases, etc., for public convenience.

Ms. Gilden added that links could be utilized, such as the Health Department and other agencies. The website could also be a tool for education and outreach.

Ms. Merkle said “public education” keeps coming up in many issues before the EAC and will be placed on the agenda for further discussion.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** – Ms. Merkle announced the upcoming Green Building meeting will be held on August 29, 2006 at the University of Maryland.

**ADJOURN - MOTION NO. 47:** Motion made by David Pyatt, seconded by Brian Rhoten to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is September 20, 2006, at 3:00 p.m. in Room 003. **Please let the secretary know if you will not be able to attend.**