

**ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY
COUNCIL – OCTOBER 18, 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:

Karen Merkle, Chair
Robyn Gilden, Vice Chair
Brian Rhoten
Jim Johnson
David Pyatt
Christopher Spaar

Members Absent:

Sher Horosko
Bob Foor-Hogue

County Government:

Cynthia Parr, County Commissioners Office
Timothy Feeser, County Commissioners Office
James E. Slater, Jr., Office of Environmental Compliance
Perry Jones, Commissioner
Tom Devilbiss, Chief, Bureau of Resource Management
Ann L. Baugher, Secretary to EAC

The Press:

Carrie Knauer, Carroll County Times

Other Attendees:

Cheryl Wilhelm, Carroll County resident
Ellen Cutsail, Union Bridge Council Member
Ed Singer, Carroll County Health Department
Charles Zeleski, Carroll County Health Department
Brian Flynn, Carroll County Health Department

CALL TO ORDER - Ms. Merkle, Chair, officially called the meeting to order at 3:00 P.M., by asking for approval of the September 20, 2006, minutes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - MOTION NO. 51: Motion was made by David Pyatt, and seconded by Jim Johnson, to approve the minutes of September 20, 2006, as presented. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS –

- Ms. Karen Merkle, EAC Chair, thanked Carrie Knauer, Carroll County Times, on the nice Underground Storage Tank article she wrote keeping the public informed, after the October 17, 2006, meeting with the EAC, Carroll County government employees and members of the Fuel Oil Dealers Association.

- Chair Merkle added two items to today's agenda: 1) Under New Business, the *2007 EAC Meeting Dates*; and, 2) Under Committee & Work Team Reports/Communications, *c. Environmental Awareness Awards*

OPEN FORUM - Ms. Cheryl Wilhelm, spoke to the EAC about her concern for proper disposal of compact fluorescent light bulbs. A copy of her concern is attached to these minutes and has been forwarded to the Recycling Manager, Ms. Vinnie Legge, DPW.

Mr. Ed Singer, Carroll County Health Department noted they have recently received numerous phone calls on proper disposal of compact fluorescent light bulbs.

EAC members discussed the possibility of creating an awareness program possibly enticing larger businesses to offer drop off recycle sites, using caution to not overdo this issue with the current Cool City campaign being done by the Sierra Club. No formal action was taken by the Council.

Ms. Merkle thanked Ms. Wilhelm for coming and stated her topic was very timely, relating to another item on today's agenda.

PRESENTATION – None

UNFINISHED OR ONGOING BUSINESS:

MTBE – Update on Gamber Site – Mr. Jim Richmond, MDE couldn't attend the meeting so Mr. Brian Flynn, CCHD gave the update. Mr. Flynn reported the levels have dropped or not present and five (5) of the eight (8) monitoring wells are to be drilled on October 23, 2006.

MTBE - Update on Confirmatory Residential Sampling – Cindy Parr reported to the EAC that Martel Labs will handle the testing contract; and the CCHD will process the invoices and administer the fund. Should consumers wish to have a confirmatory residential sampling done, they would pay \$50 for the test and the County would pick up the remaining \$200.00. Should the consumer decide not to take advantage of this expedited sampling, standard processing would apply.

MTBE - Health Department Update On Cases – Mr. Brian Flynn, CCHD reported:

Woodbine – Residents continue to receive potable water via tanker due to water traveling through the carbon too quickly along with the undesirable taste and smell. Drilling a new well is a possibility.

Hillcrest – Still working on this issue and the CCHD is meeting with Mr. Jim Richmond, MDE, to discuss.

Crown Station, Hampstead – CCHD has concerns the well may be contaminated in the adjoining vacant house, under subdivision review, requesting a study be done prior to approval of the subdivision.

Finksburg 140 Exxon – Groundwater study by MDE indicates this well will be taken off-line.

Sullivan Mobile Home Park – Levels have increased over the last couple of months. MDE sent a letter requesting a treatment carbon filtration system be installed before March, 2007. *(a copy of this letter was e-mailed to all EAC members and is a part of these minutes)* There was much Council discussion with the Health Department on whether the Council could do anything to expedite the process, such as offer technical assistance, encouragement or move on to known carcinogens like second-hand smoke. The CCHD said the remedy to this small water system not only includes money to correct, potentially \$50,000.; but the owner faces water quality issues, i.e. treating for bacteria, etc. as well. The CCHD did offer a suggestion that the Council address and potentially advocate that MDE be consistent on the levels in both their Oil Supply and Water Supply Programs. Currently, the Oil Supply program has a MTBE action level of 20 ppb and there is no action level in the Water Supply Program. The loophole is that the SDWA (Safe Drinking Water Act) does not list MTBE as a contaminant; thus it is unregulated in the State Water Supply Program.

Graves Run/Hoffmanville – Four (4) tanks have been pulled, suspect one (1); not the sole source. More work yet to be done on this case.

Ms. Merkle thanked the CCHD for the update and thanked the council for the great conversation on these issues.

Update on the Fuel Oil Dealers Meeting – Ms. Merkle thanked Cindy Parr and Commissioner Jones for their collective work on the public information pieces found on the County’s website, and on Channel 24 in getting the word out on underground storage tanks. Ms. Parr also added that tank abandonment script has been approved by MDE and should be ready for Channel 24 viewing by or before early December.

Mr. Slater informed the EAC that local oil dealers would forward information to Ms. Sher Horosko and the MTBE work team for compiling a brochure, present it at the next quarterly Fuel Oil Dealers’ Association meeting in January, 2007 for their comments prior to printing and distribution.

EAC members talked for a good length of time on educational outreach offering ideas to encourage underground tank removal. Ms. Merkle asked the MTBE work team to review the ideas discussed and report back to the Council in November some action ideas for Council consideration.

Update of EAC recommendation - Lehigh Biosolids Storage – Mr. Slater briefed the EAC that the public hearing is set for October 19th, and that no one from the public attended the public hearing workshop. Chair Merkle requested the results be e-mailed immediately to the EAC after the hearing.

COMMITTEE/WORK TEAM REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS:

MTBE Work Team – Ms. Gilden reported Ms. Parr would be placing a public service announcement with information on MTBE and FAQ’s; and, this information can now be found on the County’s web site. Ms. Gilden asked if visual improvements could be made to this site and Mr. Slater affirmed. FAQ’s and MTBE information will also be distributed through Carroll County libraries.

Water and Wastewater Management Work Team Update– The work team met and distributed a copy of potential areas the EAC could play a role. A lengthy discussion followed on matters of water sources, conservation, watershed issues, wastewater disposal matters and how they affect growth, health and safety in Carroll County and just how the Council could assist in closing any gaps that exist.

Ms. Parr stated the COG (Council of Governments) and the Commissioners of Carroll County are looking into having a Water Resources Symposium. Chair Merkle suggested that work team members attend the Water Summit, ask questions and report back to the EAC.

Environmental Awareness Awards Committee – Mr. Jim Johnson, in Mr. Foor-Hogue’s absence reported that DRAFT documents have been prepared. He asked the Council to consider sponsors for these awards. Mr. Merkle asked the committee to make changes to the draft documents, and bring their recommendation back to the Council in November for action.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1) **2007 EAC Meeting Calendar**

Motion 52 made by David Pyatt, seconded by Robyn Gilden to adopt the 2007 EAC Meeting Calendar as presented, moving the regular meeting date for November, which falls on Thanksgiving Eve, to November 28th, 2007. Motion carried.

- 2) **“Change a Light, Change the World” – EPA campaign** – Chair Merkle tabled until the November, 2006 meeting due to time restraints.

COUNCIL MEMBERS - Issues for consideration - None

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Chair Merkle announced the November EAC meeting will be held on November 15, 2006.

ADJOURN - MOTION NO. 53: Motion made by Jim Johnson, seconded by David Pyatt to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m. Motion carried.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is November 15, 2006, at 3:00 p.m. in Room 003. **Please let the secretary know if you will not be able to attend.**

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