

**ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY
COUNCIL – DECEMBER 20, 2006
@ 3:00 P.M., Room 003
Carroll County Office Building**



**James E. Slater, Jr., AICP, QEP
Environmental Compliance Officer
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MINUTES

Members Present:	Karen Merkle, Chair Sher Horosko Robyn Gilden, Vice Chair Bob Foor-Hogue Jim Johnson Christopher Spaar	Members Absent:	David Pyatt Brian Rhoten
County Government:	Cynthia Parr, County Commissioners Office Terri Jones, County Attorney's Office James E. Slater, Jr., Office of Environmental Compliance Tom Devilbiss, Chief, Bureau of Resource Management Jeff Keefer, Office of Environmental Compliance Ann L. Baugher, Secretary to EAC		
The Press:	Carrie Knauer, Carroll County Times Laura McCandlish, Baltimore Sun		
Other Attendees:	Cody Saville, Carroll Land Service, Inc. Gregor Becker, Carroll County resident, Sierra Club Ellen Cutsail, Union Bridge Council Member 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 3:00 P.M., by asking for approval of the October 18, 2006 minutes and asking for comments on the November 15, 2006 notes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - MOTION NO. 54: Motion was made by Sher Horosko, and seconded by Jim Johnson, to approve the minutes of October 18, 2006, as presented. Motion carried. The November 15, 2006 notes were briefly discussed, no formal action taken. The November 15th, 2006 notes will be kept in the minute book, as such, since this meeting was not represented by a quorum.

COMMUNICATIONS

- Chair Karen Merkle removed, with no objections from the Council, under New Business, Item c. - FILM viewing – “*An Inconvenient Truth*” from the agenda due to lack of showing rights and added as new Item c. in its place – Update on the Basin Tributary Strategy Implementation Plans.
- Ms. Merkle asked Ms. Baugher to keep a running list of “To Do/Action” items that Council members, staff and the chair have offered to do during the course of the meeting discussions. The list will be used by the staff and chair to plan agenda items and to remind EAC members of commitments and due dates.
- Ms. Sher Horosko shared with fellow EAC members a citizen’s concern about Westminster’s water, along with her own, on fluoride added to public drinking water and recent health warnings issued on fluoride by the American Pediatrics Association.
- Ms. Horosko also stated her ongoing concerns on the County’s future water supply issues, water conservation, clean water (water quality) and expediting MTBE cases for affected homeowners.

OPEN FORUM - Mr. Gregor Becker, of the Sierra Club, asked the EAC to investigate the Frederick County planned waste incinerator. He also advised the EAC that the Sierra Club paid the \$75.00 showing rights to air the film “*An Inconvenient Truth*” at the Mt. Airy library and it will be shown on January 17, 2007, at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. at the Arts Council. Mr. Becker also stated several towns in Maryland have signed the Mayor’s Climate Protection Agreement – 346 towns in 46 states to date have signed on, those in Maryland include – Baltimore, Gaithersburg, Chevy Chase, Rockville, Annapolis and Sykesville. The Mayors Climate Protection Agreement information is attached to and a part of these minutes.

Discussion was heard from EAC members interested in hearing both the pros and cons of incineration as well as hearing from Carroll County on solid waste.

Chair Merkle thanked Mr. Becker for coming.

PRESENTATION – None

UNFINISHED OR ONGOING BUSINESS:

Saw Mill Road Cleanup – Mr. Jim Slater reported cleanup was completed on December 8, 2006. 303 regular tires were removed from this 20-year dump site along with ½ dump truck of white metal and two (2) bags of trash. Mr. Slater stated there was good cooperation with DPW and General Services. The landowner, Mr. Jim Shriver, is very happy with the completion of this project. Assisting in the cleanup was Mr. Henry Hepner, who sorted the debris for the ease of County personnel’s removal. Mr. Slater also informed the EAC that Watershed Protection Area signs are to be installed by Carroll County Highways and there has been discussion on installing fencing and/or railing along the road to deter future dumping.

MTBE – Update – Mr. Brian Flynn presented the update on the Council requested spreadsheet, case-by-case. The EAC asked the spreadsheet be amended in the present draft form to include a column indicating if treatment has been installed; add to the number of residential wells sampled, how many detects and the number over the MCL; and include the date information was updated. After spreadsheet is amended, it will be reviewed monthly by the CCHD and Mr. Jim Richmond of MDE. All changes from the prior month will be shown in the last column. Mr. Slater added the chart is for information purposes only since changes may occur in between meetings. Any concerns will require further research to determine if additional actions have been taken.

Please refer to the MTBE Cases in Carroll County – December 20, 2006 attached spreadsheet which is a part of these minutes.

Ms. Merkle thanked Mr. Brian Flynn, CCHD for the update and time spent with Ann Baugher in updating the MTBE spreadsheet.

The MTBE spreadsheet will become a part of the monthly minutes reflecting month-to-month changes and forwarded to EAC each month with the draft minutes. The members will review the chart and direct all questions to Mr. Jim Slater who will investigate, addressing these concerns at the next EAC meeting.

Ms. Horosko asked that a form letter be drafted to MDE to include the EAC is monitoring these cases and inquire what the next step will be. In turn, MDE will be obliged to respond to the council.

COMMITTEE/WORK TEAM REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Update on MTBE Work Team – Individual USTs - Ms. Horosko updated the EAC that the work team in compiling information for a brochure to mail to County residents with underground storage tanks. Mr. Slater gave the members a few pages of educational material he assembled to be included in this mailing. He indicated the Council could choose or consolidate the information for presenting to the Carroll County Fuel Oil Dealers at their next quarterly meeting, which has now been moved to March, 2007. *The CC Fuel Oil Dealers will contact the Office of Environmental Compliance when a new meeting date has been established and this information will be shared with all EAC members.*

Ms. Horosko invited ideas on ways of cost sharing to assist homeowners with UST removal and/or problem situations.

Ms. Cindy Parr advised the EAC that the UST video is running on the Cable channel and she has received multiple e-mails expressing gratitude for the information about their USTs.

The EAC thanked Ms. Parr for all her hard work in assisting the Council over the past very months in educating the public on many issues – USTs, MTBE contamination, etc.

2007 Environmental Awareness Awards Committee – Mr. Foor-Hogue presented the nomination form, public notice and criteria.

Motion No. 55 made by Bob Foor-Hogue, seconded by Jim Johnson and carried, to change the deadline for submittals from February 15, 2007 to March 1, 2007 on the environmental awareness awards forms, along with clarification of the wording for self-nominations, from “Nominations can also be made personally.” to “Self-nominations will also be accepted.” Forms will then be circulated and a News Release sent to the media. Motion carried.

The Council asked the secretary to make these corrections and forward the final document to all EAC members. Mr. Foor-Hogue stated he will distribute to various groups, i.e. FFA, Rotary Club, Boy Scouts and Girls Scouts with hope of seeking many nominations, since a prior concern has been the lack of applicants.

The secretary to the EAC will meet with Vivian Laxton, Communications, to prepare a News Release and send the environmental awareness awards forms to various agencies within the County including the five (5) library branches and the cooperative extension service. The committee will contact sponsors for the awards, solicit volunteers to judge and decide on the choice of awards to be presented to the winners.

NEW BUSINESS:

a) 2007 EAC Meeting Calendar

Chair Merkle proposed having quarterly evening meetings along with moving the meetings from the third Wednesday of each month to the second Tuesday of each month. Time was set for evening meetings from 6:30 P.M. to 8:30 P.M. Afternoon meetings will remain at 3:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.

The January, 2007 meeting will still be held on the third Wednesday – January 17, 2007.

Motion 56 made by Sher Horosko, seconded by Jim Johnson to adopt the 2007 EAC Meeting Calendar, contingent upon the agreement of the absent members, Mr. Brian Rhoten and Mr. David Pyatt. Motion carried.

Motion passed by all EAC members upon confirmation of the motion by Mr. Rhoten and Mr. Pyatt.

The 2007 revised EAC meeting calendar is attached and part of these minutes.

- b) **“Change a Light, Change the World” – EPA campaign** – Material on this campaign was given to the EAC members and are part of these minutes. Ms. Merkle informed the EAC about a website called energystar.gov where groups can be partners and set up projects. Ms. Merkle asked if anyone wished to research this website for Council consideration in undertaking a project.

Much discussion followed on availability of energy saving bulbs to purchase @ local dealers, the potential of adding information to EAC 's website, cost savings in using these long-life bulbs, proper disposal, the impact of everyone changing just one bulb, and thinking about Council efforts in getting the information out utilizing malls, libraries, and through scouting programs, etc. Ms. Horosko and Ms. Gilden offered to do some more research and bring a project proposal back to the Council at a future time.

- c) **Update Basin Tributary Strategy Implementation Plans** – Chair Merkle attended this meeting as well as the Office of Environmental Compliance, towns and municipalities and County agencies on December 12, 2006. Mr. Slater indicated that the tributary teams, three (3) in Carroll County, will involve work by many in County government as well as adding additional staff; a huge endeavor impacting not only enormous chunks of time by many agencies and departments but large sums of money as well to accomplish the tasks before us.

Chair Merkle asked the Council if they would be interested in having someone from DNR speak to the Council, in an abbreviated version, of this water quality issue. The consensus was yes.

COUNCIL MEMBERS - Issues for consideration - None

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Chair Merkle announced: 1) the January, 2007 EAC meeting will be held on January 17, 2007; 2) make note of February 3, 2007, the date of the Water Summit meeting which the EAC will be invited to; and, 3) to see Ann Baugher with any changes/updates the members have listed on their contact information.

ADJOURN - MOTION NO. 57: Motion made by Sher Horosko, seconded by Bob Foor-Hogue, to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m. Motion carried.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is Wednesday, January 17, 2007, at 3:00 p.m. in Room 003.

Please let the secretary know if you will not be able to attend.