

**Carroll County**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES**  
**Karen L. Merkle, Chair**  
**Robyn Gilden, Vice Chair**  
**Tuesday, November 13, 2007 @ 3:00**  
**p.m. Room 003/004, Carroll County**  
**Office Building**



**Cynthia M. Parr**  
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**Members Present:** Karen Merkle, Chair  
Sher Horosko  
Dan Andrews  
Jim Johnson  
Christopher Spaur  
David Pyatt  
Kim Petry

**Members Absent:** Robyn Gilden  
Brian Rhoten

**County Government:**

Cynthia Parr, County EAC Liaison  
Terri Jones, Esquire, Deputy County Attorney  
Gale Engles, Stormwater Mgmt & Sediment Control Supervisor  
Commissioner Julia Gouge

Ann L. Baugher, Secretary to EAC  
James E. Slater, Jr., Environmental Compliance Officer  
Mike Evans, DPW Director  
Tim Feeser, Commissioners' Office

**The Press:** Carrie Knauer and Beth Ward, Carroll County Times

**Other Attendees:**

Brian Flynn, CCHD  
Ellen Cutsail, Union Bridge Council  
Mary Kowalski, resident  
Gary Johnson, resident  
M. Barattucci, resident  
Rebekah Orenstein, resident  
Norman H. Seitz, resident  
Dr. Robert Brink, resident

Tina & Jerry Sheeler, Chattahoochee Land Mgmt  
M. Taylor, resident  
Gary Johnson, resident  
Arin Gercer, resident  
Sandra H. Wright, resident  
Neil Seldman, Institute for Local Self-Reliance  
Carolyn Neumyer, resident  
Brenda Platt, Institute for Local Self-Reliance

**CALL TO ORDER** - Ms. Karen Merkle, Chair, officially called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. welcoming all council members and guests.

Ms. Merkle then asked for approval of the October 9, 2007, minutes.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES - MOTION NO. 36-07:** Motion was made by Jim Johnson, seconded by David Pyatt, approving the minutes, as **amended**. Motion carried.  
**Amended:** **First item:** Page 2, lower 1/3 of page to read: **Motion made by Sher Horosko, seconded by Robyn Gilden. Motion was carried 8 to 1;** replacing language of *Motion carried*. **Second item:** Page 2, lower 1/3 of page, paragraph added to read: **The above motion was made after discussion of two (2) options. The first was recommending Pay as You Throw now; the other was to set up a community process to define elements of how to accomplish a Pay as You Throw program. In both options, council unanimously supported Pay as You Throw.**

**COMMUNICATIONS -**

Chair Merkle shared two (2) communications received since the last meeting.

- 1) E-mail received from The Wilhelms offering a suggestion for reducing pollution and greenhouse gases in the County. Asking if the County could require school buses to run on

biodiesel, at least during the fall and spring when temperatures should be high enough so the fuel won't gel.

As a follow-up, Ms. Cindy Parr reported that biodiesel is used in all new buses made before January 1, 2006. The fleet must meet air quality control standards. Ms. Parr advised the EAC that she would get back to Ms. Wilhelm with this information.

Ms. Merkle added that the Council could not recommend a particular vendor as stated in Ms. Wilhelm's e-mail.

- 2) Letter received from Mary Kowalski regarding the EAC as the tree commission, become involved in the airport cutting of trees for lighting purposes.

Ms. Parr pointed out to the Council that she just received a letter dated today and that a press release was just done denying the granting of a variance on this matter.

The EAC asked for legal counsel to clarify the press release and discussion concluded by Chair Merkle advising that since the records were closed for comment on October 23, 2007 and the letter was received on November 1, 2007, the Council offers no further standing on this issue.

**OPEN FORUM** – 1) Neil Seldman advised the EAC that a free EPA discussion on Pay As You Throw, would be held tomorrow, November 14, 2007, at the Metro Center Marriott Hotel in Washington DC, from 9:00 a.m. – Noon. 2) Rebekah Orenstein expressed her disappointment in the denial of the variance request. She stated the trees in question are major trees. This County decision again makes her feel “tricked” and expressed her disappointment in this decision. 3) Mr. Gary Johnson also expressed his opposition in removing these trees since the current forest is needed to fight pollution. He stated that replants will take 80 years to reach full maturity and when is the County going to do what the residents want instead of the Commissioners' doing what they want.

**UNFINISHED OR ONGOING BUSINESS:**

**MTBE monthly update:** -None

**Speakers:** 1) Ms. Brenda Platt, Co-Director, Institute For Self-Reliance, presented a slide show to the EAC on “composting”. Ms. Platt showed aerobic composting facilities in proximity to Westminster and beyond. Composting includes materials being heated up to between 120° - 140°F, and the presentation illustrated the curing process, which takes between 60 to 90 days. The end product, humus, or what she refers to as “black gold” is sold in bags or bulk; or, it is available at no cost, if picked up at the composting facility. Ms. Platt fielded some questions by the Council and indicated that compost operators in Maryland must be licensed. 2) Ms. Tina Sheeler, Chattahoochee Land Management, presented information to the EAC on a solid waste management alternative. The company designs, builds and operates microbial facilities that take the Bio-Mass and turn it into green energy by means of a pyrolytic converter. Ms. Sheeler indicated this is done at no cost to the County, as long as a guaranteed waste stream, stipulated in the contract, and an area is allocated at the landfill for storing the char. What goes to the landfill is reduced by 80% while significantly reducing greenhouse gases. The EAC asked for clarification on the process. Ms. Sheeler agreed to send Ms. Parr answers to questions she could not address in the absence of the technical presenter who could not accompany Ms. Sheeler to the meeting.

**COMMITTEE/WORK TEAM REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**Environmental Awareness Awards update** – Ms. Kim Petry reported the nomination process is moving along.

**Cool Counties Committee update** – Dan Andrews reported the committee is also moving along with the next goal of meeting with the Montgomery County audit office. Mr. Andrews has met with Zoning on wind turbines and potential changes to the existing Ordinance regarding them. Mr. Andrews announced a meeting will be held at the Mt. Airy Town Hall on Saturday, November 17<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. on the proposed Mt. Airy wind farm.

**Holiday Tree Committee** – Mr. Pyatt reported the 2007 County Holiday Tree will be selected on Friday, November 16, 2007.

**NEW BUSINESS** – A lengthy discussion regarding the EAC writing a periodic environmental column in the Carroll County Times transpired. Concerns by members was heard on issues that included possibly establishing guidelines before beginning, who should write, who all should read and edit prior to publishing and the Chair's part in guiding the Council on topics within the established EAC By-laws.

Ms. Terri Jones, Esquire, suggested to the Council that she look at the article prior to their submittal to the Carroll County Times if the EAC decides to begin writing this column.

Chair Merkle asked the Council to think about their concerns and what types of topics they wish to incorporate, then tabled the issue until the December 11, 2007, meeting.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS – ISSUES FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION:**

Ms. Merkle asked the Council to think about issues for future consideration. A copy of the Survey Results of Priorities, dated May, 2006, will be e-mailed for Council review prior to discussion at the December 11, 2007 meeting.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Chair Merkle asked for the Council's full support on Thursday, November 15, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., in Room 311, of the County Office Building, when the EAC's recommendations on Solid Waste Management will be presented to the Board of Commissioners during Open Session.
- Ms. Merkle announced Mike Evans will be conducting a workshop on Waste to Energy Methodologies in Room 003, of the County Office Building, at 9:00 a.m., on Monday, November 19, 2007.

**ADJOURN:**

**MOTION NO. 37-07:** Motion made by David Pyatt, seconded by Dan Andrews, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 5:42 p.m. Motion carried.

The next regularly scheduled meeting, an afternoon meeting, will be held **Tuesday, December 11, 2007, 3:00 p.m.** in Room 003/004.

***Please inform the secretary if you are unable to attend***