

**Carroll County**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES**  
**Karen L. Merkle, Chair**  
**Robyn Gilden, Vice Chair**  
**Tuesday, February 19, 2008, @**  
**6:30 p.m. Room 003/004, Carroll**  
**County Office Building**



**Cynthia M. Parr**  
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**Members Present:**  
Karen Merkle, Chair  
Jim Johnson  
Dan Andrews  
Kim Petry  
Chris Spaur  
Jim Johnson

**Members Absent:**  
Robyn Gilden  
Brian Rhoten  
David Pyatt  
Sher Horosko

**County Government:**

Cynthia Parr, County EAC Liaison  
Terri Jones, Esquire, Deputy County Attorney

Ann L. Baugher, Secretary to EAC  
Tom Devilbiss, Deputy Director, Planning

**The Press:** Carrie Knauer, Carroll County Times  
Laura Petersen, Advocate

Mike Silvestri, Baltimore Examiner

**Other Attendees:**

Charles Zeleski, CCHD  
Jack Curran, resident  
John P. Buenger, resident  
Vince Campanella, Lehigh  
Nancy Hernandez, CMC  
Steve Chafitz, E-End USA

Ellen Cutsail, Union Bridge Council  
Gregor Becker, Sierra Club  
Kent Martin, Lehigh  
Peter Peane, resident  
Arleen Chafitz, E-End USA  
Laura Gabel, E-End USA

**CALL TO ORDER** - Ms. Karen Merkle, Chair, officially called the February 19, 2008, meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

Ms. Merkle then asked for approval of the January 8, 2008, minutes.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MOTION NO. 44-08:** Motion was made by Kim Petry, seconded by Dan Andrews to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

**COMMUNICATIONS** – Chair Merkle announced two communications received and forwarded to EAC members since the January, 2008 meeting.

- 1) Ms. Cosentini e-mailed an inquiry whether the County recycles plastic bags. The County does not yet provide a means to recycle plastic bags and Ms. Cindy Parr responded to Ms. Cosentini's inquiry.
- 2) A student, James Fleming, sent an e-mail asking for monetary support to begin a recycling campaign at the Piney Ridge Elementary School. Ms. Sher Horosko responded to James' inquiry and offered suggestions for beginning such a program.

**OPEN FORUM** – None

**PRESENTATIONS:**

- a. Mr. Kent Martin of Lehigh Cement presented an update on the New Windsor Quarry Expansion. The projected Union Bridge quarry depletion, in approximately five years, affects the future of Lehigh's Union Bridge operation. Mr. Martin stated nothing new is being proposed since the

early 1990s. Mr. Martin advised he would return to the EAC once the Concept Plan has been approved and affirmed Lehigh's commitment to do what is best for the environment adding Lehigh is the first cement plant to incorporate vegetation reclamation into their mining process design.

Mr. Martin named the necessary permits in response to Mr. Chris Spaur's inquiry of them for this expansion. Mr. Martin announced he would present the full story regarding the agricultural preservation challenges, as asked by Chair Merkle, when he addresses the EAC after Lehigh's Concept Plan has been granted approval.

Mr. Jim Johnson asked Mr. Martin why Lehigh's Class A Biosolids does not give off odor as was the case in the Bruceville incident on January 8, 2008. Mr. Martin could not speak of that situation but advised that Lehigh burns Biosolids that have < 5% moisture. Mr. Martin added that Lehigh has preformed an internal investigation, adding enhanced policies, procedures, inspections and auditing to eliminate any future diversion of biosolids by a hauler from occurring in the future.

Chair Merkle thanked Lehigh for coming and the expansion update.

- b. Ms. Laura Gabel, Vice President of E-End, USA presented "Best Practices in Electronic Recycling" to the EAC. Ms. Gabel presented Best Practices including some statistics. Electronic recycling concerns include identity theft, leaded glass breakage, weather exposure, other negative health effects on improper disposal, e-waste versus adaptively reused, the demanufacturing process and free hauling "end dumping" consequences.

Ms. Gabel answered several questions the Council had, including a limited number of electronic recyclers in Maryland, the acceptance of electronics "going rate" being approximately 0.10 to 0.25 cents per pound at the site, and Ms. Gabel extended a welcome to any EAC member wishing to take a look at their facility.

Ms. Merkle thanked e-End USA for sharing this information with the Council.

### **UNFINISHED OR ONGOING BUSINESS:**

**MTBE monthly update** – Mr. Charles Zeleski updated the EAC on changes since the last meeting adding MTBE is less and less of an issue and there potentially will be not much to report at future meetings since almost no new sites have been added and the existing old sites are becoming diluted.

- 1) Shell Jiffy Mart # 1, Finksburg – MTBE levels decreased, sample semi-annually
- 2) Royal Farm Store/Gambler GW – MTBE levels down
- 3) Hillcrest Ave GW Hampstead – levels down and may never find a single source/responsible party
- 4) Sheetz # 177, Manchester – groundwater remediation is now working
- 5) Crown/7-11 – tanks have been removed due to monitoring levels
- 6) Westminster CITGO – in the process of remediation and new soil will be added

### **Bruceville Road Update:**

Cindy Parr reported the results from the recent odor issue sampling that were sent to the Department of Agriculture's laboratory for testing has been received and results were forwarded to the Bruceville Road residents. Notice of Violation to Mr. Mehring has not been appealed nor has the fine been paid. Ms. Parr

reaffirmed Mr. Horn's statement at the January, 2008 meeting and the County's commitment to diligence. Ms. Parr reported that someone from the County is going out on a very regular basis to check out the site.

Ms. Terri Jones, Esquire, responded to Chair Merkle's question on the next step for the unpaid fines and Ms. Jones advised collection action will be filed in the district court.

### **Resource Assessment, January, 2008, by Richard Anthony Associates**

Ms. Merkle asked EAC members to review this report and e-mail comments to her in order to submit a formal response to Mr. Mike Evans within 30 days. Ms. Parr asked that Mr. Powell and she be copied on the EAC's communications to Mr. Evans.

Ms. Merkle expressed her disappointment in the report falling short of what was expected, specifically that the report fell short of recommending practical next steps for reducing the waste stream. Report was global rather than locally focused.

### **Solid Waste Recommendations update:**

Ms. Merkle reported:

- A joint meeting with the commissioners of both Carroll and Frederick counties on Waste-to-Energy will be held in Frederick, open session, on Tuesday, February 26, 2008.
- A follow-up report on ash had been sent to the Board of Commissioners
- Carrie Knauer of the Carroll County Times just published an article on costs of a Waste to Energy facility citing the Montgomery County experience.
- Sher spoke to the Sykesville mayor and staff, at their request, on EAC recommendations; Sykesville is very interested in beginning their own recycling and perhaps pay-as-you-throw program
- Sher was invited and spoke at one of the clubs in Carroll County

### **Small Scale Wind Turbine Ordinance update:**

Mr. Dan Andrews updated the EAC on the status of this proposed ordinance. Mr. Mike Maring reported to Mr. Andrews that the only comments received were from legal and on the agenda for other agencies. Ms. Parr indicated that cabinet reviews and then goes back to group. Once in its final draft, it will be forwarded to the BOC to see if they will have a public hearing. At the very best, the timeline is approximately three months or longer until adopted.

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

**County Water Council** – Mr. Tom Devilbiss reported that he and Marge Wolf, City of Westminster, based on EAC's recommendations, put together a resolution for voluntary water conservation from April through October. This will be reviewed by the Water Resource Coordination Council within the next week and strategies will be put together on who shall do what. Mr. Devilbiss thanked the EAC for their hard work and effort in this matter.

**Environmental Awareness Awards update** – Ms. Kim Petry advised the Council that "to date" only five (5) nominations have been received. Awards size and color have been determined, awaiting selection post March 1<sup>st</sup> to have them engraved. Ms. Petry has asked Vivian Laxton to send out another reminder regarding these awards.

Ms. Parr announced Channel 24 is covering the call for nominations for these awards.

**Cool Counties Committee update** – Dan Andrews reported three of the committee members visited Montgomery County facilities to see what has been put into place in their energy conservation program. Mr. Andrews reported Montgomery County has six to eight of their staff devoted to energy savings. Success has been realized in savings millions of dollars in government offices and the green schools, accompanied by behavior changes and employee incentives involving local students. Montgomery County offers yearly training for employees and has implemented many energy savings plans which Carroll County is just beginning to pursue.

Mr. Andrews will put together some energy savings tidbits for having them placed onto the County's website as well as reporting on this committee's progress at future meetings.

Mr. Andrews also reported that a Renewable Energy Workshop will be held at the Westminster Library on February 21, 2008. Progress is being made for the Sustainable Living Fair, which will be held as a 501C organization at the Carroll County Farm Museum on May 24, 2008.

**NEW BUSINESS** – None

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

**Review Council "priorities" list**: The members discussed the prioritized list and consolidated "promote organic farming in Carroll County and no-till farming" with No. 4 priority, "Current use of pesticides and herbicides (homeowner/farmer)".

It was decided by the Council to see if the first two or three items on the priority list could be covered at the March, 2008 meeting. Ms. Parr will ask Mr. J. Michael Evans to speak on Electronic Recycling; and, try to have someone speak about Commercial Recycling and/or auto recyclers.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** – 1) Chair Merkle announced that Ms. Robyn Gilden would be extending her medical leave with hopes of returning by the summer of 2008. Ms. Gilden asked Ms. Merkle to say hello to all and that she misses working with the Council. 2) Ms. Merkle asked the Council to submit nominations for a vice-chair via e-mail to Ann Baugher. At the March, 2008 meeting, those nominees, along with any from the floor, will be voted on by ballot.

**ADJOURN:**

**MOTION NO. 45-08:** Motion made by Jim Johnson, seconded by Dan Andrews, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m. Motion carried.

The next regularly scheduled meeting, an afternoon meeting, will be held **Tuesday, March 11, 2008, at 3:00 p.m.** in Room 003/004.

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