

<p><b>Carroll County</b>  <b>ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL</b>  <b>MINUTES</b>  <b>Karen L. Merkle, Chair</b>  <b>Kim Petry, Vice Chair</b>  <b>Tuesday, September 9, 2008, @ 3:00 p.m.</b>  <b>Room 003/004, Carroll County Office</b>  <b>Building (COB)</b></p>		<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Cynthia M. Parr</b>  <b>Chief, Administrative Services</b>  <b>225 N Center Street, Room 300</b>  <b>Westminster, MD 21157-5194</b>  <b>Telephone: 410-386-2232</b>  <b>Fax: 410-386-2485</b>  <a href="mailto:cparr@ccg.carr.org">cparr@ccg.carr.org</a></p>
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**Members Present:**

Karen Merkle, Chair  
Kim Petry, Vice Chair  
Robyn Gilden  
Dan Andrews  
Brian Rhoten  
Chris Spaur  
David Pyatt  
Richard Haddad

**Members Absent:**

Sandy Zebal

**County Government:**

Cynthia Parr, County EAC Liaison  
Terri Jones, Esq., Deputy County Attorney  
Maria T. Myers, DPW

Ann L. Baugher, Secretary to EAC  
J. Michael Evans, Director, DPW  
Cliff Engle, DPW

**Other Attendees:**

Ed Singer, CCHD  
Carrier Knauer, Carroll County Times  
Dawn Eldridge, CCHD/Partnership for a Healthier Carroll County

Charles Zeleski, CCHD  
Dylan Slagle, CC Times  
Angie Lorhan, The Gazette

**CALL TO ORDER** - Ms. Karen Merkle, Chair, officially called the September 9, 2008, meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

Ms. Merkle began by welcoming Mr. Ed Singer, Carroll County Health Department, back to EAC meetings after returning from his Tour of Duty in Iraq.

Ms. Merkle then asked for approval of the August 12, 2008, minutes.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MOTION NO. 61-08:** Motion was made by David Pyatt, seconded by Chris Spaur, approving the minutes as corrected. Motion carried. **Corrections:** Page Two, added to the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph – “CATS makes efforts advertising their service to likely ridership.”; Page Two, second paragraph: Added “Members of the” prior to the second sentence; deleted – “to look into” and added “if any research had been done looking into” before the word, shuttling. Page Three, under Council Members – Issues for Future Consideration: last paragraph added: “- Mr. Chris Spaur believed that since the County neither supplies, transports, nor regulated energy that the proposal was outside of County government purview. Mr. Spaur noted that in contrast, previous effort to change zoning to allow wind energy was appropriate since the County is involved in land zoning.”

**COMMUNICATIONS** –None

**OPEN FORUM** – None

**PRESENTATION:** - DPW provided a handout to EAC members and it is included as a part of these minutes. Mr. J. Michael Evans, Director of Public Works, briefly updated the Council on the County’s recycling diversion rate increasing to between 32-35% over last year’s 29.72%, which he partially

attributes to utilizing “single stream” method of recycling. Mr. Evans advised the Council that Mr. Cliff Engle has been putting together a work plan awaiting Ms. Myers review prior to finalizing. Since Mr. Evans last addressed the Council, he stated his office has been actively involved in Home Shows, Sustainable Living Fair, Green Team and working with Carroll County Hospital. Mr. Evans then introduced the County’s new Recycling Manager, Ms. Maria T. Myers. Ms. Myers illustrated a few of the expanded acceptable materials under the County’s new contract with Recycle America and stated she has already been in touch with schools, and recommended having them return to silverware versus using plastic ware, businesses, including the Chamber of Commerce, partnering with Master Gardeners to encourage backyard composting, the addition of two (2) drop boxes at Northern Landfill for rigid plastics, mainly backyard toys, CD and DVD cases, plastic bags, and looking into vendors for pick-up of vegetable oil, since beginning employment with Carroll County a month ago. Ms. Myers informed the EAC her office is presently engaged in the design phase of website changes, including being more interactive for students, becoming more user-friendly and the potential of a recycling campaign to create a logo. Mr. Cliff Engle announced the next Hazardous Waste Day, in conjunction with National Recycling Day, will be held on Saturday, November 15, 2008, with the possibility of incorporating a “shredding event”. The EAC was advised Home Depot is accepting CFL’s and both Home Depot and Lowe’s are accepting small batteries for recycling. Mr. Evans’ responded to Council’s inquiry his staff has increased by 1 and ½ people, Maria, 100% and 50% of Cliff’s time.

Mr. Chris Spaur shared that the Council is excited to see DPW excited over their recycling progress. Council and DPW discussion followed on many issues from haulers avoiding tipping fees since no charge for recycling; to whether DPW has begun to consider ways of offering incentives to get more Countians to recycle; utilizing more recycling bins at County events, i.e. Maryland Wine Festival, and responding to questions regarding the 6-month pilot of toters in a 125-home development whereby Mr. Evans added this pilot program and purchase of toters is being taken from grant monies.

Ms. Merkle thanked Ms. Myers, Mr. Evans and Mr. Engle for attending and updating the EAC on the County’s recycling efforts and applauded the progress they are making.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**MTBE quarterly update:** Mr. Ed Singer updated the EAC on the outstanding cases and advised the EAC the closed cases will be removed from the list by the next update. The EAC decided to go to semi-annual reviews in place of the currently quarterly updates. Mr. Singer advised either he or both he and Mr. Zeleski would continue to attend EAC meetings, for availability of other potential environmental health issues that may arise during the course of the meeting.

Ms. Merkle thanked Mr. Zeleski and Mr. Singer for working with the Council on MTBE and other issues.

**RECOMMENDATION FOR PROPERTY TAX CREDIT STATUS:** Cindy Parr advised this issue was brought before the Commissioners during closed session, with the consensus for the EAC to draft verbiage for Green Tax legislation to be proposed to the 2009 General Assembly. Recommendation being a tax credit for renewable energy and utility-derived wind energy in the form of a property tax credit to Carroll Countians.

**REVIEW OF BYLAWS AND CHAPTER 16:** Chair Merkle distributed the bylaws and changes discussed at the August 12, 2008 EAC meeting. They were reviewed one-by-one. Mr. Spaur asked what benefits are there in being a Tree Commission. No one in attendance was fully able to answer the question. It was decided to keep the Tree Commission in the Ordinance and to arrange for presentations to the EAC several times a year about current laws and ordinances pertaining to trees in Carroll County.

All agreed that if we leave it in then the EAC needs to get educated about conservation and forestation issues.

The Council made the following changes before motion was made to adopt new bylaws.

- Moved under Article V – Officers to Article IV – Membership and Meetings; Article V, Section 6. became Article IV, Section 5; and Article V, Section 7., became Article IV, Section 6
- Under Vacancies, moved to Article IV, Section 6, deleted “elected as Officers of the EAC” located after the first two words of this paragraph, first line.
- Under Article V – Officers, Section 2. – Terms, Qualifications and Standards, at the end of paragraph one, added: “If an Officer resigns prior to fulfilling their term as an Officer, the EAC will elect a successor at a subsequent meeting.”

Ms. Merkle called for a motion to adopt the new bylaws.

**REVISION OF BYLAWS ADOPTED: MOTION NO. 62-08:** Motion made by Robyn Gilden, seconded by Kim Petry, to change the Bylaws with the revisions listed above and subsequently change the Ordinance, upon approval of the bylaws, relative to Chair election by the EAC, formerly appointed by the Board of County Commissioners under the current Ordinance. Motion carried.

Ms. Terri Jones again advised the Council that changing the ordinance would take approximately 30-to-60 days allowing time for public notice and a public hearing, with changes in the bylaws not being realized until completion of the entire process.

**NEW BUSINESS:** - None

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

- Vice Chair Kim Petry has begun research on Grant opportunities that the County may be missing out on opportunities because of staff time restraints. Ms. Petry has already met with Grant Specialist, Debbie Staniford and Ms. Petry would like to arrange to meet with Department heads to utilize more grant opportunities in the future.
- Chair Merkle held up the Carroll County Times article on a Hampstead couple erecting a wind turbine and congratulated Dan Andrews on his part in getting the zoning ordinance changed to allow small wind turbines in Carroll County.
- Mr. Andrews announced that since the Commissioners signed the Cool County agreement one-year ago, the County has until 2010 to decrease emissions by 15%. Ms. Parr advised the Council that the EAC was tasked to keep the meetings going and suggested the Council move energy to the top of their priorities and possibly arrange for a portion of their meeting agenda to have department heads attend to push this forward now in order to meet the 2010 deadline.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** – None

**ADJOURN: MOTION NO. 63-08:** Motion made by David Pyatt, seconded by Robyn Gilden, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 4:48 p.m. Motion carried.

The next regularly scheduled meeting, an **evening** meeting, will be held **Tuesday, October 14, 2008, at 6:30 p.m.** in Room 003/004.

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