

<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, October 14, 2008, @ 6:30 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  
Richard Haddad  
Sandy Zebal

**Members Absent:**

David Pyatt  
Chris Spaur

**County Government:**

Cynthia Parr, County EAC Liaison  
Terri Jones, Esq., Deputy County Attorney  
Gale Engles, Bureau Chief, Resource Mgmt  
Scott Moser, Bureau Chief, Building Construction

Ann L. Baugher, Recording Secretary to EAC  
Jonathan Bowman, Resource Mgmt.  
Richard Shelton, Bureau Chief, Purchasing

**Other Attendees:**

Carrier Knauer, Carroll County Times  
Ellen Cutsail, Town of Union Bridge

Gail Holliday, Sykesville resident

**CALL TO ORDER** - Ms. Karen Merkle, Chair, officially called the October 14, 2008, meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. and then asked for approval of the September 9, 2008, minutes.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MOTION NO. 64-08:** Motion was made by Robyn Gilden, seconded by Kim Petry, approving the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Chair Merkle briefed the Council on the following communications:

- Lehigh’s invitation to tour the Nazareth, PA underground conveyor system. Lehigh is looking at this as an option to transport stone from New Windsor quarry to Union Bridge. Sandra Zebal volunteered to tour this plant on October 23, 2008.
- Recycling Manager, Maria Myers, asked the EAC to judge the entries submitted in the County’s new “recycling logo” contest. Robyn Gilden and Brian Rhoten volunteered to be judges for this selection which will occur early in 2009.
- The South Carroll “Pay per Throw” company will be addressing the EAC in November, 2008.

**OPEN FORUM** – Ms. Gail Holliday, South Klee Mill Road resident, Sykesville, addressed the EAC on her concerns regarding critical root systems, lack of such protection in County policy; and, having no recourse than to watch her large oaks die as a result of recent activity by the developer adjacent to her backyard. Since critical root zones only apply to new development and forest retention, Ms. Holliday feels the County should review their policy to include protecting existing trees due to their environmental importance and to avoid another property owner having to experience her current situation.

Ms. Terri Jones added critical root zone does not apply to adjacent properties in County or State ordinances.

Mr. Dan Andrews and Mr. Brian Rhoten agreed to investigate other areas to see if their ordinances cover critical root zones and will report their findings at the November 18, 2008, meeting.

Ms. Merkle thanked Ms. Holliday for presenting her issues to the EAC.

**PRESENTATION:** - Mr. Jonathan Bowman, Forest Conservation Specialist, Bureau of Resource Management presented information on the County's Landscaping program and Forest Conservation and Landscape requirements. Mr. Bowman, along with Resource Management Bureau Chief, Gale Engles, responded to questions from the EAC on definition of a forest area, explaining forest banking, specimen tree replacement during construction, cutting firewood criteria, and responded of having no knowledge as to whether the County has a green infrastructure map or not.

Ms. Merkle thanked Mr. Bowman and Ms. Engles for attending and briefing the EAC on the Forest Conservation and Landscaping policies.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**COOL COUNTIES PROJECT – ENERGY REDUCTION SUBCOMMITTEE:** Mr. Andrews briefed the EAC on the progress made by the members of the Energy Reduction Subcommittee after the Commissioners signed the Cool Counties agreement. Meetings were held; a Montgomery County field trip was taken with members realizing the huge task before them. Then, the effort stalled. Mr. Andrews posed the question where do we start in formulating a baseline of measurement for progress. Much discussion amongst Council members ensued with Mr. Andrews advising progress by the subcommittee will be reported to the EAC at future meetings.

Ms. Parr then introduced Scott Moser, Bureau Chief of Building Construction and Mr. Rich Shelton who shared with the EAC energy reduction methods already in place. They include energy efficient light bulbs and ballasts; ability to monitor remotely, temperatures by computer; raising the temperature in summer by 2° and lowering it by 2° in winter, without complaint; new building construction utilizing geothermal technology; switching to fuel man cards instead of fueling at the Maintenance Center when in other areas of the County; obtaining state grants for solar hot water systems; adding 4WD Nitros to fleet instead of pickups; low flush urinals; dual flush toilets; automatic shut-off faucets; ability to heat/air condition sunny side of buildings versus cooler side simultaneously; County purchasing electricity and natural gas avoiding the middleman with success; and; in closing, Mr. Shelton responded he would get back to the EAC on the question of what percentage of the total energy expended does the County Office Building use.

Concerns rose in that the County is saving money but are they cutting energy consumption and where do we obtain a benchmark baseline as a beginning point for accomplishing the Cool Counties Agreement criteria. Ms. Parr responded to these concerns by advising the EAC she will have the County's technical expert, Mr. Mark Ripper, Director of the Department of Technology Services come to the November meeting and report on documented statistics.

**UPDATE ON RECOMMENDATION TO PROVIDE GREEN TAX CREDITS:** Cindy Parr advised the County is in the midst of preparing for the new legislative session; and, at the Council's request, will send a draft of this recommendation to members in order for them to review prior to the November EAC meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS: -**

**SUSTAINABLE LIVING FAIR to be held on May 23, 2009** - Mr. Dan Andrews advised the Council, due to the recent economy, his concern regarding the \$10.00 admission fee charged in 2008, in comparison to other counties having lower or free admission to this event, impacted attendance. For 2009, goals are to reduce admission fees. Mr. Andrews asked the Council to consider committing to more presence at this event, along with County agencies involvement in order to accomplish admission reduction and possibly, with its success, the Farm Museum's \$1,500. per-day event fee could be waived. The issue was tabled until the November meeting with Mr. Andrews formulating a motion recommendation.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** – None

**ADJOURN: MOTION NO. 65-08:** Motion made by Robyn Gilden, seconded by Dan Andrews to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m. Motion carried.

The next regularly scheduled meeting, an **afternoon** meeting, will be held **Tuesday, November 18, 2008, at 3:00 p.m.** in Room 003/004.

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

Environmental and Resource Protection\ECO Files\EAC\MINUTES\2008\October 14, 2008