

<p>Carroll County ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES Karen L. Merkle, Chair Kim Petry, Vice Chair Tuesday, January 13, 2009, @ 3:00 p.m. Room 003/004, Carroll County Office Building (COB)</p>		<p style="text-align: right;">Cynthia M. Parr Chief, Administrative Services 225 N Center Street, Room 300 Westminster, MD 21157-5194 Telephone: 410-386-2232 Fax: 410-386-2485 cparr@ccg.carr.org</p>
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Members Present:

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

Members Absent:

Brian Rhoten
Sandy Zebal

County Government:

Cynthia Parr, County EAC Liaison
Kimberly Millender, Esq., County Attorney
J. Michael Evans, Director, DPW
Steve Horn, Director, Planning

Ann L. Baugher, Recording Secretary to EAC
Neil Ridgely, Sustainability Coordinator
George Parkine, citizen

Other Attendees:

Carrie Knauer, Carroll County Times
Ed Singer, CCHD
D. Lowell Jones, citizen

Ellen Cutsail, Town of Union Bridge
Charles Zeleski, CCHD

CALL TO ORDER - Ms. Karen Merkle, Chair, officially called the January 13, 2009, meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. and then asked for approval of the December 9, 2008, minutes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – **MOTION NO. 70-09:** Motion was made by David Pyatt, seconded by Dan Andrews, approving the December 9, 2008, minutes as presented. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS – Cindy Parr advised the EAC one of the presenter’s today, Mr. Neil Ridgely, Sustainability Coordinator, is not a new position but just a reassignment of duties. Neil’s former position’s duties have been absorbed within the Department of Planning. Ms. Parr indicated Mr. Ridgely’s focus will include air and water quality as well as water resources.

Chair Karen Merkle, on behalf of the EAC, welcomed Mr. Ridgely and expressed the Council’s delight in Mr. Ridgely’s position of overseeing the Cool Counties Agreement commitment by Carroll County.

OPEN FORUM – None

PRESENTATION: - Mr. Mike Evans, Director of Public Works, updated the EAC on Carroll County’s position with Frederick County on Waste To Energy. Mr. Evans covered topics the EAC addressed in their recommendations on solid waste to the Board of Commissioners in November, 2007: recycling rates increased from 29.72% in 2006 to 31.33% in 2007, contract with Recycle America includes education monies, Recycling Manager position created and filled by Maria Myers, recycling containers at the September, 2008 Wine Festival proved effective, a Main Street Westminster recycling project is in the works, hospital and community college food composting operation efforts to collectively minimize

landfill use is being utilized, and Mr. Evans added the recycling market presently has gone down like the stock market.

Mr. Evans updated the EAC that two (2) WTE proposals received on December 4, 2008 from Covanta and Wheelabrator are being reviewed and anticipates vendor choice within the next 30 days. Mr. Evans advised the EAC the MOU between Frederick County and Carroll County is in draft form proposing 60% of the waste from Frederick County and 40% from Carroll. Carroll County's next step would be to amend the 10-year Master Plan, and amend the local ordinance regarding flow control and licensing.

Mr. Evans fielded many questions and concerns from the EAC. Mr. Evans stated: long-haul trucks would carry Carroll County waste to Frederick, Commissioners would decide if they wish to purchase electricity from the WTE plant at cost or receive a portion of the profit margin, the County's current waste generation rate is 300 tons per day, the \$76.00 tipping fee would have to be proportionately adjusted if the County switches from the current hauler program to maintain flow control, and the County's 40% WTE generated ash would be returned to the County's landfill.

Ms. Merkle expressed concern on the mixed message from the County to County residents, "recycle but we need 300 tons of trash per day to efficiently run a WTE facility".

Mr. Chris Spaur reaffirmed the EAC's original position regarding WTE. The EAC wanted the BOC to hold off making a decision for five (5) years in order to pursue new technologies, study alternate methods more in-depth and optimize recycling.

Mr. Haddad stated even though he was not part of the EAC when the recommendations were presented, he does not share the Council's WTE reservations and feel the Commissioners have made the right decision.

Chair Merkle thanked Mr. Evans for the update and stated the Council's recommendations, as presented to the Commissioners in November of 2007, still stand.

OLD BUSINESS: Mr. Neil Ridgely, Sustainability Coordinator, Department of Planning spoke to the EAC regarding the County's ICLEI (International Council on Local Environmental Initiatives) membership and goals. Mr. Ridgely showed a short slide presentation advising the Council of ICLEI's willingness to work with the County and advised the EAC the County is much farther ahead than surrounding jurisdictions. Mr. Ridgely will begin with interviewing Mr. Dan Andrews, who serves on the energy reduction task force as to where that group is presently and what has been done so far. Mr. Ridgely shared some ideas he has of small changes realizing large savings, such as sensor lighting, utilizing solar hot water heaters in 1-story buildings, LEED projects, wind turbines, public outreach, setting up an advisory committee with the Board of Education and Carroll Community College and setting up an accurate webpage for County resident convenience.

Ms. Merkle thanked Mr. Ridgely for briefing the EAC and said to "consider the EAC part of your team." Ms. Merkle asked Mr. Ridgely to return to present updates on the County's progress along with how ICLEI membership is supporting goals the County is trying to realize in reducing energy consumption.

COOL COUNTIES PROJECT – ENERGY REDUCTION COMMITTEE: Ms. Parr indicated Mr. Ridgely's duties as Sustainability Coordinator would involve him taking the lead in County initiatives with the EAC switching to a supportive role rather than lead.

UPDATE ON RECOMMENDATION TO PROVIDE GREEN TAX CREDITS: Ms. Cindy Parr advised the Council that the County did seek and receive authorizing legislation to develop and enact a Green Tax Credit for commercial properties only during the 2008 General Assembly Session. County staff is currently working on drafting the local County ordinance that will put this credit into effect. The concept of expanding the tax credit for residential properties was presented to the Commissioners; however, the Board of Commissioners did not support legislative action for residential properties at this time because the Board wanted to see how the credit will work with commercial properties first. Ms. Parr suggested the EAC present a motion in the fall of 2009 to suggest that the Commissioners seek legislative authority from the General Assembly during the 2010 session to expand the Green Tax Credit program to include residential properties.

NEW BUSINESS: Chair Karen Merkle asked for Chair nominations from the floor. Ms. Merkle announced three nominations were made via e-mail with two respectfully declining, leaving Robyn Gilden as sole name on the ballot for Chair. With no additional nominations made from the floor, ballots were handed out and tallied by Ann Baugher. The new EAC Chair, Robyn Gilden, will begin her two 2-year term in February, 2009, and end January 31, 2011. Ms. Merkle congratulated Ms. Gilden, and announced Kim Petry will remain Vice Chair.

COUNCIL MEMBERS – Issues for future consideration – Council will think about future issues to pursue until the February meeting. Ms. Gilden advised an updated Topics for Future Consideration will be e-mailed to members. Mr. Chris Spaur indicated, and was supported by the rest of the EAC, that he would like to hear a discussion of county proposed “shovel-ready” projects that were submitted for Federal Stimulus monies.

ANNOUNCEMENTS from the Chair: Chair Merkle thanked the entire Council for their support and encouragement to her and the Council’s dedication over the past three years. Ms. Merkle stated many missions were accomplished with endless volunteer hours spent, and it was an honor to be Chair of such a hard-working group. Ms. Merkle wished Ms. Gilden the very best in her new role as Chair.

ADJOURN: MOTION NO. 71-09: Motion made by Robyn Gilden, seconded by David Pyatt to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m. Motion carried.

The next regularly scheduled meeting, an **afternoon** meeting, will be held **Tuesday, February 10, 2009, at 3:00 p.m.** in Room 003/004.

Please inform the secretary if you are unable to attend