

<p>Carroll County ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES Robyn Gilden, Chair Kim Petry, Vice Chair Tuesday, February 10, 2008, 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:

Robyn Gilden, Chair
Sandy Zebal
Karen Merkle
Chris Spaur
Dan Andrews
Brian Rhoten

Members Absent:

Kim Petry, Vice Chair
David Pyatt
Richard Haddad

County Government:

Cynthia Parr, County EAC Liaison
Terri Jones, Esq., Deputy County Attorney
Frank Schaeffer, Deputy Director DPW
Cliff Engles, DPW
Jon Bowman, Resource Mgmt

Ann L. Baugher, Recording Secretary to EAC
J. Michael Evans, Director DPW
Sheree Lima, DPW
Gale Engles, Bureau Chief, Resource Mgmt

Other Attendees:

George Perkine, resident
Ed Singer, CCHD
Jon Richardson, CCHD

Ellen Cutsail, Town of Union Bridge
Charles Zeleski, CCHD
Gail Holliday, resident

CALL TO ORDER - Ms. Robyn Gilden, Chair, officially called the February 10, 2009, meeting to order at 3:03 p.m. and then asked for approval of the January 13, 2009, minutes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MOTION NO.72-09: Motion was made by Karen Merkle, seconded by Chris Spaur, approving the minutes as amended. Motion carried. **Amendment:** Page two, 4th paragraph, added at the end of the last sentence – **“and optimize recycling.”**

COMMUNICATIONS – Ms. Cindy Parr communicated to the Council that Ms. Haley Kilborne of McDaniel College had been contacted indicating the County is interested in securing a student for an unpaid internship to help Mr. Neil Ridgely and Mr. Mark Ripper with the Cool Counties agreement.

OPEN FORUM – Ms. Gail Holliday, 5122 Sykesville Road, Sykesville, MD announced she came to hear the issues and concerns on critical root zones.

PRESENTATION: - Mr. Charles Zeleski, Carroll County Health Department, presented information on Radon to the EAC including handouts, an example of a radon testing kit, a slide presentation, and some statistics on the effects of radon being a risk for developing lung cancer. Mr. Zeleski explained to the EAC that radon is not man-made and occurs naturally in the soil. There is no control over where it is and where it leaks. Mr. Zeleski said the higher level belt runs north on Route 27 through Manchester.

Ms. Gilden thanked Mr. Zeleski for attending and presenting information to the Council on “radon”.

OLD BUSINESS: - Mr. Mike Evans, Director of the Department of Public Works, presented a Waste To Energy (WTE) update to the EAC beginning with Frederick County’s recent presentation to the Frederick

Board of County Commissioners lasting eight (8) hours. Carroll County will have spent 1.5 million dollars, as will Frederick County, during the first three (3) phases of the WTE project, which include the Request for Proposals (RFP), the permit process and the financing process.

- 2/12/09 – Mr. Evans will make a presentation to the Carroll County BOC
- 2/17/09 – Frederick County will hold a Q&A time from 6 – 7 p.m.; followed by a 7 p.m. Public Hearing
- 2/19/09 – Frederick County will hold another Public Hearing on the WTE facility site if they decide to proceed after the meeting on the 17th (current proposed location is in southeast Frederick County near the Montgomery County line)
- After 2/19/09 – Carroll County Commissioners will make a decision as to whether to go forth with the phase of permitting and design. Upon obtaining a final price, if approved, the Board of Commissioners will authorize the Northeast Authority to move forward with the next phase for the Waste To Energy facility.
- The best and final contractor chosen was Wheelabrator, with inflation built-in at a cost for construction at approximately 332 million dollars.
- Construction of the WTE facility will employ approximately 1,000 workers
- Estimate 24 months to finalize matters, obtain permits and allow for the engineering process
- Design and construction anticipate start-up date in 2015

Many questions and concerns were raised by EAC members. Mr. Spaur reiterated the County could still optimize recycling, bearing in mind there is always room for improvement.

Mr. Dan Andrews wanted to go on record regarding his concerns for the health and safety of County landfill workers in applying ash in daily operations at the County's landfill. Mr. Andrews asked Mr. Evans for the minimum daily burn rate and his concern that the facility must be continuously fueled. Mr. Andrews asked, with the expected continued efforts to optimize recycling to further reduce waste and construction of housing continues to be down until the facility is operational, how will these daily waste stream reductions effect the County meeting their 40% contractual rate, if approved.

With many unanswered questions and ongoing concerns, a motion was made to voice the many EAC concerns and questions to the Board of Commissioners.

WTE LETTER TO BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS - MOTION 73-09: Motion made by Karen Merkle, seconded by Dan Andrews and carried, for the Chair, Robyn Gilden, to forward a letter to the Carroll County Board of Commissioners referencing continued concerns that remain and have not been resolved to the EAC's satisfaction.

EAC members Brian Rhoten and Dan Andrews updated the Council on "critical root zones". Mr. Rhoten presented slides on the effects of tree damage and Mr. Andrews reported on their research of surrounding jurisdictions on this matter. Since the Planning Commission approved the adjacent property owners' project affecting Ms. Holliday's critical root zone issue and no appeal was filed, any action the EAC would propose would not change Ms. Holliday's situation, only future critical root zone situations.

Mr. Andrews informed the EAC that Tacoma Park has within their Ordinance trees over 7.5" in diameter and construction activity is within 50' of this size tree, a small tree sketch must accompany the application. Mr. Andrews continued that State Highway Administration (SHA) does address critical root zones and if one-third of the trees are impacted during a construction event, the site is monitored and damages are paid by SHA.

After Council discussed how a tree's value is estimated, the effect on County developed facilities, the possibility of asking the County to update their ordinance to include the critical root zone issue, including comments from the CCHD critical root zones not binding on the state level, and the complexities pointed out by Ms. Terri Jones in amending the County's ordinance on this matter, the Council decided to table this discussion at a future meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: - Federal Money discussion by the Council regarding the economic stimulus package before Congress.

Ms. Parr stated that municipalities within Carroll County may be looking to get some stimulus monies and may qualify, based on the terminology "shovel ready". Ms. Terri Jones, after Council members questioned whether the County had a list of "shovel-ready" projects, stated the County's budget process, which includes the County's Master Plan, and the CIP 6-year long-term plan, have projects with a scope and costs defined. Once projects are approved, appropriations for engineering, design and construction are part of the plan. Unless a project is a 2-phase project, they would not be 'shovel ready'.

Ms. Parr advised the Council that Mr. Neil Ridgely, Sustainability Coordinator, would be invited to update the Council at the March meeting on the Cool Counties initiative.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Ms. Karen Merkle, Past Chair, wanted to recognize Cindy Parr, Terri Jones, Esq., and Ann Baugher for their supporting role to Ms Merkle during her 3-year term as Chair of the EAC.

Ms. Gilden announced some upcoming event dates to keep in mind. 1) CCR Airport Environmental Assessment Public Hearing will be held on March 9, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. in 003/004 of the County Office Building; 2) Frederick County will hold Public Hearings in the Winchester Hall regarding WTE at 7 p.m. on February 17 and 19, 2009; 3) and Mr. Dan Andrews announced a "No Waste Expo" will be held on March 28, 2009 at Frederick High School.

<p><u>ADJOURN: MOTION NO. 74-09:</u> Motion made by Brian Rhoten, seconded by Karen Merkle to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 5:13 p.m. Motion carried.</p>
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The next regularly scheduled meeting, an **afternoon** meeting, will be held **Tuesday, March 10, 2009, at 3:00 p.m.** in Room 003/004.

Please inform the secretary if you are unable to attend