

<p>Carroll County ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES Robyn Gilden, Chair Kim Petry, Vice Chair Tuesday, September 8, 2009, @ 3:00 p.m. Room 003/004, Carroll County Office Building (COB)</p>		<p>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
Kim Petry, Vice Chair
Karen Merkle
Dan Andrews
Sandy Zebal
Brian Rhoten
David Pyatt
Chris Spaur

Members Absent:

None

County Government:

Cynthia Parr, County EAC Liaison
Ann Baugher, Recording Secretary to the EAC
Neil Ridgely, Sustainability Coordinator

Jolene Sullivan, Director of Citizen Services
Terri Jones, Esquire, County Atty. Office

Other Attendees:

Kurt Deery, Lehigh
Jon Richardson, CCHD
Judy Smith, resident
Ellen Cutsail, Town of Union Bridge
David Jones, New Windsor resident

Kent Martin, Lehigh Plant Manager
Vince Campenella, Lehigh Consultant
Doreen Negley
Daniel Stricker, NEWCAP
Adam Bednar, Carroll County Times

CALL TO ORDER - Ms. Robyn Gilden, Chair, officially called the September 8, 2009, meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. asking for approval of the August 11, 2009 minutes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MOTION NO. 90-09: Motion was made by Dan Andrews, seconded by Sandy Zebal, approving the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS – 1) Ms. Sandy Zebal complimented Ms. Henn for the thoroughness of her August 11, 2009 minutes. 2) Ms. Robyn Gilden announced the Solid Waste Public Hearing on tipping fees will be held on Thursday, September 10, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., if any Council member wishes to attend. 3) Ms. Cindy Parr advised she received an e-mail from a Mr. William Harrison without an attachment, asking if anyone else had received this communication and none had.

PRESENTATION – Unused Prescription Disposal - Ms. Jolene Sullivan, Director for the Department of Citizen Services advised the EAC about an exciting collaborative effort by the Carroll County Sheriff’s Office and the Department of Citizen Services in accomplishing a means by which residents of Carroll County can return unused prescription drugs to law enforcement authorities for disposal without further polluting the Chesapeake Bay and potentially reducing the risk of pharmaceuticals getting into our drinking water. The kick-off date, in conjunction with the October 24, 2009, Household Hazardous Waste Day, will give residents the opportunity to turn said prescriptions over to law enforcement officials. Ms. Sullivan reminded all to take any unused prescriptions along to this semi-annual event. The October 24, 2009 event will again be held at the Carroll County Maintenance Facility, 1250 Old Meadow Branch Road, Westminster, MD 21158. After the kick-off, various permanent drop-off sites have been

established throughout Carroll County, including the police barracks in Westminster, Taneytown, Sykesville and the Greenmount Sheriff's satellite office.

Mr. Chris Spaur questioned why anyone would want to take prescription drugs to a drop off point when placing them in the garbage, where they are either landfilled or incinerated, has no effect in further polluting the Chesapeake Bay.

OPEN FORUM – Neil Ridgely handed out tree planting discount coupons for \$25.00 off each tree with a cost of \$50.00 or greater, and the coupon is as good for as many trees you wish to purchase at various locations in Carroll County in an effort joining fellow Marylanders in planting 50,000 trees by 2010. Coupon expires November 30, 2009. Mr. Ridgely may be contacted at (410) 386-2145, to obtain a full list of locations accepting coupons.

Mr. Ridgely also announced a program on backyard foresting being offered at the Carroll County Cooperative Extension Center at a cost of \$25.00 for the manual and CD, entitled *The Woods in Your Backyard*, on September 15, 2009.

OLD BUSINESS – 1) **CCHD MTBE update** – MTBE case spreadsheets were distributed to the EAC prior to the September 8, 2009 meeting. Mr. Jon Richardson, CCHD furnished an update on the remaining MTBE cases noting:

- the ongoing investigation on Hillcrest Avenue, Hampstead. Existing wells to be properly abandoned upon connecting to town water, and
- the Manchester Sheetz expansion project has been put on hold until full investigation of the extent of contamination is determined.

Mr. Dan Andrews inquired on the well abandonment process. Mr. Richardson advised that, as required by COMAR, the well needs to be fully sealed from the bedrock to the surface or from the bottom of the casing to the surface with cement – a mixture that will set on top of the bedrock with minimal amounts going into the ground water.

- 2) **Lehigh Cement – update on Mercury** - Mr. Kent Martin updated the EAC on the Mercury reduction process status at Lehigh Cement Company via PowerPoint. Lehigh has voluntarily asked MDE to participate in advance of Mercury regulations that will not become effective until March, 2010, with an expected 2012 industry requirement date from US EPA. Currently, Lehigh is capturing 40% of the mercury and placing it into cement. Lehigh hopes to attain 80% capture by the 2012 requirement date.

The EAC asked Lehigh several questions from health issues, what other cement plants are doing with the mercury, concentrations in limestone versus coal, breathing in the dust when bags are opened, are bags marked with inhalation cautions, what happens when concrete crumbles and breaks, any control over where the products go, i.e. used on playgrounds, etc.

Mr. Martin responded the U.S. is behind Europe in testing the health risks from exposure to the final product or as it breaks down; however, to date, no results show concern with concentrations at 0.4 gpm, extremely low levels posing no health risk stating seafood concentrations are higher. Although Ms Gilden pointed out that there are fish consumption warnings for children and pregnant women to avoid certain fish and seafood due to mercury contamination.

- 3) **Lehigh Cement – Transport system update** – Mr. Kurt Deery, Environmental Engineer at Lehigh, spoke on the various transport systems being looked at to transport 400 tons of limestone from New Windsor Quarry to Union Bridge. The transport systems under review included truck,

rail and the green alternative, by conveyor. Lehigh is working with homeowners in the area to purchase easements with a focus on the most feasible and green choice, conveyor. The 4.5 mile conveyor would be completely covered when on the ground to control noise and dust and impact on views will be reduced by trench and fill method. 1.8 miles would be underground eliminating noise, traffic issues, and safety issues. The conveyor is designed for aesthetics and Lehigh showed various photographs and a map of the path. The quarry has an estimated 80-year supply of limestone and the conveyor would run Monday through Friday or Saturday with Lehigh not wanting to operate weekends due to an agreement with the Towns. Lehigh has received positive feedback on their green choice of a conveyor transport system, which would move 11 to 12,000 tons a day or 3.86 million tons a year.

Ms. Cindy Parr asked residents with concerns regarding Lehigh's transport system to submit their comments in writing through the Pathways Plan.

Ms. Terri Jones, Esquire added the Comprehensive Plan is being reviewed and the Board of Commissioners will look at this. Residents will have more opportunity to comment prior to BOC vote.

NEW BUSINESS: - Residential Environmental Tax Credit proposal discussion. Ms. Gildea began by asking the EAC if they felt, due to the substantial budget cuts the County is facing, if it is still a good idea to recommend this proposal now, suggesting a cap each year as neighboring Counties have done. Chair Gildea then opened up the issue for discussion.

Mr. Andrews and Ms. Karen Merkle stated this would allow residents to purchase green technologies that would otherwise be too expensive with upfront costs being prohibitive. They also said this would be a support for small businesses trying to promote green technology but finding a difficult market at this time.

Mr. Chris Spaur stated he feels this is outside the County's purview, unlike the wind turbine Ordinance which was within the County with both Ms. Sandy Zebal and Mr. Richard Haddad stating this would be a loss of revenue to the County at an already challenging time with cutbacks from the State.

After much discussion, with the majority in favor of proposing a motion on this issue as was done commercially a year ago, the EAC consensus was having an incentive would stimulate homeowners to possibly pursue energy saving devices within their homes to obtain this credit. Using local contractors to perform the work would promote business growth within the County.

Putting forth a motion to have the Board of Commissioners propose a residential green property tax credit during the State Legislative session was tabled until the October meeting. The EAC asked if Mr. Neil Ridgely, Sustainability Coordinator would research what neighboring counties are doing, have done and plan on doing regarding this issue. Mr. Ridgely will report his findings at the brief October 13, 2009, 6:00 p.m. – 6:45 p.m. EAC meeting.

Ms. Terri Jones, Esquire, reminded the EAC the tax credit would only be on the County portion of the tax bill. It would not affect the State portion. To date, no one has taken advantage of the Commercial green tax credit adopted on May 5, 2009. If this issue is proposed and adopted, a County inspector would need to inspect the improvement for qualification of said credit and it is uncertain at this time if County inspectors would need additional training to conduct these inspections. Ms. Jones added Mr. Ridgely is working on energy efficiency revolving loan fund and has submitted a grant application, still awaiting a reply.

OTHER: Sandy Zebal voiced her concern regarding the County lowering tipping fees and if there would be EAC representation at the upcoming Public Hearing, being surprised that no mention of Solid Waste

not meeting their expenses while the BOC voted to go forth, along with Frederick County, regarding Waste to Energy was conveyed.

Ms. Parr asked EAC members to address comments regarding the Solid Waste issue to the County Clerk, Kathy Rauschenberg since the comment period is still open.

Mr. Andrews shared his concern that the County is taking a huge gamble on whether or not they will meet the WTE requirements for Carroll County; or, be able to contract a neighboring jurisdiction to make up for what Carroll County cannot attain. Mr. Andrews still believes the way to go is Pay As You Throw.

COUNCIL MEMBERS – Issues for future consideration – 1) Mr. Dan Andrews expressed his strong desire the County ramp up recycling with additional recycling sites in addition to Northern Landfill. Ms. Cindy Parr agreed to pass this along to the Department of Public Works.

Ms. Merkle shared during a recent Saturday drop at the Northern Landfill, with the amount of items filling the rolloff with little to no room left to drop items.

Mr. Andrews wished to make a motion to have the County hire someone to assist Ms. Maria Myers with a focus on achieving a 45 to 50% recycling rate. Ms. Jones, Esquire advised Mr. Andrews that since this item was not on the agenda, it would need to be placed on a future agenda.

Ms. Parr advised the EAC what the County is facing financially with the State cutback. Hiring is frozen, open positions are not being filled, with very serious budget cuts within the next two months and putting forward a new position would not go very far. Looking into next fiscal year is bleaker.

The Council brainstormed on alternate approaches for increasing staff to achieve a higher recycling rate - possibly reallocating resources. Discussion occurred around management decisions and whether adding staff would result in improved recycling rates at the desired rates. Also recommended to engage an unpaid intern from a local College to assist Ms. Myers assuring a long-term focus.

B). Mr. Brian Rhoten announced he and Dan Andrews were working with Mr. Jim Slater, Environmental Compliance Officer on language suitable for plugging into Ordinances in Carroll County regarding tree preservation and land use. Any EAC member wishing to assist should let him know as plans are to have this issue on the November agenda. Ms. Karen Merkle volunteered to assist Mr. Rhoten and Mr. Andrews with research on this endeavor.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Since a 7:00 p.m. Public Information Meeting will be conducted by MDE in the Public Hearing 003/004 meeting room, the Tuesday, October 13, 2009, evening EAC meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m. and adjourn promptly at 6:45 p.m.

Ms. Gilden announced the Annual Boards and Commissions training will be held this year at Bear Branch on October 16, 2009. Please e-mail the County Attorney's Office by September 11, 2009 for final count in finalizing planning of this event.

ADJOURN: MOTION NO. 91-09: Motion made by Kim Petry, seconded by Brian Rhoten to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 5:12 p.m. Motion carried.

Please inform the secretary if you are unable to attend