

<p>Carroll County ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES Sandra Zebal, Chair Kim Petry, Vice Chair Tuesday, July 12, 2011, @ 3:00 p.m. Room 003/004, Carroll County Office Building (COB)</p>		<p>Cynthia M. Parr, Chief Administrative Services 225 N Center Street, Westminster, MD 21157-5194 Telephone: 410-386-2232 Fax: 410-386-2485 cparr@ccg.carr.org</p>
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Members Present:

Sandra Zebal, Chair
 Brian Rhoten
 Dan Andrews
 David Pyatt
 Kim Petry
 Robyn Gilden

County Government:

Cynthia Parr, County EAC Liason
 Kelly Martin for Cindy Myers-Crumbacker, Recording Secretary
 Tom Devilbiss, Acting Director, Bureau of Resource Management
 Commissioner Doug Howard

Members Absent:

Chris Spaur

Other Attendees:

Carolyn Puckett, Carroll Forest Conservancy Bd.
 Donna Davis, Carroll Forest Conservancy Board
 Carrie Knauer, Carroll County Times

CALL TO ORDER - Ms. Sandra Zebal, Chair, officially called the July 12, 2011, meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. asking for approval of the June 14, 2011 minutes. The approval was postponed until the August meeting because the hard copy Sandy had did not include changes she had e-mailed to the recording secretary.

COMMUNICATIONS –

1. Cindy Parr reported in regards to member re-appointments, the information was forwarded to Denise Hoover, Office Associate for the County Commissioners. Mr. Andrews is eligible for re-appointment; there are some questions about term limits for Ms. Merkle. Chairman Sandy Zebal asked when can we expect action on filling the vacant position? Ms. Parr advised her to ask Commissioner Howard during his presentation.

PRESENTATIONS:

1. Commissioner Doug Howard –

Ms. Zebal welcomed Commissioner Howard. The EAC members then introduced themselves by giving a brief background. Commissioner Howard then presented and distributed a list of Environmental Principles he will be presenting to the Board of County Commissioners on Thursday, (see attachment). Goals expressed by Commissioner Howard are to work with existing organizations. The EAC provides opportunity to explore possibilities. He advised members to use their expertise. Robyn Gilden feels more focus should be on health impacts of multiple populations. Mr. Howard said the environmental principals need to be fundamental in development of the Carroll County Master Plan.

Regarding the Board appointments for positions on the EAC, Commissioner Howard said they are in the final stages of getting those accomplished. Ms. Gilden asked if, other than Dan Andrews, has anyone expressed interest. Mr. Howard’s response was he is not sure. Cindy Parr said previous interest from a person a couple of months ago was forwarded to Ms. Hoover.

Ms. Zebal asked how the EAC is to communicate with the Board of Commissioners. In the past, requests have come from the BCC or citizens directly. Mr. Howard continued, when issues

arise, they will communicate directly; they are operating relatively informal. If you receive an issue from citizens or if you notice they are discussing something of interest-contact them. If you expressed an opinion to the previous Commissioners, you should present that information to the new Board. Ms. Zebal said she was concerned about the channel of communication, which was previously thru Cindy Parr. Mr. Howard informed the EAC that Steve Powell schedules the agenda items with each Board member able to put items on the agenda or you can come to one of the commissioners individually. Use your current contact or Steve Powell or a Board member making sure to send the information to all 5 Board members.

Dan Andrews stated that he had previously studied solid waste. Concerning the recycling staff – Maria Myers is the one position we have. That is not enough. He thinks the County needs to take a note in getting 20 plus haulers to divert waste to recycling facilities rather than the landfill. Mr. Howard responded that the Board did not add a tipping fee for recycling.

Mr. Andrews said in 2009 the “Cool County” Agreement Resolution/NACO inventory emissions at County Facilities. The County was going to work on reduction. Mr. Howard said the Commissioners have not discussed this.

Ms. Zebal asked who is overseeing the county’s energy use. Mr. Howard answered, The Department of Public Works, Tom Rio is the Director. Ms. Zebal said they should be setting a goal to reduce use.

Mr. Rhoten thanked Mr. Howard for attending and acknowledging the EAC. Ms. Petry told Mr. Howard if you are interested in alternatives to waste to energy, we have a lot of information we could share with you.

Mr. Andrews asked if the revolving loan program administered through the sustainability coordinator is still being offered. This program offers low interest loans, energy construction, upgrades in insulation, solar, wind, etc. Tom Devilbiss answered that the loan program is still in place, the status has been forwarded to Steve Powell. People have received funds; some are in progress.

2. Carolyn Puckett – Weed Warriors Program

Weed Warriors are volunteers trained on invasive weeds and how to remove them. Invasive weeds are thistle and vineweed. They are taking over the native plants on hiking trails at Hashawha. Invasive bugs are the Japanese beetles and stink bugs. Caterpillars can only digest native plants, therefore butterflies and birds are endangered. Staff at the Nature Center is reduced-none are available to get rid of invasive weeds, etc. Montgomery County has taken the lead on this type of training and offered an online training program for our County. Last year training was piloted at Bear Branch. This year training sessions were expanded to Piney Run. There were 71 volunteers trained at no cost to the county. The Forest Conservancy Board runs the Warrior Program. Nature Centers tell volunteers what areas to work in. They open sheds for tools. Students can earn volunteer community service hours.

Mr. Andrews asked if information is posted on any websites beyond Sierra Club. Ms. Puckett said it is listed on a couple of sites. Ms. Gilden mentioned that libraries and schools would be a good resource. Ms. Puckett said schools sent out information regarding volunteer community service hours. Mr. Andrews suggested perhaps County Road Staff should be trained. The weed ordinance has moved to the Department of Public Works and invasive weeds are along County roads. Ms. Gilden clarified that all work done is manual, physically removing weeds. Ms. Puckett stated that the volunteers are not using chemicals at this time because of certification requirements. Ms. Gilden cautioned against using pesticides. Ms. Zebal wondered if this could fit in the schools science curriculum. Mr. Andrews wondered if CCPS has someone in charge of Environmental Studies. Cindy Parr said there is a secondary school science supervisor. Mr. Devilbiss said the Soil Conservation District sponsors the Envirothon. They would be a source. Mr. Rhoten suggested using inmates from the Detention Center. Ms. Zebal suggested mass education with tax bills letting citizens know they should be free of these invasives on your

property. She also questioned “Can the work be done in the fall when it is cooler?” Ms. Puckett answered “Try to do the work before the berries are on it.” Mr. Andrews suggested putting this information on the County website and link to the EAC page.

OPEN FORUM

Nothing to report.

OLD BUSINESS –

1. Tree Committee – Brian Rhoten

Brian had no report because the meeting was cancelled for this month. The next meeting will be August 3, 2011.

2. Solid Waste Management – Dan Andrews

The committee met and has recommendations:

1. Each municipality should have a recycling coordinator-County could help initiate/coordinate, paid position, performance based. Mt. Airy received an award for best recycling, reduced waste, saved money. Dave Pyatt suggested inviting Wendi Peters to a future meeting. She spearheads efforts for Mt. Airy. Brian Rhoten said the haulers benefit from giving incentives for recycling, not citizens.
2. Dumping coupons encourage dumping-there should be a coupon for a discount for recycling bins.
3. EAC should meet with Maria or Chuck Ingram to brainstorm, how to educate, increase pay as you throw, then meet with haulers. Cindy Parr said 23 haulers work in Carroll.
4. Pay for recyclables at landfill-incentive for haulers, need to have both handled at landfill.
5. Need 1,000 more recycling totes with lids that were purchased with grant money.

NEW BUSINESS-

Kim Petry reminded the Council that it is time to start planning for the Environmental Awareness Awards. She said she needs donations in order to get the awards during County Government Week in April 2012. Nominations are due March 1st, the web form needs to be up and running in October 2011. She would like to revise/update the questions with the EAC’s review first. Commissioners will present the awards. Robyn Gilden suggested, if not too difficult, to have a subset of different questions for each category-Students, Agriculture, Business. Brian Rhoten suggested to plant several trees this year and have the Environmental Awareness award on Arbor Day. Then half next year at Arbor Day, so each year has an Arbor Day celebration and every other year the Environmental Awards.

Dan Andrews wanted the EAC to know that styrofoam is now being accepted at the Northern Landfill.

Sandy Zebal would like to find the 2007 Carroll County Government Greenhouse Emissions Gas Emissions Inventory from Neil Ridgely’s files and forward to Commissioner Howard with a letter. Cindy Parr advised to distribute by e-mail with reference to today’s discussion, then come back at a future time to discuss/update figures. Tom Devilbiss agreed to forward the information to both the Commissioners and to Tom Rio at the Department of Public Works. Ms. Zebal suggested that another inventory then be done and a comparison made to determine whether the county is meeting the reduction goals set forth in the Cool Counties agreement. Kim Petry has access to a formula for converting the usage data into emissions data.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Sandra Zebal announced the next meeting will be held Tuesday, August 9, 2011 at 3:00 p.m. in Room 003/004 of the County Office Building.

ADJOURN: MOTION NO. 132-11: Motion made by Dave Pyatt, seconded by Robyn Gildea, to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Please inform the secretary if you are unable to attend

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Draft of Carroll County **Environmental Principles**

As proposed by: Commissioner Doug Howard
To be presented to the Board of County Commissioners on July 14, 2011

Vision

We believe that the environment is important and must be carefully maintained. The air we breathe, the land we tend and the water we drink must be clean and safe in order to ensure that we maintain our health, safety and quality of life.

We believe that people are not the problem, they are the solution. We must be wise stewards of the environment and thus we must provide opportunities for locally-based, people-driven solutions designed for the long-term.

We believe an economy based on free-market principles produces innovative technologies and solutions that can conserve natural resources and promote environmental quality.

We believe that growing awareness and free enterprise will recognize businesses that are good environmental stewards. Individuals and businesses that provide solutions should reap the rewards for conservation and environmentally sound practices. Market-based solutions to protect the environment can be more effective and implemented with fewer economic side effects than a centrally planned government approach to environmental problems.

Goals

The Board of County Commissioners has the following environmental goals:

1. Maintain environmental quality and encourage economic prosperity
2. Promote land use, planning and development concepts and practices that support citizens' health, safety, well-being, individual rights and the economic viability of Carroll County
3. Maintain safe and adequate drinking water and other water supplies including efforts to protect and restore Chesapeake Bay
4. Strive to protect our natural resources for future generations

Implementation Methods

The Board of County Commissioners work with the EAC, local municipalities, state agencies, other counties and our county departments, business leaders and citizens to develop and promote strategies that allow for continued economic progress while pursuing good environmental stewardship. We will engage these partners in the formation of sound, balanced and reasonable environmental policies.

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