

**Carroll County
ENVIRONMENTAL
ADVISORY COUNCIL**



225 N Center Street
Westminster, MD 21157-5194
Telephone: 410-386-2145
Fax: 410-386-2924
eac@ccg.carr.org

**Sandra Zebal, Chair
Kim Petry, Vice Chair
August 14, 2012 3:00 pm**

*Brenda Dinne, Staff Liaison
Department of Land Use,
Planning, and Development*

Members Present

Sandra Zebal, Chair
Josh Hatkin
Karen Leatherwood
Kim Petry

County Government

Cindy Myers-Crumbacker, Recording Secretary
Tom Devilbiss, Deputy Director, Land Use, Planning
And Development (for Brenda Dinne)

Other Attendees

Carrie Knauer, Carroll County Times
Matt Shipley, Carroll County Health Dept.

Members Absent

Suzanne Hill
Brian Rhoten

CALL TO ORDER - Ms. Sandra Zebal, Chair, officially called the August 14, 2012 meeting to order at 3:04 p.m. A quorum was not present to make a motion, so the June minutes were not discussed. This discussion will be held at the September meeting.

PRESENTATION- Mike Fowler, BGE Manager of Local Affairs, and Danny Davis, BGE Supervisor of Forestry Operations gave a presentation on the new Vegetation Management Regulations. The new regulations, called RM43 (for Rule Making) were signed into law on May 10, 2011 to govern how Maryland Utilities manage their reliability efforts. These regulations came about due to the Blackout in 2003. Enhanced tree and vegetation management practices are a large part of the RM 43 regulations. BGE may need to do additional pruning or removal of trees that are located along overhead lines near substations. This is called “blue sky” trimming and includes removal of all overhanging tree branches from substation fence to the first protective device (breaker, transformer, etc.). An annual package of the vegetation management program and schedule will be sent to the Board of Commissioners. The package will also include information about mowing along transmission line corridors. The trimming will be done on a 4-year cycle. BGE will notify customers in advance of the scheduled work with a door hanger that outlines information about the program. Specific details about the work, as well as the name and phone number of the professional licensed sub-contractor will be provided. Westminster is part of the notification to be done. More education to nurseries is a goal of BGE. They have a 10 foot zone rule to stay away from the line when trimming and the line is e-energized while the work is being done. If more than 25% of the crown of the tree is trimmed then the tree will be removed. The web site BGE.com is available with the schedule for 6-8 weeks of work listed. A copy of the presentation and other informational brochures were made available to anyone at the meeting.

CHAIR & COMMITTEE REPORTS –

a. CHAIR-

Sandra Zebal would like each member to be aware of their attendance. She has noticed members are missing meetings quite a bit. Chairperson Sandra and Vice-Chairperson Kim Petry will not be at the September meeting. Karen Leatherwood agreed to chair this meeting.

Sandra reminded members to complete the Open Meeting On-line Training and get completion certificates to Cindy as soon as possible.

Sandra received an e-mail from Rebecca Chase who is in charge of an after school program. Rebecca commended the Council for their website information and links. Ms. Chase requested that a website her group found helpful be added to the EAC web page. That web address is www.heater-home.com/articles-efficient-green-homes. Permission to add this link will be checked on by Cindy and/or Brenda. Kim Petry suggested this group be sent information about the EAC awards for 2013.

b. **SOLID WASTE WORK GROUP –**

Karen Leatherwood reported that the group met August 13. The group will be meeting on August 23 with Commissioner Howard to present the recommendations they have. One of the recommendations is to increase the budget for Maria Myers, education is a top priority. The group would like feedback from the Commissioners.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM LIASION –

- a. Tom Devilbiss filled in for Brenda Dinne at this month's meeting. He had a few topics to make the Council aware of. The Economic Relief Package Part 2 is a focus for the Planning Department now. Chapter 134-Landscape Enhancement and Development has some proposed changes. Regarding Tree Screening-a. Exemption - Site re-development plan approval has been added. All adjacent property owners need to give written approval or screening requirements could be waived B. Planting units for screening fence, vegetation or both depends on land use. Jon Bowman, Forest Conservation Specialist from the Bureau of Resource Management came up with reductions in requirements. Planting unit spacing was adjusted: Class A 6.7 to 5 thru Class D. This was discussed at the Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting and they gave their approval.
The Landscape Manual changes include- a. requirements for Communication Towers not to exceed 500 ft. from the right of way.
- b. Floodplain Maps have been updated. The last update was done in 2005. The appeals time is now. This 90 day period ends in mid-October. A meeting is being held August 28 at Carroll Community College's Scott Center. Letters were sent to 3000 property owners. The department has received over 100 telephone calls.
- c. A suggestion was made to have Jason Stick, Carroll County Floodplain Specialist, speak at next month's meeting regarding the new Floodplain Maps.

OLD BUSINESS –

- a. Energy Use & Cost Savings Project –
A conference call was held on July 10, with Sandy, Brenda and John Modica. The project should be finished by the end of the year.

NEW BUSINESS- None

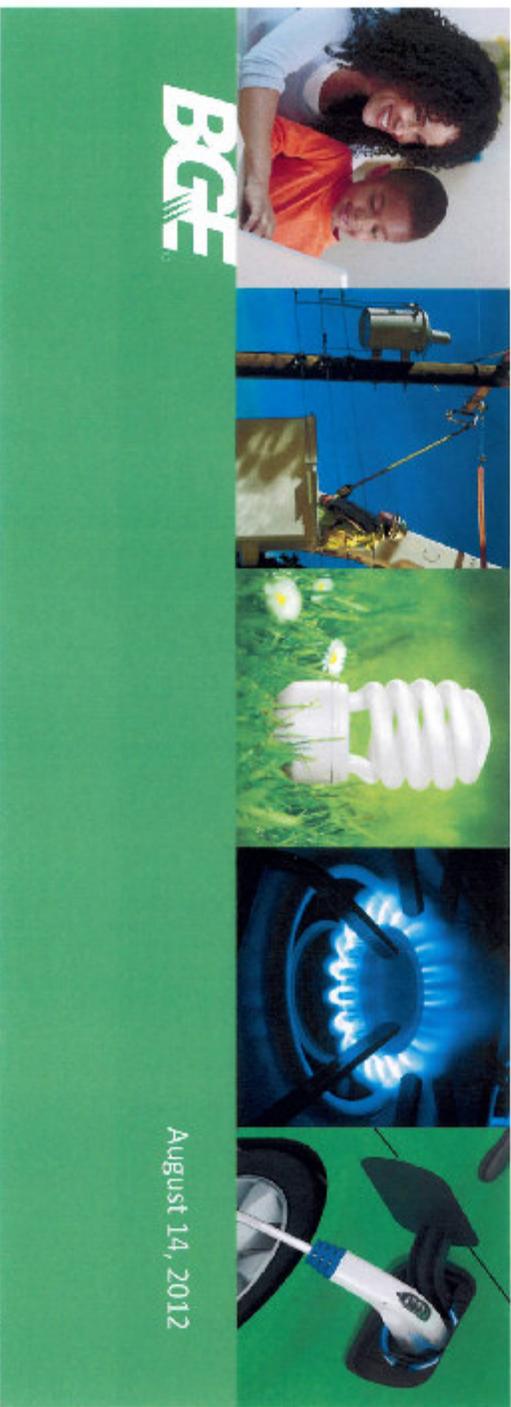
OTHER-

- a. Lehigh has submitted site plans. A Community Tour and Meeting was held last week.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30. Next month's meeting will be held on Tuesday, September, 11, 2012 at 3:00 pm in Room 003 of the County Office Building.



Carroll County Environmental Advisory Council RM 43 Overview



August 14, 2012

