



Carroll County Environmental Advisory Council

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Josh Hatkin, Chair
Sandra Zebal, Vice Chair

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

Meeting Summary for January 23, 2014

Members

Josh Hatkin, Chair
Sandy Zebal
Melvin Baile
Ellen Cutsail
David Hynes
Karen Leatherwood
Kim Petry
George Schooley

Other Attendees

County Government

Commissioner Frazier
Commissioner Shoemaker
Commissioner Roush
Commissioner Rothschild
Commissioner Howard

Brenda Dinne, Special Projects Coordinator
Stephanie Utz, Recording Secretary
Steve Powell
Philip Hager
Eric Burdine

CALL TO ORDER –

Mr. David Roush, President of the Board of County Commissioners, called the meeting to order at 1:36 PM on January 23, 2014, in the Reagan Room of the County Office Building.

INTRODUCTIONS-

Ms. Brenda Dinne introduced herself and explained that the purpose of the meeting is to fulfill the County Code that requires the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) to report annually on the previous year. The purpose also is to review the proposed work plan for the upcoming year and request the Board's concurrence. She then turned the meeting over to EAC Chair, Mr. Josh Hatkin. Mr. Hatkin introduced himself and had the other EAC members introduce themselves to the Commissioners.

2013 ANNUAL REPORT:

Mr. Hatkin reviewed with the Board the 2013 Annual Report that was provided to the Board at this meeting. He provided a status and update on the Energy Use & Cost Savings project, the

Stormwater Fee Advisory Group's work, and the solar facilities project. Mr. Hatkin went on to review all of the actions taken by the EAC of the previous calendar year, as well as the citizen concerns and issues brought to the EAC's attention in the previous calendar year, both of which are described in the EAC's 2013 Annual Report.

PROPOSED 2014 WORK PLAN:

Mr. Hatkin described the EAC's purpose and function, as written in the proposed 2014 work plan. He went on to describe the purpose of the work plan as well, which is to outline the topics, projects, and/or issues where the EAC will assist and advise the Board of Commissioners for the 2014 calendar year.

Energy Use & Cost Savings (Continued): Mr. Hatkin conveyed to the Board that the EAC will continue to address the issue of Energy Use & Cost Savings. The project was delayed because the energy use expert who volunteered to take on the project moved away. Mr. Hatkin is now taking the lead. The next step for subcommittee members is to gather data on the subject so that it can be presented to Board members.

Task 2 and 3: Solar Energy (Continued): Mr. Hatkin shared that the EAC has completed Task 1. Staff is now working with the Planning Commission and the Board to address concerns with the proposed zoning code changes. EAC members indicated that Subcommittee members will continue to move forward with Tasks 2 and 3 once zoning code changes had been adopted. The intention was to be able to provide information based on what ultimately is permitted in Carroll County. Several Commissioners expressed to the EAC that the Board is concerned with the visual impact solar facilities in the residential districts, as well as the impact of solar facilities on agricultural land.

The Commissioners requested that the EAC members to look into whether there are any requirements associated with getting financing for these projects that the Board should know about before making any decisions on zoning code changes. This information may impact their decision on the specifics of bulk and other requirements.

Solid Waste Subcommittee Service on Solid Waste Advisory Group: As a result of the EAC's Solid Waste Work Group, the Department of Public Works is proposing to form a Solid Waste Advisory Group which will serve in an advisory capacity to the Department of Public Works regarding implementation of recommendations from the Solid Waste Work Group's report, input on potential future projects, and public outreach efforts. Mr. Powell indicated that staff is still working on the specifics, such as bylaws. The proposal will proceed to the Board for its review after these issues are addressed. Ms. Dinne indicated that this project would be removed from the EAC's work plan if the Board does not approve DPW's proposal. If the proposal is approved, the EAC Solid Waste Subcommittee members would serve on the Solid Waste Advisory Group.

Ongoing Topics and Projects: Some of the ongoing projects and responsibilities of the EAC, such as the biennial Environmental Awareness Awards and serving as the Tree Commission, were summarized.

Environmental Stewardship-

Commissioner Howard indicated that Carroll County has not gotten the recognition it deserves for the many good things that have been done here to implement and promote environmental stewardship. He requested that the EAC prepare information to highlight some of the good things that County has accomplished in this respect. Other Board members agreed this was a good idea. Commissioner Howard suggested this did not need to be added as a separate project on the work plan, but could be captured in the general public education responsibility outlined in the work plan.

The Board approved the proposed 2014 work plan.

ADJOURNMENT-

At 2:31 Commissioner Roush, President of the Board of County Commissioners, made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Rothschild so motioned, and Commissioner Howard seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 2:33.