



# 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 April 23, 2014

### **Members**

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

### **County Government**

Brenda Dinne, Special Projects Coordinator /  
EAC Staff Liaison  
Stephanie Utz, Recording Secretary

### **Other Attendees**

Donald Maring  
Ruth Chamelin

### **CALL TO ORDER –**

Mr. Josh Hatkin, Chair, officially called the April 23, 2014, meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Reagan Room (003) of the County Office Building.

### **PRESENTATION OF 2014 ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS AWARDS –**

Sandy Zebal presented Environmental Awareness Awards to two recipients. Mr. Donald Maring and Ms. Ruth Chamelin were unable to attend the awards ceremony on April 24, 2014, so they were presented with their awards this evening. After reading a description of the awards and describing Mr. Maring's use of solar panels to create an environmentally friendly farm, Ms. Zebal presented him with the Agriculture category award. Ms. Zebal then described Ms. Chamelin's efforts to teach sustainable agriculture through her work with students at Westminster High School and presented her with an Honorable Mention award in the Agriculture category.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS AND CONCERNS –**

No public comments were offered.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Motion 198-14:** Motion was made by Ellen Cutsail and seconded by George Schooley to approve the March 19, 2014, meeting minutes. Motion carried.

### **CHAIR & COMMITTEE REPORTS –**

- a. SOLAR ENERGY SUBCOMMITTEE: Ms. Cutsail reported that the EAC subcommittee had not heard any updates on the approval of solar energy ordinances. Ms. Dinne informed members that County staff was still working with the Planning Commission to address issues of concern raised by the Planning Commission members and Commissioners related to solar facilities in the Agricultural and Residential zones. Staff working on Code text proposals to address these issues anticipated discussing the additional proposals during the next Planning Commission meeting.
- b. SOLID WASTE SUBCOMMITTEE: Ms. Leatherwood informed EAC members that Carroll County has successfully exited the incinerator deal for one million dollars, which initially would have been three million dollars. She expressed relief that a decision had been reached before the elections later this year. Mr. Hatkin is looking forward to seeing how the County can move forward with more environmentally friendly methods to dispose of waste.
- c. ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS AWARDS SUBCOMMITTEE: Ms. Dinne provided members with information for the awards ceremony to take place on April 24, 2014. The ceremony is to be held in Room 003 of the County Office Building at 10 am. A brief description of the history of the awards will be given along with a description of each recipient's project or initiative. Karen Leatherwood agreed to take the lead on presenting the awards at that ceremony.
- d. ENERGY USE & COST SAVINGS SUBCOMMITTEE: Mr. Hynes and Mr. Hatkin met a second time with Ray Prokop, Director of Facilities for Carroll County Public Schools (CCPS). Mr. Prokop described the retrofits that have occurred in the public schools, and he shared that a cost avoidance paper prepared for CCPS indicated that 1.25 million dollars has and will be saved annually. Mr. Prokop has a good deal of information that he will be able to share. Ray informed Mr. Hatkin and Mr. Hynes that two schools have passive and active cost controls; for example, positioning buildings to be the most environmentally friendly. He also informed them how CCPS is learning from the efforts made by other local public schools to ensure the most energy-efficient methods are in place. Mr. Hynes shared that the students contribute by turning off lights and turning down the heat in the afternoon. Mr. Prokop will put together a package of information and come to speak to the EAC, sometime after school is out for the year. Mr. Hatkin will attempt to schedule another appointment with Mike Whitson of the Carroll County Bureau of Facilities to find out more information on County cost savings.

### **TREE COMMISSION –**

Nothing to report.

### **STAFF LIASION REPORT –**

Ms. Dinne reminded members that the next meeting will be held on May 21 at 3 pm. She also presented members with an updated subcommittee list and informed them that, beginning in May, Robin Liller will be taking over as recording secretary.

### **OLD BUSINESS –**

- a. Before getting started with the listed agenda item, Ms. Zebal asked about the recent agreement between the municipalities and the County regarding stormwater management. Ms. Dinne informed the group that the Commissioners met with the Mayors of the municipalities on April 17, 2014, to discuss and sign a Memorandum of Intent. As a result, the County and municipalities agreed that it is their intent to work together to pursue a joint stormwater permit and to cost-share municipal stormwater projects. The County holds a Phase 1 stormwater permit, while the municipalities hold a Phase 2 permit. MDE will soon be issuing new, more stringent permits to the municipalities. By working together, the municipalities will have to follow Phase 1 requirements, but the County and municipalities will ultimately save money by sharing resources. The next step will be a more detailed operating agreement, which will specify each jurisdiction's costs, how each jurisdiction's share will be collected, and the distribution of responsibilities required through the permit.
- b. **Environmental Stewardship Project:** Ms. Dinne presented members with a revised copy of the Environmental Stewardship document, which was met with a great deal of appreciation and compliments. Members agreed that the brochure looks great and is full of information about Carroll County's positive role in environmental stewardship. Ms. Dinne pointed out a few changes that she had made between sending the draft out and the meeting. Ms. Leatherwood offered a minor text change on Page 10. Mr. Vleck commented that he was confused by the Goals on Page 1 jumping from #3 to #8. Ms. Dinne drew the members' attention to the changes that were made to help clarify that issue. Mr. Baile pointed out changes made to the table on Page 2 to clarify the amount of money spent on the acres preserved thus far and why it could have been misinterpreted as it was previously shown. Ms. Dinne indicated that the next step would be to have Steve Powell and Roberta Windham review and provide feedback on the document before the draft was finalized. The EAC members approved the sending of the final draft to the Board, with the condition that no substantive changes were made by Mr. Powell or Ms. Windham. If substantive changes were made as a result of their review, the EAC wanted to review the document again before approving the sending of the final draft to the Board. Due to time constraints, the document would be e-mailed out to the EAC members for review and approved by e-mail to send to the Board if additional action is needed by the EAC.

**APPROVAL TO SEND FINAL DRAFT TO COMMISSIONERS – Motion 199-14:** Motion was made by Karen Leatherwood and seconded by Ellen Cutsail to send the final draft of the environmental stewardship document to the Board for action after Steve Powell and Roberta Windham review and provide input. The document is to come back to the EAC members for review again if substantive changes are made. Motion carried.

The group began discussing pay-as-you-throw garbage disposal again as another way the County could continue to grow and become more environmentally friendly. Ms. Cutsail questioned how it might work in the municipalities where trash collection service is paid through taxes. Ms. Leatherwood suggested estimating an average cost per household, determining the equivalent number of pre-paid trash bags that would be, and offering that to each household. Any additional bags could be purchased separate from taxes paid.

Mr. Baile recommended getting information from the landfill about the Farm Tire Drop-off program that was offered in March by the County, the Farm Bureau, and the Maryland Department of the Environment. Many people brought tires to the landfill which not only reduced the number of junk tires in the county, but also helped cut back on mosquito habitat. He inquired about the number of tires received at the landfill as a result of the program and what would be done with those tires.

**NEW BUSINESS –**

Mr. Vleck educated members on invasive species and expressed his appreciation that the Commissioners voted unanimously to address invasive species at Piney Run Park. As someone involved in the nursery and landscape business, he often sees the damage that invasive species can cause. He said that there has been discussion within the landscape industry of not even selling invasive species, such as butterfly bushes, so as not to contribute to the problem. Knowing that the Commissioners are concerned about this as well shows Carroll County is continuing to put environmental stewardship at the forefront of its concerns.

**OTHER –**

There was no other business to discuss during this meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT - MOTION NO. 200-14:** Motion made by Kim Petry and seconded by Karen Leatherwood to adjourn the April meeting. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:27 pm. The next regular monthly meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 21, 2014 at 3:00 p.m. in Reagan Room (003) of the County Office Building.