



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

Karen Leatherwood, Chair
David Hynes, Vice Chair

Brenda Dinne, Staff Liaison
Department of Land
& Resource Management

Meeting Summary for November 19, 2015

Members

Karen Leatherwood, Chair - Absent
Curtis Barrett
Ellen Cutsail
David Hynes
Amy Krebs
Frank Vleck
Sandy Zebal

County Government

Brenda Dinne, Special Projects Coordinator /
EAC Staff Liaison
Cindy Myers-Crumbacker, Recording Secretary

Other Attendees

Jason Flemming, Carroll County Health
Department

1. CALL TO ORDER –

Mr. Hynes, Vice Chair, officially called the November 19, 2015, meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. in the Reagan Room of the County Office Building.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND CONCERNS –

No public comments were offered.

3. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES –

No corrections or comments were made to the October minutes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Motion 234-15: Motion was made by Frank Vleck and seconded by Sandra Zebal to approve the October 21, 2015, meeting minutes. Motion carried.

4. CHAIR AND COMMITTEE REPORTS –

a. *Solid Waste Subcommittee:*

Ellen Cutsail reported that the Solid Waste Advisory Council (SWAC) is working on recommendations to present to the Commissioners. The SWAC last met on November 5, 2015.

5. TREE COMMISSION –

Ms. Dinne followed up Ms. Krebs' inquiry at the October meeting regarding the EAC's role as the Tree Commission by looking into it further. She reported that when the EAC was first created, the EAC was tasked with fulfilling the role as the County's Tree Commission in addition to its other responsibilities. At that time, disputes related to various issues regarding trees on County or private property were brought before the EAC, as the Tree Commission, to resolve. However, this responsibility and reference in the Code have since become obsolete. The Carroll County Forestry Board is recognized in the Forest Conservation Manual as the review and approval agency on issues such as approval to harvest forest in an easement area. Ms. Dinne suggested discussing, during the work plan agenda item below, revision of the County Code, Chapter 31, Environmental Advisory Council, to eliminate the Tree Commission responsibility from that chapter.

6. STAFF LIASION REPORT

Ms. Dinne informed the members that George Schooley did not accept the offer to be re-appointed. A letter and certificate will be signed by Karen to present to Mr. Schooley. Member packets have been updated as well as the website information to reflect the current membership.

Ms. Dinne reported that items thus far for the December meeting agenda include: discussion and possible approval of the 2016 Work Plan; residential solar size requirements; and discussion and possible approval of the 2015 Annual Report. Ms. Dinne will e-mail a draft work plan for the EAC members to review before the next meeting. The meeting will be held on a Thursday again.

Dates requested for the annual joint meeting with the Board of County Commissioners are January 21 or January 28. The EAC members will be notified as soon as a date is confirmed.

Ms. Dinne clarified that the video from the EAC meeting is streamed live then archived. The videos also are broadcast on Comcast Channel 24 (not 19).

7. OLD BUSINESS –

a. *Business Community MS4 Workshop*

Two additional registrations have been received. Ms. Dinne contacted all the previous registrants to confirm that they would like to remain registered. A news release was sent out, and activities similar to the previous data were or will be completed to get the word out.

David Hynes suggested that a kiosk could be set up at the Town Mall to make materials and information available to the public. Ms. Dinne advised the group that Glenn Edwards, NPDES Compliance Specialist, regularly sets up a booth at Carroll County events. Mr. Hynes said he would be interested in helping with the booth. The other members volunteered their assistance with the booth as well. Ms. Dinne indicated she would pass this on to Mr. Edwards for his information for the next time he needs assistance. Also, in response to a question regarding who had primary responsibility to get the word out specifically about the workshop, Ms. Dinne indicated it is the EAC.

Ms. Dinne confirmed that Legacy Contracting is still planning to provide the refreshments for the workshop.

b. 2016 Environmental Awareness Awards

Prior to the meeting, Ms. Dinne e-mailed to the EAC members the nomination form and guidelines/criteria for review. The EAC members agreed that no changes were needed.

Ms. Zebal asked if a final decision had been made regarding a nominee's eligibility to win in any given year if that nominee had previously won an award from the EAC. Ms. Dinne added that she reviewed meeting minutes from the 2014 cycle, and no final decision to the discussion had been made at that time. Mr. Vleck felt that previous winners should be eligible to win if the current nomination is substantially different than the one for which the nominee won. Ms. Krebs agreed but suggested they may need to define "substantially different." Mr. Vleck did not feel a written definition was needed, as each individual EAC member is able to take this into consideration when deciding for which nominees to cast his or her votes.

Ms. Cutsail suggested that, to help with getting the word out, she will distribute nomination forms at an upcoming Carroll County Chapter meeting of the Maryland Municipal League (MML) meeting. Mr. Vleck also suggested having the forms available at the business MS4 workshop.

APPROVAL TO ALLOW ELIGIBLE NOMINEES TO WIN MULTIPLE YEARS – MOTION 235-15:

Motion was made by Ellen Cutsail and seconded by Curtis Barrett that EAC Environmental Awareness Award nominees are eligible to win multiple years based on a difference of submittals. Motion carried.

8. NEW BUSINESS –**a. *Overview of Best Available Technology Septic Systems – CC Health Dept.***

Jason Flemming, with the Bureau of Environmental Health within the Carroll County Health Department, provided the EAC with an overview of "best available technology" (BAT) septic systems. EAC members received a copy of the PowerPoint presentation (attached).

A few items of additional information/clarification on the slides include:

- Slide 3 – Seepage pits (drywells) and sandmounds are types of septic systems. All are ways of disposing of water. Treatment occurs in the tank. The anaerobic bacteria digest the waste. It is important to regularly pump out what is not digested. Since the tank is low in dissolved oxygen, only certain kinds of bacteria can survive there.
- Slide 7 – To qualify as a BAT, the State requires that the system reduce nitrogen by 50 percent or more.
- Slide 7 – The bacteria in a BAT relies more on the bacteria in the tank. Therefore, Mr. Flemming suggested that users need to be more careful about putting products down the drain or in the toilet that eliminate bacteria. (Not referring to bacteria intended for septic systems).
- Slide 8 – MDE recently developed a classification system for BATs. Previously, the BATs would have been defined as only those that fit into the new Class I. The classifications are intended to give property owners more flexibility and options for meeting the treatment standards. MDE would be fine with any combination of classifications that meet the 30 mg/L or less. The industry-wide accepted average household has been determined to produce 60 mg/L of nitrogen before treatment.

b. 2016 Work Plan: Process Review & Potential Projects

The EAC discussed potential projects to be included on the 2016 work plan.

Ms. Dinne clarified that Commissioner Frazier requested the research and recommendations regarding *maximum size requirements in residential zoning districts*, the timing of which happened to coincide with Ms. Zebal's suggestion that this topic be revisited. Ms. Cutsail asked if this is the same work that the Solar Committee previously did. Ms. Dinne indicated that previous work was done with a different Board, and this Board may want something different. The EAC agreed to include a project in the work plan to review options and recommend some numbers. Ms. Dinne will e-mail to the EAC members a copy of the previous recommendation made to the Board.

The EAC members discussed creating a brochure or some type of public outreach materials to help Carroll County residents navigate through the process in Carroll County of deciding on solar for residential accessory use. Ms. Dinne was directed to include this as a project in the draft work plan. Ms. Dinne will send the EAC members a copy of the current zoning code text related to solar facilities in residential districts.

Based on the previous discussion related to the EAC's obsolete role as the Tree Commission, another work plan item will be to shepherd an amendment to Chapter 31 of the County Code through the process to eliminate reference to the Tree Commission.

Lastly, the general public workshop, which was on the 2015 work plan to begin the process, will continue over to the 2016 work plan. The target date will change to winter or spring of 2017. The EAC members felt this would give more time to review what worked and what could be improved from the business workshop. In addition, Ms. Dinne indicated that the project will be larger in scope than the business workshop. Additional staff may assist in developing topics and information delivery at the workshop.

Ms. Dinne will draft the work plan and send it to the EAC members for review prior to the next meeting.

9. OTHER –

Nothing additional.

10. ADJOURN REGULAR MEETING –

ADJOURNMENT – MOTION 236-15: Motion was made by Ellen Cutsail and seconded by Curtis Barrett to adjourn the November meeting. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 4:42 p.m. The next regular monthly meeting is scheduled for **Thursday**, December 17, 2015, at 3:00 p.m. in the Reagan Room of the County Office Building.