



# 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](mailto:eac@ccg.carr.org)

Karen Leatherwood, Chair  
David Hynes, Vice Chair

Brenda Dinne, Staff Liaison  
Department of Land  
& Resource Management

## Meeting Summary for December 17, 2015

### Members

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

### County Government

Brenda Dinne, Special Projects Coordinator /  
EAC Staff Liaison  
Cindy Myers-Crumbacker, Recording Secretary  
Jay Voight, Bureau Chief, Zoning

### Other Attendees

Tim Mawer

### **1. CALL TO ORDER –**

Ms. Leatherwood, Chair, officially called the December 17, 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 November minutes.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Motion 237-15:** Motion was made by David Hynes and seconded by Frank Vleck to approve the November 19, 2015, meeting minutes. Motion carried.

### **4. CHAIR AND COMMITTEE REPORTS –**

#### **a. *Solid Waste Subcommittee:***

Ms. Leatherwood informed the Council that Governor Hogan may be addressing solid waste issues during the 2016 legislative session. The Solid Waste Advisory Council (SWAC) continues to meet monthly to prepare ideas to assist the Board.

## **5. STAFF LIASION REPORT**

Ms. Dinne reported that items thus far for the January meeting agenda include: approval of the 2016 Work Plan, if not approved at the December meeting; approval of the 2015 Annual Report, unless approved at the December meeting; reflection on the business workshop; and continued discussion on residential solar surface area requirements. Ms. Dinne will email the date of the joint meeting with the Board of County Commissioners as soon as it is confirmed. She has requested either January 21 or 28.

## **6. OLD BUSINESS –**

### ***a. Business Community MS4 Workshop***

Ms. Leatherwood offered to call Mike McMullen with the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce to try to encourage additional participation in the workshop. The Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) members decided not to make phone calls, as they did not feel it was fruitful previously. Mr. Vleck volunteered to email those he had emailed previously.

Ms. Dinne suggested the EAC aim to hold this workshop again in two years. It could be held at any time sooner if there is a demand by local businesses. Connections with the relevance of the workshop to local businesses may be result from violations and enforcement. She indicated that the County currently does not charge a fee for violations. Rather, the County works with businesses to achieve voluntary compliance. The County's permit does require violations to be reported to MDE. MDE may determine to take other actions.

Ms. Cutsail informed the Council that she knows some people who had registered for the workshop that had showed up in October, indicating that they were not aware of the cancellation. Ms. Dinne replied that all registrants were notified through the same email address with which they were registered. In addition, EAC members called registrants to inform them as well. Ms. Dinne added that a news release was sent out, and a sign was posted on the door at the community college.

Mr. Vleck said he will not be able to attend the workshop.

Ms. Leatherwood volunteered to follow up with Legacy Contracting to confirm they are still planning to provide the refreshments for the workshop. Ms. Dinne sent an email to Legacy indicating the anticipated number of attendees.

Ms. Dinne reminded the Council members they had previously decided to arrive at the college at 3:45. Staff has already taken care of assembling the packets, so the Registration Committee will not need to do this. Packets with the agenda and other information will be handed out at the sign-in table. There are 12 people registered so far.

### ***b. 2016 Environmental Awareness Awards***

The news release for the 2016 Environmental Awareness Awards is to be sent out the first week in January. Webpage changes have been requested to reflect the current awards cycle, including the downloadable nomination forms and the online nomination form. In addition, Ms. Dinne requested the workshop banner on the homepage of the County website be replaced with an awards banner on January 6. Staff will send the materials to the distribution list once the changes and online nomination forms are live. The EAC members requested additions to the distribution list: Mike McMullen (Chamber of Commerce), Small Business Associations, Farm Bureau, and Ag Commission.

Ms. Leatherwood affirmed that EAC members can submit nominations.

**c. 2016 Work Plan**

Ms. Leatherwood requested to be added to the work plan the continued liaison role between the EAC members that are also SWAC members and the rest of the EAC to be able to keep the EAC apprised of issues on the table and provide input to the SWAC on behalf of the EAC. It was agreed that the work plan reflected a healthy amount of work for the EAC for 2016.

**APPROVAL OF WORK PLAN – Motion 238-15:** Motion was made by Frank Vleck and seconded by Ellen Cutsail to approve the 2016 Work Plan. Motion carried.

**7. NEW BUSINESS –**

**a. 2015 Annual Report**

Ms. Leatherwood summarized the contents of the report. The report will be provided to the Board, and the EAC will review it briefly with the Board at the joint meeting in January.

**APPROVAL OF 2015 Annual – Motion 239-15:** Motion was made by Sandra Zebal and seconded by Ellen Cutsail to approve the 2015 Annual Report. Motion carried.

**b. Residential Solar Size Requirements**

Ms. Leatherwood provided background on the 2013 EAC solar project, as many of the current members have joined the EAC since that time. Jay Voight, County Zoning Administrator, confirmed that the current maximum size limit for solar surface in residential areas is 120 square feet and applies in all of the Residential Zoning Districts – R-40,000, R-20,000, R-10,000, and R-7,500 – plus the Conservation Zoning District. He also indicated that currently there is no limit that he knows of on the amount of power that a residential facility may generate and “sell” back to the grid for credits.

No additional changes were offered for the more general, overall scope of work. The consensus was to finalize it. Ms. Dinne said it would be included with the proposed 2016 work plan at the joint meeting with the Board in January.

Mr. Voight said that many other counties in Maryland have changed their codes regarding solar requirements since the EAC completed their solar project in 2013. Ms. Cutsail volunteered to collect County code/requirements regarding solar for the other counties in Maryland. She will also research the State’s requirements. She will send the information to Ms. Dinne to distribute to the other EAC members. Ms. Leatherwood will assign each EAC member a set of counties to review in more detail. Once received, each member will review the information from their assigned counties and be prepared at the January meeting to discuss them in more detail.

The working draft of the EAC’s process and specific tasks for completing this project were reviewed. Ms. Dinne will add information to reflect the task and assignments regarding other counties research. She will update the process and send it to the EAC members.

Ms. Vleck felt that the 120-square-foot size restriction needs to be changed, as a one-size-fits-all approach does not seem practical. Mr. Voight shared that the 120 square feet

was not recommended by the EAC, but added by the Planning Commission. By law, the Planning Commission reviews all proposed zoning changes and makes recommendations to the Board. He added that 120 square feet is about the size of the footprint of an average shed in the backyard.

Mr. Voight shared that companies are now making roof shingles that are also solar panels, but they are not cheap. Ms. Cutsail offered that most panels are good for 20-25 years, but will probably become obsolete before that time, particularly as efficiency and materials improve. Mr. Hynes added that companies who rent say that they will switch out the panels for new technology as it becomes available.

Mr. Voight stated that Maryland is now working on requirements for community solar systems. These systems would operate similar to a co-op. He said the County Code does not currently address community solar systems. Ms. Zebal asked about the average amount of electricity that is used or needed for a household in a year. Mr. Voight offered to look for that information.

**8. OTHER –**

Nothing additional.

**9. ADJOURN REGULAR MEETING –**

**ADJOURNMENT – MOTION 240-15:** Motion was made by Ellen Cutsail and seconded by Curtis Barrett to adjourn the December meeting. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m. The next regular monthly meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 20, 2015, at 6:30 p.m. in the Reagan Room of the County Office Building.