



Carroll County Environmental Advisory Council

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Karen Leatherwood, Chair
David Hynes, Vice Chair

Brenda Dinne, Staff Liaison
Department of Land
& Resource Management

Meeting Summary for September 28, 2016

Members

Karen Leatherwood, Chair
David Hynes, Vice Chair – absent
Curtis Barret
Ellen Cutsail – absent
Amy Krebs – absent
Frank Vleck
Sandy Zebal

County Government

Brenda Dinne, Special Projects Coordinator / EAC Staff
Liaison
Andrea Gerhard, Comprehensive Planner, CC Dept. of
Planning

Other Attendees

1. CALL TO ORDER –

Ms. Leatherwood, Chair, officially called the September 28, 2016, 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 –

Approval of the August 17 minutes was discussed, and no changes were offered.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Motion 258-16: Motion was made by Sandy Zebal and seconded by Curtis Barrett to approve the August 17, 2016, meeting minutes. Motion carried.

4. CHAIR AND COMMITTEE REPORTS –

a. Solid Waste Subcommittee:

Ms. Leatherwood reported that on October 6 the Solid Waste Advisory Council (SWAC) will be meeting with Jim Hindman. Mr. Hindman, the founder of Jiffy Lube, will be providing consult to the SWAC to help them move forward in getting where they need to go on the discussion of options available.

5. STAFF LIASION REPORT

Ms. Dinne reported that the October meeting agenda will include a status update on the residential solar requirements amendment, continued discussion on the public MS4 workshop/event, discussion on the lightweight aggregate fact sheet benefits and challenges, and

a preliminary discussion on the residential solar public outreach materials that is included in the 2016 Work Plan.

Ms. Dinne indicated that Glenn Edwards still has slots available for a volunteer opportunity with the Mt. Airy Lions Fall Festival on October 1, 2016.

Ms. Dinne said, in the interest of time, she will save some information to share next month regarding the best available technology (BAT) regulations repeal and some of what's happening with solar in other Maryland counties.

6. **NEW BUSINESS –**

a. Energy Saver Loan Program – Andrea Gerhard

Andrea Gerhard, a comprehensive planner with the Carroll County Department of Planning, provided an overview of the County's Energy Saver Loan Program. She said the Department of Planning has administered the program since 2010. In 2009, the County was awarded \$684,100 for the program from the original American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) stimulus money. Of that amount, over \$400,000 were used for a one-time purchase of recycling bins. The remaining roughly \$250,000 went into a revolving loan fund for energy efficiency projects. No new funds are infused into the program. Rather, as loans are repaid, those funds are then made available for new loans.

The loan must be used for residential projects. Renewable and non-renewable energy projects are eligible. However, with non-renewable energy projects, a home energy audit is required. Since it's intended to stimulate the economy, the work cannot be done by the homeowner; a contractor must be hired.

In addition, to be eligible, a property must be free of zoning violations, and the property tax bill must not be past due. The maximum loan amount is \$15,000. The funds are held in F&M Bank, and the bank makes the determination if an applicant is eligible and creditworthy. The County just directs applicants to the bank after checking for property tax delinquencies and zoning violations. Any interest collected on these low-interest loans must go to pay for the bank fees to administer the fund and program. To date, 28 applicants have been approved, with a total of over \$365,000 loaned out.

There is no advertising budget for the program. It is entirely word-of-mouth, with the exception of passing out information at the Carroll County Ag Fair. Ms. Gerhard will be briefing the Board on the program shortly. Information will also be added to the Department's webpage. Other options will continue to be explored. Ms. Leatherwood offered to write about the program in her bi-weekly newspaper column. *See the attached presentation, "Carroll County Energy Saver Loan Program."*

7. **OLD BUSINESS –**

a. Lightweight Aggregate – Fact Sheet Outline

The EAC members briefly rehashed some of the information provided by Ms. Fidler from MPA at the August meeting. Mr. Vleck observed that the Conowingo Dam dredging project poses challenges that make it unique and unable to be reasonably compared to the Port of Baltimore. Mr. Barrett reiterated that the material behind the dam could be toxic/hazardous. Ms. Leatherwood pointed out that the science-based aspect of this issue is beyond the EAC. Mr. Vleck agreed that the challenges for the EAC to consider are more of a political and bureaucracy perspective. He felt that the issue is a little too far over the EAC's head for the

information that Commissioners Rothschild and Weaver would really like. He felt that the EAC is uncomfortable making an analysis.

Ms. Leatherwood suggested that the members offer some political and process-type challenges. She started off by offering that one challenge is the lack of a track record of experience with this specific situation to draw upon and no evidence that the process of making lightweight aggregate (LWA) from the dredge materials would be sustainable. Mr. Vleck added that, while some of the costs could be mitigated, the State, and ultimately the taxpayers, will still wind up paying money into the process. If the company cannot move the product, the company will not eat the cost; it will be borne by the State. Mr. Barrett noted, however, that if something is not done, pollutants will still be escaping over the dam and finding their way into the Bay. Mr. Vleck reminded the group that LWA is just one option. There are others that also need to be explored.

Ms. Leatherwood indicated that, in Carroll County, we are worried about our local water quality. However, members of the Board want to know if they should be investing funds elsewhere rather than here in Carroll County if directing those funds toward a project that might have a big bang for the buck may be more productive. Ms. Dinne added that the Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) is getting to be a more pressing issue.

Ms. Dinne will try to draft some challenges for the Fact Sheet that reflect the discussion from this meeting. She will send the draft out to the EAC members for review prior to the next meeting so the draft can be discussed at that time. These ideas may generate additional discussion at that meeting.

b. General Public Workshop – Discussion

Ms. Dinne shared that the possible dates for the workshop have been narrowed down to March 18 and April 8, at two different locations. Ms. Leatherwood preferred the March 18 date, as it would be less likely that people with kids would have sports conflicts.

Ms. Dinne reminded the members that the workshop needs to have a focus on stormwater. However, there are many things that can be related. For example, the County's NPDES MS4 permit also addresses litter and floatables and recycling. She explained the format, which will be more like an exhibit hall where tables are set up around the room (like booths). Each table will cover a related topic of interest to the public and be staffed by an "expert" to provide information and answer questions. This will also allow attendees to come and go at their own convenience. A separate area will be provided where each "expert" will take turns giving 15-minute presentations on the topic, so a larger number of attendees may choose to listen to the information and ask questions as a group.

Ms. Dinne asked for suggestions for topics for these tables. Ms. Leatherwood had previously suggested septic tanks be a topic, and she offered to ask Mr. George Schooley to present. She shared that he regularly provides classes at the libraries on septic maintenance.

The following additional ideas were suggested:

- Composting
- Neighborhood stormwater runoff model
- Rain gardens
- Lawn/yard maintenance
- Pervious pavement
- Forest / tree planting

- Stream Corridor Assessments (SCA) and Stream Buffer Initiative (SBI)
- Landowner who participated in SCA and/or the SBI
- Stormwater related videos to run continuously

Mr. Vleck offered to:

1. Be the expert and presenter for rain gardens and potentially lawn/yard maintenance,
2. Draft information to be incorporated to a rain garden brochure (to be sent to Ms. Dinne to be incorporated and formatted), and
3. Contact the Carroll County Forestry Board about talking about tree planting.

Ms. Dinne offered to ask Mr. Martin Covington if he would be willing to be there with his porous paving model. Mr. Vleck stated that we need to be sure we are gearing this toward what homeowners can do and actually have a “take away” from the event.

Ms. Dinne will put together a list of the topics that were discussed to send out to the EAC for further consideration. She will also talk to Ms. Gale Engles and Mr. Byron Madigan with the Carroll County Bureau of Resource Management to get their ideas and availability.

c. Residential Solar Size Requirements – Status

Ms. Dinne shared that Ms. Leatherwood joined she and Mr. Devilbiss on September 15 in briefing the Board on the process to date with the residential solar size requirements amendment and request for approval to proceed to public hearing. The Board approved the request, and Ms. Dinne confirmed that the public hearing is scheduled for October 13 at 10:00 AM on the Board’s open session agenda. Although staff requested immediate action, the Board could decide to hold the record open for 10 days. Either way, following the hearing, the Board would then deliberate and potentially adopt the amendment.

8. **OTHER** –
None

9. **ADJOURN REGULAR MEETING** –

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING – Motion 259-16: Motion was made by Frank Vleck and seconded by Curtis Barrett to adjourn the September 28, 2016, meeting. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 4:06 p.m. The next regular monthly meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 19, 2016, at 3:00 p.m. in Room 311 of the County Office Building.

Carroll County Energy Saver Loan Program

Environmental Advisory Council
September 28, 2016



Purpose

To provide Carroll County residents with low interest rate loans for home improvement energy efficiency projects that help reduce their energy bills



Origin

- 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act
 - U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program
 - \$3.2 billion



Origin

- \$684,100 of this money was awarded to Carroll County.
 - \$419,000 went to purchasing recycling bins
 - overseen by Carroll County DPW
 - \$250,000 went to a revolving loan fund (RLF) for energy efficiency projects → Carroll ESLP



Program Criteria

- Principle Residence
- Approved energy projects.
- Nonrenewable energy projects → Home Energy Audit
 - “Energy Star Certified” Auditors
 - Homeowners are prohibited from performing the work themselves



Program Criteria

- The property taxes must be current
- The property must be free of zoning violations
- Program funding = \$250,000
- Max loan per household = \$15,000
- Interest = 2.5% per year (5-year term)



Program Criteria

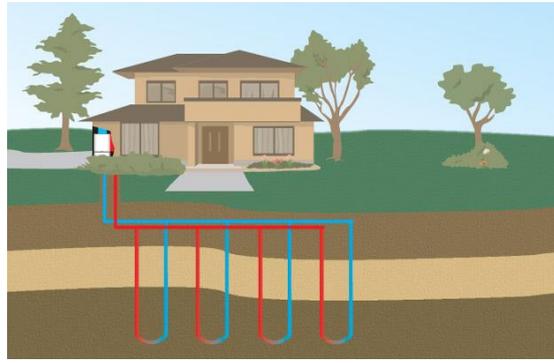
- Loan Servicer: Farmers and Merchants Bank
(Contact: Callie Jennings)
 - 14 days to apply for loan
 - Bank determines applicant's financial eligibility
 - Additional government grants or rebates must be used towards paying the loan
 - Interest = Bank Admin Fee



Approved Projects

- **Renewable Energy Improvements:**
 - Solar/Photovoltaic roof or ground mounted array
 - Geothermal loop or well type heating and cooling systems
 - Wind turbine energy producing systems

Approved Projects



Approved Projects

- Home Improvement Retrofits:
 - Programmable thermostats w/complete energy system
 - Ceiling, wall, attic or floor insulation
 - Whole-house sealing
 - Water heater insulation and pipe insulation
 - Energy Star water heater replacement
 - Electric or gas tankless water heater(s)
 - Solar hot water heater installation
 - Storm windows and/or doors
 - Air distribution system improvements,
 - *Other projects found to reduce the consumption of energy in the home*

Current Marketing

- Over \$350,000 has been loaned out to residents with no advertising except:
 - Word-of-mouth
 - Contractors
 - Carroll Hospital Annual Earth Day Fair

What is next for the program?

- Continue to promote via word of mouth
- Brief the Board of County Commissioners
- Add this program to the Planning Department's website
- Continue to explore different outreach opportunities

Questions

