



Carroll County Environmental Advisory Council



Curtis Barrett, Chair
Craig Connell, Vice Chair

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Meeting Summary for March 18, 2026

Members

- Curtis Barrett
- Ashley Collier
- Craig Connell
- Caitlin Fleming
- Amy Hardesty
- Charlene Norris

County Government

- Brenda Dinne, Special Projects Coordinator/ EAC Staff Liaison/Secretary
- Denise Mathias, EAC Admin Support

- Aaron Salter
- Michele Smith
- vacant

Guest Speaker(s)

- n/a

Other Attendees

- None

1. CALL TO ORDER –

- Chair Barrett officially called the March 18, 2026, meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) to order at 3:02 PM in Room 204 of the County Office Building.

2. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES –

a. February 18, 2026

Discussion/Decision:

- Approval of the minutes was tabled until the April 29 meeting due to lack of quorum.

Reference/Attachment(s):

- n/a

3. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS –

a. Secretary Report

Discussion/Decision:

- The next regular meeting will be held on April 29, 2026. The agenda will be for continued discussion on the 2026 work plan projects. The agenda will include County’s Forest Conservation Code update as a guest topic.
- In May, the guest topic will be temperature monitoring in Carroll County streams.
- Tamara Strobel resigned from the EAC on March 16, 2026, due to conflicting time commitments.
- Ashley Collier has attended four meetings since January 2025, with the last one being August 2025. Several unsuccessful attempts have been made to contact her to inquire if she is interested in continuing on the EAC. Another attempt will be made.

EAC Member Action Items:

- n/a

b. EAC Bylaws

Discussion/Decision:

- Those in attendance had reviewed the proposed bylaws in advance. All felt that the bylaws were fairly standard and had no revisions or items to discuss.
- Approval of the bylaws was tabled until the April 29 meeting due to lack of quorum.

EAC Member Action Items:

- n/a

4. NEW BUSINESS –

a. None

5. BUSINESS IN PROGRESS –

a. Cost Savings Projects with Environmental Benefits – Discussion

Discussion/Decision:

- The EAC discussed the capital projects that Ms. Smith and Mr. Salter identified in the proposed FY 2027 Community Investment Plan for which there could be cost savings and environmental benefits. Ms. Smith and Mr. Salter will group the projects by common environmental benefits and list the environmental benefits for the grouping. Suggestions for consideration of alternative materials, such as composite materials instead of pressured-treatment wood, may be made for some of the projects where this may result in long-term cost savings.
- Since many of the projects identified here are the projects that would be identified for the Alternative Energy Options project, the members discussed incorporating the Alternative Energy Options project to this one. Mr. Barrett will review the projects on the list, identify those that may have an energy component, and suggest possible alternative energy sources for consideration.
- A final draft will be ready for review and approval at the April 29 meeting.

EAC Member Action Items:

- Ms. Smith Group projects common environmental benefits. Add suggestions, where appropriate, for consideration of alternative materials may result in long-term cost savings.
- Mr. Salter
- Mr. Barrett Add alternative energy sources suggestions where relevant.

Reference/Attachment(s):

Document: Cost Savings Enviro Benefits Initial Draft Projects 2026-Mar-18

b. Update to Guide to Subscribing to Community Solar - Discussion

Discussion/Decision:

- The 2019 publication was updated to create an initial draft document. The draft was reviewed, and a few minor revisions were identified.
- A final draft will be available for review and potential approval at the April 29 meeting.

EAC Member Action Items:

- All Review final draft prior to April 29 meeting.

Reference/Attachment(s):

Document: CSEGS Guide Update 2026 Initial DRAFT

c. New Land Uses on the Horizon – Discussion

Discussion/Decision:

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EAC Member Action Items:

- All Identify and list new uses on the horizon for which the County needs to prepare.

Reference/Attachment(s):

Document: New Land Uses to Address Initial List 2026-Mar-18

d. Alternative Energy Options for County Projects – Discussion

Discussion/Decision:

- Since many of the projects identified here are the projects that would be identified for the Alternative Energy Options project, the members decided to incorporate the Alternative Energy Options project to this one.

EAC Member Action Items:

- n/a

Reference/Attachment(s):

n/a

6. OTHER –

a. Master Gardeners Earth Day Event

- The event will be held from 10 AM to 2 PM on Saturday, April 18, 2026. The EAC was invited to participate. Mr. Barrett will set up the table and attend the EAC’s table/exhibit for the duration of the event. Several other members will assist.

EAC Member Action Items:

- n/a

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS & CONCERNS –




- None.

8. ADJOURN REGULAR MEETING –

- The meeting ended at 4:17 PM. The next regular monthly meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 29, 2026, at 3:00 PM in Room 204 of the County Office Building.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT – MOTION 511-26: Motion was made by Amy Hardesty and seconded by Aaron Salter to adjourn the March 18, 2026, meeting. Motion carried.

Upcoming Meetings/Events:

-  Regular Monthly Meeting – Wednesday, April 29, 2026 @ 3:00 PM, Room 204, COB
-  Master Gardeners Earth Day Event – Saturday, April 18, 2026 @ 10 AM – 2 PM, Bear Branch Nature Center
-  Regular Monthly Meeting – Wednesday, April 29, 2026 @ 3:00 PM, Room 204, COB