



Carroll County Environmental Advisory Council



Curtis Barrett, Chair
Craig Connell, Vice Chair

CarrollCountyMD.gov/EAC ♦
EAC@CarrollCountyMD.gov

Brenda Dinne, Staff Liaison/Secretary
Department of Planning & Land Management

225 N Center Street ♦ Westminster, MD 21157-5194 ♦ Telephone: 410-386-2140

Meeting Summary for February 18, 2026

Members

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

- Aaron Salter
- Michele Smith
- Tamara Strobel

County Government

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

Guest Speaker(s)

- n/a

Other Attendees

- None

1. CALL TO ORDER –

- Vice Chair Connell officially called the February 18, 2026, meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) to order at 3:01 PM in Room 204 of the County Office Building.

2. INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBER – Caitlin Fleming and Amy Hardesty

- The EAC welcomed new members Caitlin Fleming, appointed in November 2025, and Amy Hardesty, appointed in February 2026. As this was their first meeting, each member introduced themselves and shared some information about their background or interests.

3. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES –

a. January 21, 2026

Discussion/Decision:

- No changes were made.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Motion 509-26 Motion was made by Michele Smith and seconded by Charlene Norris to approve the January 21, 2026, meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Reference/Attachment(s):

- www.carrollcountymd.gov/government/boards-commissions/environmental-advisory-council/meetings/

4. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS –

a. Secretary Report

Discussion/Decision:

- The next regular meeting will be held on March 18, 2026. The agenda will be for continued discussion on the 2026 work plan projects.
- At the April 29 meeting, the guest topic will be the updates to the County’s Forest Conservation Code. In May, the guest topic will be temperature monitoring in Carroll County streams.
- The final 2026 Work Plan is available on the EAC’s website. A Carroll Connect newsletter will be sent out with the 2026 Work Plan.

EAC Member Action Items:

- n/a

5. NEW BUSINESS –

a. None

6. BUSINESS IN PROGRESS –

a. Cost Savings Projects with Environmental Benefits – Discussion

Discussion/Decision:

- Focus will be on County projects proposed by the Department of Public Works and/or Recreation and Parks in the County FY 2027 Community Investment Plan (CIP) budget.
- Ms. Smith and Mr. Salter will work together to identify projects in the proposed CIP that provide both cost savings and environmental benefits.

EAC Member Action Items:

- Ms. Smith Identify projects in the proposed CIP that provide both cost savings and
- Mr. Salter environmental benefits

Reference/Attachment(s):

Working Scope: Proposed County Projects Providing Cost Savings AND Environmental Benefits

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

Discussion/Decision:

- This project focuses on updating the information already included in publication, rather than identifying new content to add.
- Ms. Norris and Ms. Hardesty will work together to provide updated information that can then be revised in the publication.
- For the next meeting, the team members will identify the content that needs to be updated and sources for updated information. Ms. Dinne will indicate specifically where laws have changed since 2019, and, therefore, the references or information will need to be updated.

EAC Member Action Items:

- Ms. Norris Identify revised text and links to be updated in publication.
- Ms. Hardesty

Reference/Attachment(s):

Working Scope: Guide to Becoming a Community Solar Subscriber in Carroll County – 2026 Update

Motions	Action Items	Attachments
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c. Alternative Energy Options for County Projects – Discussion

Discussion/Decision:

- This project will focus on alternative energy options (ex. Geothermal, etc.) for new County capital projects. This should be identified for types of projects rather than looking at specific projects in the capital improvement plan (CIP).
- Internal staff are reviewing the draft scope and will provide feedback before the EAC reviews it. The project will begin after the EAC reviews the scope.

EAC Member Action Items:

- n/a

Reference/Attachment(s):

n/a

d. New Land Uses on the Horizon – Discussion

Discussion/Decision:

- The EAC reviewed the scope. The project team will start with Mr. Connell and Ms. Fleming. Ms. Smith and Mr. Salter will join the project team after completion of the Cost Savings Projects with Environmental Benefits project.
- This project will focus on land uses that are new or trending, but for which the County does not already have requirements to address the use in the County Zoning Code. This does not need to include data centers, as staff is already working on this issue.
- The team will work on research a list of uses that may fit this category. The list will be reviewed at the next meeting.

EAC Member Action Items:

- Mr. Connell Identify and list new uses on the horizon for which the County needs to prepare.
- Ms. Fleming

Reference/Attachment(s):

Working Scope: New Land Uses on the Horizon

7. OTHER –

- Master Gardeners 2026 Earth Day Event: The Master Gardeners invited the EAC to participate in their 2026 Earth Day event, which will be held at Bear Branch Nature Center/Hashawha on Saturday, April 18, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Members Barrett, Salter, Connell, Norris, and Smith volunteered to cover the EAC’s exhibit for part of the day.

EAC Member Action Items:

- n/a

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS & CONCERNS –

- None.




9. ADJOURN REGULAR MEETING –

- The meeting ended at 3:55 PM. The next regular monthly meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 18, 2026, at 3:00 PM in Room 204 of the County Office Building.

Motions	Action Items	Attachments
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MEETING ADJOURNMENT – MOTION 510-26: Motion was made by Michele Smith and seconded by Curt Barrett to adjourn the February 18, 2026, meeting. Motion carried.

Upcoming Meetings/Events:

-  Regular Monthly Meeting – Wednesday, March 18, 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