



down to earth

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Carroll County Contractor Forum

By: Christopher Heyn, PE, Watershed Restoration Engineer

On Wednesday, January 24, Carroll County held a Contractor Forum to discuss upcoming construction projects in the County. Several County agencies participated and spoke with eleven firms that sent representatives to hear about the projects. The Bureau of Resource Management outlined a dozen stormwater management projects that are in the pipeline to be constructed. Projects included a mixture of sand filters, wet ponds, and stream restoration. Timing of construction is optimistically expected to be this year, but is dependent on design, permitting, and funding.

The Bureau of Engineering discussed paving, bridge replacement, and storm drain projects that will be awarded this year. They have a mixture of smaller \$100k to \$300k projects as well as some multi-million dollar contracts ready to hit the streets.

The Bureau of Utilities has a variety of projects in the works including treatment plant upgrades, force main construction, and pipe rehabilitation projects. Some of these projects are the culmination of many years of analysis and design work related to the County's sewer infrastructure. Other studies are ongoing and are anticipated to lead to more projects in 2019 and 2020.



The Bureau of Building Construction finished the meeting with a variety of interesting projects, including upgrades to the Farm Museum and to the Union Mills Homestead. Several contractors were interested in the historic preservation construction required at these sites.

The forum was well received by the contractors who now have a good understanding of the County's workload for the upcoming year. This is the second year for the forum, and there is every intention to continue this open dialogue with the contracting community next year.

For more information about what was discussed in the meeting the following is a list of presenters:

- Procurement – Cindy Miller (cmiller@cpg.carr.org)
- Resource Management – Chris Heyn (cheyn@cpg.carr.org)
- DPW – Engineering – Debbie Butler (dbutler@cpg.carr.org)
- DPW – Engineering – Andy Watcher (awatcher@cpg.carr.org)
- DPW – Utilities – Rodney Kuhns (rkuhns@cpg.carr.org)
- DPW – Building Construction – Eric Burdine (eburdine@cpg.carr.org)

Department of Land and Resource Management (LRM) • Bureau of Resource Management (BRM)
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Protecting and managing Carroll County's natural resources for the pleasure and enjoyment of its citizens.



5th Annual . . . In Celebration of Earth Day 2018 - East Middle School

By: Kelly Martin, Watershed Grants Technician

Earth Day, first held in 1970, is celebrated worldwide with various events to demonstrate support for environmental protection. In Carroll County, the 7th grade class of East Middle School (230 students) was divided into three groups for three separate days of hands-on learning and exploration on campus in celebration of Earth Day. Staff of the Bureau of Resource Management (BRM) organized the event in partnership with faculty from East Middle School. Byron Madigan led Water Resources staff in educating the students about macroinvertebrates and how they help determine stream health in the neighboring Longwell Run. Students took part in a

walking tour of on-site stormwater management practices led by Martin Covington and Myron Frock who explained how these systems function. Two other stations found students led by Jon Bowman and Chris Heyn planting and mulching trees for a stream buffer and planting herbaceous materials in a storm-water basin.

These activities all build on the Outdoor School experience from the students' 6th grade year and relate to the Life Science Curriculum that the students have been studying throughout the school year.

At the end of each day, students completed an evaluation about their day's experience, detailing what they learned about the environment, and how their behaviors and actions impact water quality both locally and in the Chesapeake Bay. Students were also provided with a packet of information to share with their families about the day's activities and how they can be incorporated into their home life and community.

For more information about the BRM's Annual Earth Day event and other outreach projects, visit <http://ccgovernment.carr.org/ccg/resmgmt/>.



Workshop Offered to Industrial Stormwater Permittees

By: Brenda Dinne, Special Projects Coordinator

On February 16, 2018, the Carroll County Environmental Advisory Council, Carroll County Water Resource Coordination Council, and Carroll County Land & Resource Management staff sponsored a workshop for holders of an industrial stormwater permit. The workshop was intended to assist these permittees in understanding their permit requirements and approaches to consider in implementing their Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPP).

Maryland's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit No. 12-SW or 12-SR for Discharges of Stormwater Associated with Industrial Activity requires a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), numerous best management practices, water quality sampling, inspections and reporting certain sites to the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE). In addition to the private businesses that hold one of these permits, the County and several of the municipalities are also permittees.

As a fellow permit holder, County staff were able to share potential options for best management practices, sampling methods, and experiences and challenges in developing and implementing a SWPPP. The County's NPDES Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit requires the County to provide information regarding water quality issues to the regulated community.

The workshop was held at Carroll Community College, where staff from the County and the Maryland Department of the Environment presented to 26 participants.

For questions about the workshop or the 12-SW/SR permits, please contact Glenn Edwards, NPDES Compliance Specialist, Carroll County Department of Land & Resource Management at 410-386-2220 or gedwards@ccg.carr.org.



**Sunday, May 6th 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. —
Charlotte's Quest Nature Center Spring
Fest (3400 Wilhelm Lane, Manchester)**

**Saturday, May 12th 10:00 a.m. to 4:00
p.m. — Westminster Flower and Jazz
Festival (Downtown Westminster)**

Environmental Advisory Council Releases 2018 Work Plan

By: Brenda Dinne, Special Projects Coordinator

On February 8, 2018, the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) held its annual meeting with the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) to review the EAC's 2017 Annual Report and discuss the proposed 2018 Work Plan.

In its advisory role to the Board, the EAC's primary projects and topics of discussion are intended to provide the Board with additional information and perspectives on environmental issues, or environmental aspects of broader issues, being considered by or anticipated to be discussed by the Board. The EAC also plays an important role in public education regarding environmental issues relevant to the County. The EAC drafted a proposed work plan that outlines projects and issues anticipated for 2018. The work plan will then be used by the EAC to compile additional information for BCC discussions, decisions, or policies regarding these topics or to provide public outreach for environmental issues.

The EAC's primary projects for 2018 include research as well as a report to the Board on allowing community solar energy generation systems (CSEGS) in Carroll County and options for reduction of use of expanded polystyrene foam (EPS). Research on CSEGSs will include the benefits and challenges to Carroll County of allowing CSEGSs in zoning districts other than the Business or Industrial Districts. The EAC will also research options for greywater use and plastic bag recycling.

EAC members will coordinate with staff to apply for a SolSmart designation for Carroll County in recognition of the steps the County has taken to address local barriers to solar energy. The designation also is meant to help attract new businesses via the economic benefits that solar energy brings.

The EAC's final work plan is available on the EAC webpage at <http://ccgovernment.carr.org/ccg/eac/>.



Why Natives?

Compiled from Chesapeake Bay Native Plant Center
www.nativeplantcenter.net

Rain washes chemicals and fertilizers into our streams, rivers and, ultimately, the Chesapeake Bay. Once in our waterways, these pollutants fuel the growth of excess algae, which clouds the water and threatens the health of fish, crabs and the entire Chesapeake Bay.

One of the easiest ways for us to reduce our pollution contribution to the Chesapeake Bay is to replace some of our lawn and typical landscapes with native plants. Native plants have occupied our region for hundreds of years and are accustomed to local sun, soil, and climate.

By picking native plants that suit local conditions, you can reduce or eliminate the need for fertilizers, pesticides and watering. This also saves time and money. Native plants also provide food and cover for local wildlife like butterflies, birds, frogs, turtles and small mammals.



You can find native plants with the same shape, color, size or other characteristics as some of your favorite non-native plants to create attractive and more natural landscapes right in your own yard.

