



**Morrisville Environmental and Recycling  
Advisory Committee (MERC)  
August 4, 2010 at 6:30 PM**

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

*Chairman* Kevin Lingard called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM.

**Committee Members present for the meeting were:**

Chairman – Kevin Lingard  
Co-Vice Chair – Kimberly Goll  
Co-Vice Chair – Connie Walton  
Member – Theresa Lostaglio  
Member – Tina Pauluzzi

**Also present were the following staff members:**

Director of Community & Emergency Services – Tony Chiotakis  
Administrative Services Manager – Laurel Belanger  
Senior Administrative Assistant – Pam Benfield

**Also present were the following:**

Richard Johnson – Waste Industries, General Manager  
Karsten Baumann – Morrisville Resident

**2. AGENDA ADOPTION**

**ACTION:** *Chairman* Kevin Lingard called for a motion to adopt the agenda. *Co-Vice Chair* Kimberly Goll made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented, and *Co-Vice Chair* Connie Walton seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- May 5, 2010

**ACTION:** *Chairman* Kevin Lingard called for a motion to adopt the minutes of the meeting held on May 5, 2010. *Co-Vice Chair* Connie Walton made a motion to adopt the minutes as presented, and *Chairman* Kevin Lingard seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

- June 2, 2010

**ACTION:** *Chairman* Kevin Lingard then called for a motion to adopt the minutes of the meeting held on June 2, 2010. *Co-Vice Chair* Kimberly Goll made a motion to adopt the minutes as presented, and *Co-Vice Chair* Connie Walton seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

#### **4. WASTE INDUSTRIES REPORT**

##### **June 2010**

*Administrative Services Manager* Laurel Belanger presented expanded charts for the recycling participation and the recycling tonnage values for June 2010. She noted that June's cumulative recycling participation rate was 51.9% and the cumulative recyclable tonnage was 57.90.

*Co-Vice Chair* Walton stated she felt the main concern was determining why there was so much discrepancy in recycling from one week to the next.

Discussion ensued.

*Waste Industries General Manager* Richard Johnson stated the reported figures are always derived straight from the weight tickets going into the landfill. He noted that there could be many reasons for the discrepancies and that fluctuations on their contracted customers' figures from week-to-week are a very common occurrence.

*Director of Community & Emergency Services* Tony Chiotakis questioned that if a daily comparison was made of the weekly routes over several months, would the discrepancy be attributed to the residents' grocery shopping cycles or to the demographics of a particular route.

*Chairman* Lingard also questioned whether residents' vacation schedules could possibly impact the figures.

Further discussion then ensued regarding aspects of the June report.

##### **July 2010**

*Chairman* Lingard then asked *Administrative Services Manager* Laurel Belanger to display the expanded charts presenting July 2010 values for both recycling participation and tonnage. She noted that the cumulative recycling participation rate was 48.8% and the cumulative recyclable tonnage was 62.65.

Discussion ensued as the group reviewed and compared figures from previous months and previous years, which collectively indicated that currently less citizens are actually recycling more.

*Waste Industries General Manager* Richard Johnson stated that past experience indicated figures usually go down during the summer months when many residents are vacationing and away from home but that he felt the numbers would rebound during the fall when residents are back home and settled. He further stated that he felt the numbers should be kept in perspective, as the Town

of Morrisville's participation figures are consistently very strong at 50% or above and are tracking very well when compared with surrounding towns and municipalities.

*Waste Industries General Manager Richard Johnson* concluded his remarks by stating that the new 65-gallon recycle bins had arrived and were currently being delivered by Waste Industries on the designated pick-up days for all residents contained in the Town's database as of July 26th. He stated that the larger recycling bins could have a positive impact on the Town's overall tonnage figures going forward but that the larger bins could also account for greater fluctuations in the weekly figures if the larger bin capacity enables residents to retain their items longer and not put their recycling bins out each week.

*Chairman Lingard* thanked *Waste Industries General Manager Richard Johnson* for his input and for his attendance.

## **5. "MORRISVILLE RECYCLES WEEK" POSTER CONTEST**

*Chairman Lingard* then opened a discussion on plans for the upcoming "Morrisville Recycles Week" Poster Contest. He reported that the Town's observance of "Morrisville Recycles Week" would be held November 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> this year, and he stated that he felt it was important to get started early promoting this year's Poster Contest to help increase participation.

*Administrative Services Manager Laurel Belanger* distributed a handout to the group containing the Poster Contest Rules from last year's event and containing a draft of the 2010 Official Entry Form.

*Co-Vice Chair Goll* inquired about how children were notified about the Poster Contest last year.

*Administrative Services Manager Laurel Belanger* stated that she had prepared and had personally delivered Contest information packets last year to the front desk office attendants at the Town's elementary schools: Cedar Fork Elementary; Sterling Montessori School; Morrisville Elementary; Carpenter Elementary; and Green Hope Elementary. She further stated that the Poster Contest Rules and the Official Entry Form had been published last year on the Town's website and that copies were also supplied to the Town Hall's front desk for public distribution.

A lengthy group discussion then ensued regarding the best way to increase Contest participation this year and the best way to more effectively disseminate Poster Contest information to target and to reach the maximum number of children who are eligible participants.

*Co-Vice Chair Walton* stated that she felt it would be helpful to promote the contest as an important Town activity that is something larger and something more important than just another school art project. She added that she felt it might be helpful to include actual prize information on this year's Contest entry form.

*Member Lostaglio* inquired about whether the Town would again be donating an Aquatics and Fitness Center membership as the Grand Prize.

*Administrative Services Manager Laurel Belanger* stated she would contact the Town's *Director of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources*, Jerry Allen, and ask if he would arrange a membership donation for a family of four as the Grand Prize of this year's Poster Contest. She added that receiving information earlier this year from the MERC members who solicit Contest prizes would enable her to better promote in advance the prize offerings. She reported that she

had retained the left-over prize donations from last year's Contest and would include any that had not expired in this year's prize packets.

*Chairman* Lingard suggested that the Contest forms be changed to reference elementary school grade levels, which would help avoid confusion.

*Administrative Services Manager* Laurel Belanger stated she would change this year's Poster Contest information to reference Kindergarten through Grade 5.

*Chairman* Lingard then opened a lengthy group discussion surrounding a proposed theme for this year's Poster Contest. Numerous proposals resulted in a preliminary motion by *Chairman* Lingard and a second by *Co-Vice Chair* Walton for a vote on "*Spread the Word! Let's recycle!*" as this year's theme.

Following additional group discussion, *Member* Lostaglio made a motion to adopt "*Spread the Word! Recycle!*" as this year's preferred Poster Contest theme. *Co-Vice Chair* Walton then seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

*Director of Community & Emergency Services* Tony Chiotakis suggested that it might be advantageous to transmit Poster Contest information to school teachers via email.

Another lengthy group discussion ensued surrounding: (1) the pros and cons of emailing Poster Contest information; (2) the appropriate school officials to whom the Contest information should be directed; and (3) the appropriate time frame for disseminating the Poster Contest information packets.

It was agreed that *Administrative Services Manager* Laurel Belanger will contact elementary school Principals and Vice-Principals about the Contest via email, will electronically transmit Poster Contest information to those school officials, and will also inform them that a physical copy of the Poster Contest materials will be hand-delivered to the school's front office on or around August 24<sup>th</sup>. It was further agreed that the email to the school Principals and Vice-Principals will also make the offer to have a MERC representative visit schools to meet with those initial contacts or with other appropriate school officials those contacts might designate regarding the Poster Contest, if desired. It was also agreed that the names and the email addresses of MERC members will be supplied to the school officials via email in case school officials wish to contact a MERC member directly.

*Chairman* Lingard agreed to write an introductory letter to preface the Poster Contest materials that will be provided to the school officials.

*Co-Vice Chair* Walton agreed to do a trial run on introducing the Poster Contest to school officials during Cedar Fork Elementary's staff meeting on August 17<sup>th</sup> to determine the amount of interest generated for the Contest. She further agreed to pick-up the Contest materials at the Office of Public Works if the materials packet could be completed by *Administrative Services Manager* Laurel Belanger in time for Cedar Fork's August 17<sup>th</sup> meeting.

- *Administrative Services Manager* Laurel Belanger will contact *Director of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources* Jerry Allen to request that he arrange a membership donation for a family of four as the Grand Prize of this year's Poster Contest.

- *Administrative Services Manager* Laurel Belanger will assemble Poster Contest information packets surrounding this year's theme and will reference grade levels Kindergarten through Grade 5.
- *Administrative Services Manager* Laurel Belanger will prepare a Poster Contest packet for *Co-Vice Chair* Walton to pick up prior to Cedar Fork Elementary's staff meeting to be held on August 17th.
- *Administrative Services Manager* Laurel Belanger will contact elementary school Principals and Vice-Principals about the Poster Contest via email, will electronically transmit Poster Contest information to the school officials, and will indicate to them that a physical copy will be hand-delivered to the school's front offices on or around August 24<sup>th</sup>.

## 6. NEW BUSINESS

### **Solid Waste Materials Management Annual Report for FY2010**

*Administrative Services Manager* Laurel Belanger distributed to the attendees informational copies of the Solid Waste Materials Management Annual Reports for both FY2009 and FY2010. She stated that she had done an analysis of the tonnage numbers and that both had gone down by eight percent (8%). She further stated that she felt the figures reflect that people are not buying as much so they are not disposing of as much, since the figures on all forms of solid waste had declined.

### **Morrisville Fire Department's Annual Fire Prevention Day – October 2, 2010, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM (Rain Date: 10/09/2010)**

*Chairman* Lingard called for a consensus on whether MERC members would like to participate in the Morrisville Fire Department's 2010 Annual Fire Prevention Day, and the group unanimously agreed to take part again this year.

*Administrative Services Manager* Laurel Belanger stated she would contact Morrisville's Fire Department and make them aware that MERC would like to participate.

*Co-Vice Chair* Walton asked if the "Can Guy" and the "Dottie Bottle" mascots could be reserved for the event, and *Administrative Services Manager* Laurel Belanger stated she would contact the NC Division of Pollution Prevention and Environmental Assistance (NC DPPEA) and inquire about the availability of the mascots on that date.

*Co-Vice Chair* Goll also requested that recycle bins be made available for this year's event, and *Chairman* Lingard expressed his desire that recycle bins be made available for all Town events.

*Administrative Services Manager* Laurel Belanger stated she would make arrangements for recycle bins to be delivered for the event. She further stated that she would provide give-away items for the event, as well.

- *Administrative Services Manager* Laurel Belanger will inform the Morrisville Fire Department that MERC will participate in Fire Prevention Day.
- *Administrative Services Manager* Laurel Belanger will contact the NC DPPEA and inquire about the availability of the “Can Guy” and “Dottie Bottle” mascots for Fire Prevention Day on October 2nd.
- *Administrative Services Manager* Laurel Belanger will arrange for the delivery of recycle bins for use at Fire Prevention Day.
- *Administrative Services Manager* Laurel Belanger will provide give-away items for the Fire Prevention Day event.

### **Quarterly Adopt-A-Road Litter Sweep – Set Date**

*Administrative Services Manager* Laurel Belanger reported that she had already been contacted by Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Committee members indicating they would like to participate in the Adopt-A-Road Litter Sweep and that they had indicated all they needed was a definitive date.

*Chairman* Lingard suggested the date of August 14<sup>th</sup>, and he suggested a start time of 7:30 AM.

A group discussion ensued and the group agreed on the date of August 14<sup>th</sup> and on the start time of 7:30 AM.

*Administrative Services Manager* Laurel Belanger stated she would contact the CERT Committee and inform them of the date and start time for the upcoming Quarterly Adopt-A-Road Litter Sweep event.

- *Administrative Services Manager* Laurel Belanger will contact the CERT Committee and inform them of the date of August 14<sup>th</sup> and the start time of 7:30 AM for the Quarterly Adopt-A-Road Litter Sweep.

### **Morrisville Environmental & Recycling Committee Banner**

*Administrative Services Manager* Laurel Belanger stated that following last year’s Fire Prevention Day, MERC members had expressed the desire to purchase a MERC banner to display at future events. She asked if MERC members wanted her to research purchasing a banner and to determine cost estimates for a banner.

*Chairman* Lingard inquired about the amount of funds on hand for purchases, and *Administrative Services Manager* Laurel Belanger reported that MERC had about \$650.00 on hand, of which approximately \$300 would be utilized for the Poster Contest.

A short discussion ensued, and the group requested that *Administrative Services Manager* Laurel Belanger research the cost of obtaining a new MERC banner. The group further requested that if funds were not available for a new banner, that *Administrative Services Manager* Laurel Belanger make necessary manual updates to the existing banner for the Poster Contest for use at the Fire Prevention Day event.

- *Administrative Services Manager* Laurel Belanger will research the cost of obtaining a new MERC banner.
- *Administrative Services Manager* Laurel Belanger will make the necessary manual updates to the existing banner for the Poster Contest for MERC members to use at the 2010 Fire Prevention Day in the event funds are not available for a new MERC banner.

## 7. OLD BUSINESS

### Community Garden Subcommittee (CGS) – Update

*Chairman* Lingard asked for a status update on the Community Garden Subcommittee.

*Co-Vice Chair* Goll reported that a Public Forum had recently been held at Town Hall at which three Master Gardeners had made presentations. She further reported that the Question and Answer session following the Public Forum was very successful. She noted that an on-line survey had resulted in a strong response from approximately 130 people and that approximately 46 people were interested in getting actively involved in the Community Garden Committee. Goll concluded her remarks by reporting that the overall solid response was that a Community Garden is strongly desired and that plans are moving forward for establishing a Community Garden next spring.

*Administrative Services Manager* Laurel Belanger added that *The Cary News* had done a very positive article on Morrisville’s plans for a Community Garden and that MERC members might be interested in reading that article to obtain additional information.

## 8. COMMITTEE COMMENTS

*Chairman* Lingard then called for any additional Committee comments.

*Co-Vice Chair* Walton announced that the Arbor Day Subcommittee’s next meeting is set for Wednesday, August 18<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 PM.

*Administrative Services Manager* Laurel Belanger stated the agenda for the upcoming Arbor Day Subcommittee meeting should be distributed on or about August 11<sup>th</sup>.

## 9. ADJOURNMENT

**ACTION:** *Chairman* Lingard then called for a motion to adjourn the meeting and *Co-Vice Chair* Goll made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by *Co-Vice Chair* Connie Walton and passed unanimously.

*Chairman* Lingard adjourned the meeting at 7:53 PM.

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Chairman Kevin Lingard

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Date