

Chatham County Environmental Review Board Meeting Minutes

August 20, 2009, 6:30pm

Dunlap Classroom

ERB members present: Chiosso, Aldren, Bollinger, Giralomi, Keisler, Weakley, Andrews
Staff: Fred Royal and Cynthia Van Der Wiele

1. Approval of meeting minutes from July 16, 2009 was deferred at request of Chair, until all final revisions requested by ERB are incorporated into the draft minutes. The final draft revisions will be sent to ERB members before the September meeting.

2. **Public Input:** none.

3. Discussion of Cary-Chatham Joint Plan map proposals

Commissioner Sally Kost presented information and maps to the ERB. The discussion focused on concerns about best protection for water quality in proposed maps for the Joint Plan area. ERB concerns focused on need for field ID of all streams; need for all waters to be buffered (as in Chatham ordinances); siting of any mixed use development/higher density to be on least-sensitive lands; requirements for EAs and for an environmental ordinance review comparison of the two jurisdictions, with strictest ordinances adopted for the Joint Plan area. It was agreed that Allison and Catherine would incorporate these ERB concerns into a statement of recommendations to the BOC. Fred said he could supply topographical break maps to show streams in this area, The recommendations will be sent to Sally Kost by Wednesday 8/25.

4. Staff Report, (Fred Royal)

- a. **Stormwater ordinance revision approval:** The ERB approved the changes Fred presented with final wordsmithing to be done by Fred and Catherine. Catherine made the motion, Sonny seconded it, unanimous approval.
- b. **Monitoring issues:** Proposal from Fred and Cynthia to create a process so that the ERB formally reviews permit conditions – including state and county. Staff will come back with a proposal. Such reviews are part of ERB’s current mission statement but a defined process is needed.
- c. **Jordan lake normal pool elevation update:** Fred spoke for Chatham County at the Durham Planning Commission public hearing. He presented the original resolution by BOC against the developer’s survey to change the lake boundary thus allowing more dense development close to the lake, and in favor of a new independent survey commissioned by Durham if any change was to be made.

5. The ERB reviewed plans for the County Law Enforcement parking lot expansion (West Street in Pittsboro) requiring removal of a very large oak tree, the width of the creek buffer width and some other environmental concerns. Allison presented information about the project with plans supplied by the county. She noted that the design process is far along and any changes will require new design costs, perhaps ~ \$7000. In the future, the ERB would like to be involved at an earlier design stage. Fred noted that this was another project that was in the pipeline before our EA ordinance was passed.

Motion: The ERB believes that Chatham County should model better environmental practices on its own building projects, regardless of the local ordinances, where the building takes place.

1. Save the large oak tree on north side of building, explore alternatives to the removal of other trees shown on map, use certified arborist to assess its viability and give guidance on methods to protect it. Local citizens were upset with similar old “Grand” tree removals on East Street recently by a local non-profit. Chatham has endorsed the concept of Grand Trees, and this is a good example of putting this in action.
2. Buffer the creek to county standards (current plans show 30 ft), or at least to extent practicable beyond the 30 feet – up to 50 feet. Robeson Creek is impaired by nutrient pollution and all its tributaries need greater protection.
3. Explore options for reducing heat island effect of parking lot by new tree planting, light-colored pavement, and other methods.

Catherine made the motion, Sonny seconded it, unanimous vote in favor.

6. Discussion on possible tree ordinance for Chatham (Cynthia)

The ERB supported the staff preparing a request to the BOC for the ERB to begin process of drafting a recommendation for a tree ordinance. Cynthia will bring request before BOC.

7. Recommendations from ERB for additional information to be included in "The Chatham County Economic Growth and Prosperity Initiative . A Five Year Economic Development Program 2010 - 2014" Draft For Discussion."

Motion made to adopt recommendations and to send these comments to the author of initiative and EDC and to copy the BOC. Catherine made the motion, Tara seconded it.

8. On behalf of the ERB’s Climate Change Committee, Sonny asked for advice from the ERB concerning their mandate. Sonny presented a survey about climate change that he asked ERB members to answer before the next meeting. The Committee will meet before September, and Elaine asked the Committee to bring some suggestions for how Chatham might participate in the Oct 24, 2009 Global Day on Climate Change awareness –go to www.350.org to learn more about this).

Information on UNC Continuing Education lecture series “Global Climate Change: Challenges & Options in NC and Beyond” Oct 8, 15, 29, November 5.

ERB members asked to move October ERB meeting to Oct 22 so as not to conflict with the UNC lecture series on Global Climate Change.

9. Announcements, and updates from ERB members

Catherine gave update on CCP and the conservation plan work, as representative for ERB on the CCP.

Lin: The Agricultural Advisory Board is currently reviewing the Farmland Protection Plan for Chatham and noted that they have grant to do this. He will bring back any relevant information from this to the next ERB meeting.

Motion to adjourn by Catherine; seconded by Tara.

Time: 9:00 p.m.

Next meeting: September 17 6:30 pm at Dunlap Classroom