

Chatham County Environmental Review Committee

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: August 16, 2012

Location: Dunlap Classroom

Committee Members Present:

Jerry Cole David Mattison

Steve Meads Vic D'Amato

Bob Soots Delonda Alexander

Also Present: Dan LaMontagne, County Director of Environmental Quality

Chairman D'Amato called the meeting to order at 6:40 pm.

1. Introductions

Other than ERC members and Mr. LaMontagne, no others were present.

2. Selection of the recording secretary for the meeting minutes

Mr. Cole agreed to keep the minutes.

3. Approval of meeting minutes from July 19, 2012

There were no comments on the draft minutes. It was moved by moved by Mr. Cole and seconded by Mr. Soots that the minutes be accepted. The motion was passed unanimously.

4. Public Input

There was no public input

5. Discussion on approval process for "Allowable" activities in buffers

After discussion and taking into account the views expressed by Ms. McLean in her e-mail to the ERC, it was the consensus of the ERC that the Director of the Chatham County Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), as the "delegated authority" of the Chatham County Watershed Review Board (WRB), may approve allowable new uses within buffers, as listed in Section 3, Table of Uses in the Chatham County Watershed Protection Ordinance, with the exception of allowable uses pertaining to mining activities, which must be approved only by the WRB. It is understood that the Director of the DEQ will not approve any questionable allowable use. In such circumstances, he will seek the advice of the WRB prior to any action. The Director of the DEQ will provide a list of any approvals made as the WRB's delegated authority to the WRB in a timely manner.

6. Recommendation on Stormwater Ordinance Amendments for BOC.

Mr. LaMontagne stated that the NC legislature had given local governments an additional two years to comply with state rules to protect Jordan Lake. These rules, which had been scheduled to go into effect this year, had already been incorporated into the Chatham County Stormwater Ordinance. The delay was enacted because of objections by Greensboro to the detrimental economic effects of compliance at this time. Mr. LaMontagne noted that no adverse economic effects of compliance have been brought to his attention. Following discussion and taking into account comments from Ms. McLean, it was moved by Mr. Soots and seconded by Ms. Alexander that the ERC make the following recommendation to the BOC:

Whereas:

- **the quality of water in Jordan Lake is of great importance to Chatham County**
- **there is a lack of an overriding adverse economic impact of the Chatham County Storm Water Ordinance on Chatham County**
- **there is the likelihood that delay may result in increased mitigation costs in the future**

the Environmental Review Committee recommends to the Chatham County Board of Commissioners that the Chatham County Storm Water Ordinance should not be delayed.

The motion was passed unanimously.

7. Updates from County Staff

Mr. LaMontagne brought the ERC up to date on several issues. These included the resignation of Mr. Chris Hopper from DEQ and the need to replace him; the development of a ten-year plan for solid waste; the fact that the Walmart development is proceeding forward, and that there will be a new solar panel project on Vickers Road.

8. Announcements and updates from ERC members.

There were no announcements by ERC members

9. Adjournment

After agreement to hold the next meeting at 6:30 pm on Thursday, October 19 and upon a motion to adjourn the meeting by Mr. Cole, which was seconded by Mr. Soots, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.