

Chatham County Environmental Review Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: December 12, 2013

Location: Agriculture Building Auditorium

Committee Members Present:

Vic D'Amato	David Mattison
Bob Soots	Mary Beth Koza
Joan McLean	

Committee Members Not Present:

Jerry Cole
Nanishka Albaladejo
Delonda Alexander

Also Present: Dan LaMontagne, County Director of Environmental Quality
Dr. Fran DiGiano; President, Clean Jordan Lake

Chairman Vic D'Amato called the meeting to order at 6:35pm.

Introductions

ERAC members introduced themselves for the benefit of Dr. Fran DiGiano, the evenings presenter.

1. Selection of the recording secretary for the meeting minutes

Joanie McLean agreed to take the minutes.

2. Approval of meeting minutes from September 12, 2013

Mary Beth Koza moved that minutes from the September 12, 2013 meeting be approved; Bob Soots seconded, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Public Input

Fran DiGiano asked for an explanation of how the ERC/B operates and its relationship to the Board of Commissioners. Dan and Vic answered, explaining the advisory capacity of the Committee and the review and approval duties of the Water Review Board.

Fran then asked about the Committee's involvement with the Chatham Park development. He is an environmental engineer, retired from the faculty at UNC, and is

familiar with the project. Committee members answered that we are following the development with interest, but that Chatham Park falls within the Town of Pittsboro's extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ) and is not subject to County ordinances or approval. Fran commented that he recently met with the Chatham Park planner, Phillip Culpepper, and is concerned about the lack of practical details in the "master plan." From Fran's perspective, water treatment and water supply are major issues, and neither is addressed adequately in the master plan. The current plan suggests "upgrading" Pittsboro's existing Haw River treatment facility. Fran noted his alarm at this idea and said that the Haw River facility is "archaic."

4. Presentation on Clean Jordan Lake – Dr. Fran DiGiano

Clean Jordan Lake is a non-profit organization with a mission to restore Jordan Lake to a healthy and vibrant aquatic resource by removing trash from the shoreline and preventing further accumulations. Fran is the co-founder and president. His presentation covered the history and growth of the organization and how it operates using a volunteer work force. Fran focused on how the clean up efforts affect water and habitat quality in and around Jordan Lake.

5. Updates from County Staff

Dan La Montagne reported the following:

- FEMA is currently updating floodplain maps for parts of Chatham County; public meetings are being held.
- Discussion continues between the County and the Town of Pittsboro on an inter-local agreement regarding erosion control ordinances. Final approval will be needed from the Environmental Management Commission (EMC).
- Construction is proceeding on Strata Solar's 20-megawatt solar farm in Moncure. It will be one of the largest solar farms in the State. Dan noted that there is relatively little impervious surface involved; erosion control and stormwater management are routine.

6. Announcements and updates from ERAC members

There were no updates from the committee members.

7. Time and place of next meeting.

January 9, 2014, 6:30, Dunlap Classroom. Members should note that we will be considering nominations for a new chair and vice chair at the next meeting.

8. Adjournment

Dave Mattison made a motion for adjournment and was seconded by Bob Soots.