

Name of Committee:	Environmental Review Advisory Committee	
Date of Presentation:	TBD	
Time Period Covered:	January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013	
# of Meetings Held During Period (including any special meeting or community input)	6	
MISSION & GOALS – Summarize concisely the committee’s mission (charge), key goals, objectives and measures below. You also may attach as a separate document, but limit to no more than one page single-spaced.		
<p>The mission of the Environmental Review Advisory Committee (ERC) is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advise the Board of Commissioners on environmental policy and related county ordinances, including the watershed ordinance. • Conduct special projects, as assigned, to protect the environment. • Assist County staff with review of required state and federal environmental permits for projects in the county. • Partner with towns in the county and other interested governmental agencies on mutual concerns related to the environment. <p>NOTE: The Environmental Review Advisory Committee also serves as the Watershed Review Board.</p>		
ACCOMPLISHMENTS & ACTIVITIES – Summarize concisely below the committee’s major accomplishments and activities of the past year. This should include reports, research, projects, public input, etc. Be sure to identify how they relate to specific goals, objectives or measures. You also may attach as a separate document but limit to no more than one page single-spaced.		
<p>The Environmental Review Advisory Committee (ERAC) met six times last year. As part of those meetings, the Committee met twice as the Watershed Review Board (WRB). In that capacity the WRB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Granted an Authorization Statement for a non-perpendicular crossing of a waterline through a Zone 1 riparian buffer on the finding of “no practical alternative”. • Approved with conditions a plan to allow two non-contiguous properties in the same watershed to be treated as a single contiguous property for purposes of compliance with the impervious surface requirements of the Chatham County Watershed Protection Ordinance. <p>The Committee received presentations on issues pertaining to environmental quality in the County:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A presentation from Allison Weakley, DNER Natural Heritage Program on the Comprehensive Conservation Plan for Chatham County, which was issued in 2011 by the Chatham Conservation Partnership. • A presentation from Fran DiGiano of Clean Jordan Lake, focusing on how the volunteer activities of his organization affect water and habitat quality in and around Jordan Lake. <p>Committee members continued to follow the activities of the NC Mining and Energy Commission on horizontal hydraulic fracturing, the Town of Pittsboro on the development of Chatham Park, and the use of solar powered algae stirrers to help mitigate algae in Jordan Lake. The objective is to bring specific environmental concerns to the attention of the BOC in a timely manner. During the year, the ERAC brought to the BOC concerns about loss of local environmental regulatory authority and the delay of Jordan Lake pollution control rules by actions of the State Legislature.</p>		

BARRIERS & CHALLENGES – Identify any barriers or challenges that make it difficult for the committee to achieve goals or objectives. Limit to the space provided below

The Committee experienced some turn-over in membership with the resignation of Steve Meads and the appointment of new members, Nanishka Abaladejo and anticipates further changes in the next year. This has the advantage of adding new expertise to the Committee, but requires frequent review of issues to bring new members up-to-date.

RECOMMENDED CHANGES: Please list any recommendations to the Board of Commissioners related to the changes in the advisory committee’s membership, mission, goals, objectives or other related issues.

The committee would like guidance from the BOC on the assignment of special projects.

Suggested topics:

- Continued involvement in the activities of the Mining and Energy Commission with feedback/direction from the BOC.
- Assist the BOC with the development of a policy statement in defense of local government control of environmental protection.
- Involvement in Land Use Plan discussions.
- The size and scope of Chatham Park development will have a major impact on all of Chatham County. The committee would like to follow the project and advise the BOC of associated environmental concerns.