

Minutes of the Chatham County Environmental Review Advisory Committee (ERAC) Meeting, January 8, 2015

Attendance:

Committee members:

Present: Jerry Cole, Dave Mattison, Vic D'Amato, Fran DiGiano, Terry Schmidt, Graham Swift, Bert Garrido, Ray Bode, Mary Beth Koza

Absent: Joan McClean and Sherri Stuewer

Staff:

Dan LaMontagne, Chatham County Director of Environmental Quality

Call to order:

6:30 PM by Chairman Jerry Cole for meeting to begin following the published Agenda

Introductions:

All present, including and new members Ray Bode and Humberto Garrido, gave a brief overview of experience and knowledge base they bring to the committee.

It was generally recognized that the assembly is an impressive body of pertinent talent.

(NOTE: as a post communication, Fran made the good suggestion that each member's experience and knowledge base be summarized and made available to the BOC and staff of Chatham County as a means of cementing and advertising the strong credibility for this committee.)

Recording Secretary:

- Graham Swift designated by chairman, Jerry Cole, as recording secretary for the meeting

Approval of minutes of the October 9, 2014 meeting:

- Several iterations of the minutes had been circulated and received comment from members. The attachment of the Mission Statement as part of the minutes was, in a large part, the confusing element. Dan Montagne pointed out that, since there is a new BOC following the last election, it would be prudent to have some interaction with them before spending too much effort on finalizing our mission statement. This was accepted and the minutes, without the appended Mission Statement were accepted unanimously.

Public Input:

- No public in attendance

Election of Officers for 2015:

- Mary Beth nominated and Terry seconded the motion that Jerry Cole continue as Chairman and Dave Mattison continue as Vice Chairman for 2015
- Carried unanimously

Presentation and Discussion on the Watershed Protection Ordinance:

- Dan gave an excellent overview of the Ordinance answering several questions that were raised.

Updates from County Staff:

- The proposed landfilling of Duke Energy's coal ash in Chatham County has been a major topic of discussion and comment from the BOC. The committee discussed potential issues but decided that no action is needed on our part at this time.

Announcements and Updates from ERAC members:

- Several items came up, including the coal ash mentioned above, where the committee felt that they should have input. It was agreed that an informal meeting will be sought with Commissioner Diana Hales, BOC liaison to ERAC. The purposes of the meeting will be to inform Ms. Hales of the expertise residing on the ERAC and to seek her input on how the new BOC would like to interact with and use the ERAC . Participants in the proposed meeting will be ERAC officers and Dan. The partial list below indicates some of the issues which Jerry Cole will bring to the attention of the Ms. Hales and we will proceed from that point.
 - Chatham Park development
 - Jordan Lake SolarBee Project
 - Fracking
 - Coal ash landfill

(NOTE: Fran post meeting kindly sent out information on the SolarBee Project to everyone. The DENR website describing the project with plans is - <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/wq/jordancirculator>)

Adjournment:

- The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM

Next meeting will be February 12th at 6:30 PM.

Invitation for Planning Board representative to be present

Graham Swift, January 12, 2015