

Chatham County Environmental Review Advisory Committee (ERAC)

Meeting Minutes for May 20, 2015

Attendance

Committee members:

Present: Jerry Cole, Mary Beth Koza, Ray Bode, Sherri Stuewer, Terry Schmidt, Vic D'Amato

Absent: David Mattison, Francis DiGiano, Graham Swift, Joan McLean, Humberto Garrido

Guests: Jeannie Ambrose

Staff: Dan LaMontagne, Chatham County Public Works Director

Call to Order

At 6:30 p.m. Chairman Jerry Cole called for the meeting to begin following the published agenda.

Recording Secretary

Sherri Stuewer was designated by Chairman Jerry Cole as recording secretary for the meeting.

Approval of Minutes of April 21, 2015 Meeting

The minutes were amended to show that 3M has been in the Pittsboro area for thirty years (not three). As amended, Vic D'Amato moved to accept the minutes, and Mary Beth Koza seconded the motion. All members present voted to approve the motion.

Public Input

There was no public input.

Builders FirstSource Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

- Committee members were provided the Chatham County Zoning Ordinance which dictates when an Environmental Impact Assessment is required (Section 11.3). In addition, the members were provided Section 6.2 of the Chatham County Subdivision Regulations which includes the outline of what information should be included in an Environmental Impact Assessment.
- Committee members briefly discussed the Environmental Impact Assessment prepared for Builders FirstSource for the planned expansion of their site on US 64.

- Jerry Cole raised concerns about the lack of specificity in the EIA about the nature of the material to be stored in the new buildings proposed for the site (i.e. could it be hazardous and create risk due to spills).
- Mary Beth Koza raised the question of the scope of the ERAC review of the EIA. She specifically asked what, if anything, should the ERAC do to supplement the review by the County staff of storm water management for the site.
- Committee members were asked to submit their comments and concerns about the EIA to Dan LaMontagne by June 4, 2015. The plan is to reach consensus on EIA comments at the June 11, 2015 meeting of the ERAC.
- Any comments on the EIA from the ERAC will be submitted to Builders FirstSource and to the Chatham County Planning Board for consideration as they deliberate on the anticipated rezoning request from Builders FirstSource.

ERAC Annual Report to Chatham County Board of Commissioners

Jerry Cole presented a draft report on ERAC activities for 2014 for consideration by the committee members. He requested that comments and suggestions on the draft be provided to Dan LaMontagne by June 4, 2015. The plan is to reach consensus on the report at the June 11, 2015 meeting. It was noted that a reference should be added to the report about the presentation by Dan LaMontagne on the mega site near Siler City.

Updates from County Staff

- Dan LaMontagne reported the Chatham County Board of Commissioners had requested the County Manager to submit the ERAC comments on coal ash storage to DENR. Dan assisted in preparing the letter.
- Dan LaMontagne reported a Wake County Superior Court had blocked the Mining and Energy Commission from issuing any fracking permits until the state Supreme Court decides a related case on how state commissions are formed.
- Dan LaMontagne reported that four of the current ERAC members are reaching the end of their terms. He will be discussing with each person their interest in continuing as an ERAC member.

Comments from ERAC Members

- Vic D'Amato reported on a workshop he attended on May 12, 2015 which was jointly sponsored by WRRRI and Tetra Tech. The purpose of the workshop was to generate ideas for integrating drinking water management strategies with economic and quality of life objectives in the Jordan Lake watershed.

- Ray Bode reported on efforts he has made, along with Fred Royal and Catherine Deininger, to share concerns with Senator Foushee about the negative impact of HB760 on water quality. Specifically, HB 760 proposes measuring vegetative buffers from the center of the streambed, rather than from the top of the bank, which would reduce the size and effectiveness of the buffer in filtering pollutants.

Adjournment

Vic D'Amato moved to adjourn the ERAC meeting, and Ray Bode seconded the motion. The next meeting of the ERAC is June 11, 2015.