

SUMMARY OF CHATHAM COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ERAC) MEETING  
AUGUST 13, 2015

**Location:** Performance Building Conference Room

**Time:** 6:30 PM

**Attendees:** Jerry Cole, Terry Schmidt, Francis DiGiano, Ray Bode, Graham Swift, Sherri Stuewer, Mary Beth Koza, Luke Groff, Elaine Chiosso

**Staff:** Dan LaMontagne

Commissioner Hales was also present.

**Absent:** David Mattison, Vic D'Amato

Meeting called to order by Jerry Cole, chair, at 6:30 PM

- Published agenda was followed.
- Introductions were made and the new members, Luke and Elaine, welcomed.
  
- Graham Swift appointed as recording secretary for the meeting.
  
- June 11 meeting minutes were approved unanimously after a motion by Sherri and second by Terry.
  
- There was no public input.
  
- Environmental Impact Assessment Reviews / Criteria for ERAC Reviews of EIA's
  - a) Cole Park Plaza – minor subdivision
  - b) Sunset Grove – major subdivision
  
- These segments proved to be the major portion of the meeting with input from all members present. This was due to some doubts as to the relevance of the EIA's:
  - What does the developer have to do in response to questions from the ERAC?
  - Where does the EIA fit with all the ordinances that must be met?
  - How do the EIA's get into the system with respect to all other committees involved in evaluating the developments?
  - The developers have (should?) to comply with the EIA outlines in their responses to avoid confusion, especially in numbering references.
  - Should reviews be limited to major subdivisions?
  - Who are we advising on environmental impacts?
  - More thorough assessments needed?

- *There was a general feeling that a flow sheet should be available to help track developments through the County evaluation process so that our input is clear.*
- *Dan LaMontagne agreed to invite Jason Sullivan, County Planning Director, to the next meeting to explain how our reviews of EIAs fit into the planning process.*
- *More discussion is needed at a future meeting*
- **Finally, the ERAC comments on the EIAs of both subdivisions were unanimously approved after a motion by Mary Bet Koza seconded by Graham Swift**
- **After a motion by Elaine Chiosso, seconded by Mary Beth Koza, Terry Schmidt** was selected as the ERAC representative to the **Chatham County Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee with Sherri Stuewer as the alternate.**
- **The sludge derived from coal ash leachates** discussion was expanded by Elaine to include general chemical contamination of water in Chatham County and the potential adverse impact of using sludge as an agricultural nutrient for soils. Elaine promised more information by e mail to all members of the committee.
  - On land sludge applications, there are EPA standards for metals contents and these pertain to all such applications.
  - Jerry Cole asked members to review available information on the content of coal ash leachate to determine if planned monitoring of sludge and treated wastewater is adequate.
- Updates
  - Dan gave on update on the recent staff changes in his department.
  - Commissioner Hales stated: Commission is working on a fracking moratorium to be tied to development of the comprehensive land use plan and relevant ordinances.

The next ERAC meeting was scheduled for Thursday, September 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30PM.

Meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:35PM after a motion by Sherri seconded by Terry.

Graham Swift

August 15, 2015