

Minutes of the Chatham County Environmental Review Advisory Committee (ERAC) Meeting
January 14, 2016

Attendance

Committee members:

Present: Jerry Cole, David Mattison, Ray Bode, Elaine Chiosso, Vic D'Amato, Fran DiGiano, Luke Groff, Mary Beth Koza, Terry Schmidt, Sherri Stuewer (via telephone) and Graham Swift

Absent: None

Guests: Commissioner Diane Hales

Staff: Dan LaMontagne, Assistant County Manager

Call to order

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

Recording Secretary

David Mattison was designated by Chairman Jerry Cole as recording secretary for the meeting.

Approval of minutes of the November 12, 2015 meeting

Mary Beth Koza moved to accept the minutes and Graham Swift seconded the motion. All members of committee voted to approve the motion.

Public Input

No public input

Intro to future Watershed Review Board item

Dan LaMontagne informed the ERAC of a proposed text amendment to the Watershed Protection Ordinance (Section 3.2.A.1.d and Appendix A) that will allow for non-residential development, specifically office, business and professional, no larger than 4,000 square feet. The amendment is to be proposed to the Chatham County Board of Commissioners (BOC) on January 19, 2016 and, if accepted, referred to the Watershed Review Board for review and opinion.

Annual Report for 2015

Upcoming item for the Chatham County ERAC. Dan LaMontagne will forward the Annual Report for 2014 to ERAC members for their review.

Updates from County Staff

Legislation – Discussion of HB765 which states that delegated stormwater programs cannot exceed the state model ordinance. However, the state model ordinance has not been created and no direction from the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NC DEQ) has been received to date. The Chatham County stormwater ordinance will have to be submitted March 1, 2016 and ordinance development will be challenging recognizing time required for development, notification, public hearing and approval by the Chatham County BOC, typically 3 months minimum.

Comprehensive Plan Status – Terry Schmidt summarized the anticipated schedule of the development and public participation for the Comprehensive Plan. Discussion of the priorities of the ERAC for the Comprehensive Plan included the Chatham County Conservation Plan, public utilities including public water supply and wastewater treatment, and the planned Chatham Park development.

Solar Bees – The Chatham County BOC would like a presentation on the performance and current status of the Solar Bees in Jordan Lake. Elaine Chiosso and Fran DiGiano agreed to discuss prior to Elaine making this presentation to the BOC in February 2016.

Coal Ash –

- The Chatham County Manager and Dan LaMontagne emailed the list of questions regarding the Sanford Wastewater Treatment Plant effluent monitoring developed in December 2015 by the ERAC to the Lee County Public Works Director. A response has not been received to date.
- Dan's office has been asked to monitor air quality on the coal ash route through Chatham County. Baseline samples have been collected as well as active samples during varying conditions (8-hour total particulate sample, analyzing 20 different metals). Some measurable increase was noted but nothing exceeds appropriate health standards.
- Baseline groundwater sampling conducted at private residences near the Cape Fear coal plant and the Brickhaven structural fill site. Hexavalent chromium and vanadium were noted in excess of appropriate health standards at several private wells. While these contaminants cannot be directly attributed to coal ash, the County will supply bottled water to residences within 1 mile of each area until they can connect to existing County water lines.

Election of Officers for 2016

David Mattison nominated Terry Schmidt for Chairman which was seconded by Graham Swift. Mary Beth nominated Sherri Stuewer for Vice Chairman which was seconded by Graham Swift. All members of committee voted to unanimously approve Terry Schmidt for Chairman and Sherri Stuewer for Vice Chairman. Subsequently, Jerry Cole passed the meeting to Chairman Terry Schmidt.

Announcements and updates from ERAC members

Progress at the new UNC hospital and 64 Bypass overpass construction sites was noted as was a report of the City of Pittsboro wanting to construct a water line to the City of Sanford at an estimated cost of \$18M.

Elaine Chiosso will be presenting the Waterkeepers Carolina sludge report to the Chatham Conservation Partnership at the Agriculture Building on January 21, 2016 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

With Dan LaMontagne accepting the role as Assistant County Manager, Chatham County will be hiring an Environmental Quality Director who will oversee land and water resources as well as solid waste. Dan will continue to oversee operations in the near term.

The Chatham County Climate Change Committee will have its first meeting January 25, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the Holmes Meeting Room at the Chatham County Community College.

The Chatham County ERAC will have its next scheduled meeting February 11, 2016 in the Performance Building Conference Room.

Adjournment

Graham Swift made the motion to adjourn and the motion was seconded by Jerry Cole. All members of committee voted to approve the motion to adjourn.