

Minutes of the Chatham County Environmental Review Advisory Committee (ERAC) Meeting
February 16, 2016

Attendance

Committee members:

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

Absent: None

Guests: Commissioner Diane Hales

Staff: Dan LaMontagne, Assistant County Manager

Call to order

6:30 PM by Chairman Terry Schmidt for meeting to begin following the published Agenda.

Recording Secretary

Ray Bode was designated by Chairman Terry Schmidt as recording secretary for the meeting.

Approval of minutes of the January 14, 2015 meeting

Elaine Chiosso moved to accept the minutes and Vic D'Amato seconded the motion. All members of committee voted to approve the motion.

Public Input

No public input

Annual Report for 2015

The Committee reviewed the Annual Report. There was discussion about last year's items and the new members of the committee.

Upcoming items

The Committee discussed the following as agenda items for next month's session: Riparian buffer rules, coal ash leachate, EIA review by ERAC to include defining responsibilities and the process, the County Comprehensive Plan

Updates from County Staff

Stormwater Regulations And Riparian Buffer Rules: The County attorney is looking into the County's responsibility for stormwater regulations and riparian buffer rules in regards changes to State legislation about local rules. It may be the case that that outside the watersheds affected by the Jordan rules, the County buffer rules stand; within the water supply watershed the county rules could be impacted. Although, since the County was delegated with the responsibility for water supply protection by the State, and that happened before the Jordan rules, it might be that the County's rules still stand. Dan is working with the AG will keep the ERAC up to date.

Coal Ash: The County has gotten air, water, and biosolids testing results from Chara. The ERAC would like to see the full data set. They find some of the non-detected results unbelievable because if they are testing for metals, they are likely finding some amounts of everything; however the data does not reflect that. Also, the ERAC would like to have a better look at testing methods and equipment. Dan LaMontagne will request additional information under the sharing agreement for ERAC review.

Also, regarding controlling the volume of leachate, Chara will most likely be trucking it in and metering it in. At this time a pipeline is unlikely. He will seek to clarify and report back. ERAC will keep the question of leachate metering on the agenda for future discussion. Also, he will update the ERAC when the split sample water and air data is received and reviewed. Updates are likely at the March session.

Follow up items for the County:

Brian Burkhart will be new Environmental Quality Director, and will attend next ERAC session.

Dan will:

get ash sample data;

look at EPA methods for testing to see what the limits of detection are for the various constituent metals etc;

methods of injection to WWTP (tank/metering, etc).

Announcements and updates:

The Chatham Conservation Partnership recently made a presentation about land applied sludge and 1-4 dioxane entering the Haw and Deep. EPA is monitoring this as a "chemical of concern". Elaine Chiosso will send the link for the most recent study to the ERAC.

Mary Beth Koza will send article about Flint, MI water problem.

Comprehensive Plan status update:

Comments received from ERAC by Terry:

The County should recognize that growth is inevitable and plan accordingly.

The Conservation Plan from 2011 should be absorbed/incorporated into the Conservation Plan. General discussion ensued about the best use of the 2011 plan, and the consensus was that it should be used as a tool for planning, though the County has regulations in place that parallel 2011 plan. Chatham Conservation Partnership uses the 2011 document as basis for studies. Commissioner Hales informed the ERAC that the County Planning Board is going to produce a plan map. David Mattison and Vic D'Amato will be attending the

next steering committee meeting to provide technical input. The meeting is scheduled for 10:30 on 2/18/16 in the Dunlap Classroom.

Solar Bees:

Elaine Chiosso will present a powerpoint (see provided handout) to the Board on 2/15/16 at 3:00.

Conclusion of agenda items

Additional Announcements:

Dan distributed an EIA for golf cart storage to the ERAC for review via email on 2/11/16 and asks that the ERAC use the review template. Mary Beth pointed out the fire hazard associated with such facilities, and Dan agreed, noting that the Moncure fire department will review the EIA as well.

Commissioner Hales informed the ERAC of a presentation made by Tom Reeder (NCDEQ) to the EMC wherein he suggested that he is looking into possibly eliminating riparian buffers for intermittent streams statewide. Links to summary articles will be sent.

Vic DeMato announced that the WRRRI conference focusing on the Value of Water will take place in Raleigh on 3/16-3/17/16.

Elaine Chiosso announced that the Abundance Foundation will be hosting the Climate Conference at Fearington Barn on 3/4/16.

Adjourn at 8P