

Meeting Minutes

Chatham County Environmental Review Advisory Committee (ERAC)

December 8, 2016 6:30 p.m.

Performance Building Conference Room

Committee members:

Present: Terry Schmidt, Elaine Chiosso, Sherri Stuewer, Vic D'Amato, David Mattison, Fran DiGiano, Jeannette Ragland, Ray Bode

Absent: Luke Groff, Jerry Cole, Graham Swift, Mary Beth Koza

Staff present: Brian Burkhart, Chatham County Environmental Quality Director

Others present: Diana Hales, Chatham County Commissioner

1. Introduction of Jeanette Ragland as new Committee member.
2. Approval of meeting minutes from September 8, 2016. Motion to approve Sherri, seconded by David Mattison.
3. No Public Input.
4. Updates from County Staff - Brian

Coal Ash – Air, Water, and Ash Sampling

- Dave and Brian reviewed Charah's logs on transport; notes are still being finalized. This review was prompted by complaints from Corinth Rd residents about stopped traffic, due to coal trains with as many as 85 cars hauled at a time.
- Charah was approved by North Carolina to change from quarterly to bi-annual testing for groundwater monitoring; Chatham County will exercise its right to continue quarterly sampling.
- Air sampling – Chatham County is using Rudo's suggestion of air sampling before and after a coal train passes. Coal ash samples will be quarterly. The most up-to-date sampling results are on the Chatham County website. There is a small variability noted in these samples.
- Sanford Waste Water Treatment Plant (WTTP) received a Notice of Violation on self-sampling reporting, and for excess molybdenum in leachate from Charah. A fine was issued, and Sanford will raise the limit of molybdenum allowed.

Discussion:

- Commissioner Hales asked about the response to citizens regarding train traffic backups. Brian said the train car backup is a result of a switching issue. Questions about a resolution have been

sent to CSX.

- Fran asked how well publicized is the monitoring data website. The Charah website may not be current, but the Chatham County website is kept up to date, and linked at <http://www.chathamnc.org/government/departments-programs/environmental-quality/information-on-coal-ash-disposal-at-brickhaven>.
- Sherri asked about the molybdenum limit being raised, as it is at 1/3 of total allowance, or 0.048 to 0.1 (this would now be about 2/3 of total molybdenum allowed for the Sanford WTP)
- Elaine asked if Chatham County commented on the Duke NPDES permit (County Answer: No – not allowed under agreement with Duke Power)
- Commissioner Hales said Chatham County directed staff to ask Charah to monitor for radioactive elements (Sutton coal ash has been concern) because the County received information that citizens used a Geiger counter on ash that was on the side of a stopped rail car that showed elevated radioactivity.

7. Presentation by Brian – Overview of relevant County Ordinances and ERAC accomplishments in 2016

- Mission statement, ERAC duties
- Overview: stormwater ordinance, S&E ordinance
- New: added 25-year peak control this year to counteract the removal of nutrient removal by legislature. Requirement for flood prevention
- Discussion by ERAC and staff about current conditions, how ordinances are working, enforcement
- Watershed Protection ordinance: Riparian buffers are still allowed under new legislative
- - Discussion of Moncure megasite, continued questions about 70/30, and wastewater. Brian will email the members of the ERAC this presentation.

8. Announcements and updates from ERAC members

- Comprehensive Plan Status – Terry. Discussion of what information ERAC can bring to this plan, specifically about the wastewater issue i.e., centralized vs de-centralized. Many opinions on wastewater have been offered at the Comprehensive Plan meetings. Vic and Fran both suggested information on new types of treatment systems, using minimum versus optimal methods. Vic offered to do presentations to the Comprehensive Plan Committee and the ERAC on this subject. Vic will present at the January Comprehensive Plan meeting.
- Fran said the organization 'Clean Jordan Lake' is looking for new Board members. Vann Murray is new president.
- Elaine mentioned the latest report on 1,4-Dioxane in Pittsboro drinking water by Dr. Detlef Knappe. Elaine will email Dr. Knappe's presentation to the ERAC. (Fran mentioned work on a fish tissue by Jeff DeBerardinis from NC DNR between 2003-8, looking at pesticides and flame retardants).

9. Adjournment: Fran made a motion to adjourn, and seconded by Sherri. Motion approved by acclamation.