

Minutes of the Chatham County Environmental Review Advisory Committee (ERAC) Meeting, June 8, 2017

Attendance

Committee members:

Present Jerry Cole, Fran DiGiano, Mary Beth Koza, Dave Mattison, Jeanette Ragland, Terry Schmidt, Graham Swift

Absent: Sherri Stuewer, Vic D'Amato, Elaine Chiosso

Guests: Paul Mele (resident of Polks Landing), Jeannie Ambrose

Staff: Brian Burkhart, Chatham County Environmental Quality Director

Call to order

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

Introductions of all in attendance

Recording Secretary

- Fran DiGiano was designated by chairman, Terry Schmidt, as recording secretary for the meeting

Approval of minutes of the March 9, 2017 meeting

- Graham Swift moved to accept the minutes, Mary Beth Koza seconded the motion and all members of committee voted to approve the motion. No minutes were needed to be approved from May 12, 2017 meeting because it was unofficial due to a lack of a quorum.

Public Input

None

Update on Charah Brickhaven Facility by Brian Burkhart

- The results from latest round of sampling, April 3-5, 2017 are available at the Chatham County Website (<http://www.chathamnc.org/home/showdocument?id=30626>). Two inorganic constituents exceeded their 2L Standards [Groundwater Standards (15A NCAC 2L 0200)]: Barium at MW-8 and Chromium at MW-2. Several constituents were detected at concentrations that exceeded GWP (groundwater protection standard): Cobalt at MW-4; Thallium at MW-5 and MW-6; Vanadium at BG-1, MW-1, MW-2, MW-3 and MW-8. Several constituents were detected above their MDL (maximum detection limit) but do not have any standards established: Calcium at BG-1, MW-1, MW-2, MW-3, MW-4, MW-5, MW-6 and MW-8; Lithium at MW-1, MW-2, MW-3, MW-6 and MW-8; and Molybdenum at MW-2 and MW-3. Several groundwater chemistry parameters exceeded their 2L Standard: Chloride at BG-1, MW-1, MW-2, MW-3, MW-4, MW-6 and MW-8; Sulfate at MW-2; and Total Dissolved Solids at BG-1, MW-1, MW-2, MW-3, MW-4, MW-6 and MW-8.
- The lawsuit brought by three environmental and citizens groups to stop Charah coal ash disposal in abandoned mine pits was ruled upon by NC Supreme Court Judge Fox who said that the NC Department of Environmental Quality should revoke two of the four mine reclamation permits it had issued to the Charah/ Green Meadow company. Coal ash can be stored in old slate and clay mines in Chatham and Lee counties. However, the material can't be placed in newly excavated areas. Those are effectively landfills

and subject to more stringent waste disposal regulations. Here is recent post that is useful to understand the ruling.

<http://pulse.ncpolicywatch.org/2017/04/07/judge-fox-deq-acted-improperly-allowing-coal-ash-buried-unmined-land-chatham-county/#sthash.93p00tks.dpbs>

- Pilot plant project to test aerosolization (spraying into air to evaporate leachate) will not be pursued
- Charah is now sending some leachate to Harnett County

Announcements from Terry Schmidt

- ERAC members are urged to attend a presentation by Charles Yuill on Natural Gas Study authorized by Chatham County's Planning Dept. in moving forward with next step once the current Moratorium on Fracking ends on June 30th. This is intermediate step to provide an update on his findings and provide county boards an opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback. The meeting is scheduled for June 13 at 6pm at the Agriculture and Conference Center.
- ERAC still has chance to make input to the first phase report of County's Comprehensive Plan before it goes to the County Commissioners. ERAC's input to the next phase over the next 18 months will be important.

EIA Review

- Charles Oakley of McAdams made a presentation on the proposed rezoning of land use from residential to commercial at the SW corner of 15-501 and Polks Landing Rd for a grocery store anchor and unnamed commercial/retail. Comments were heard from Paul Mele, a resident of Polks Landing development adjacent, expressing specific concerns about sizing of the stormwater retention basin (conversion of existing irrigation pond) to prevent excess runoff toward the backyards of neighborhood and of increase in traffic on Polks Landing Rd. Mr. Oakley explained that the basin design has not yet been done but will meet specifications of Chatham County. He noted there are no streams on the project's property and drainage is mainly in the southwest direction. With regard to *light pollution*, he stated that the new LED lights direct light downward eliminating the glow outward and there is very dense tree coverage in long backyards of houses that abuts the project.
- Brian Burkhart request ERAC members to submit EIA review forms by June 13.
- Following the presentation, ERAC members discussed in broad the terms their concerns about commercial development on the 15-501 corridor, specifically the lack of innovative plans in each project to address stormwater and wastewater management that would be improve water sustainability, e.g., porous paved area, recycle of stormwater and wastewater for irrigation. In addition, there is concern about construction of small wastewater treatment plants for each new commercial project rather than taking a holistic view that might result in construction of a jointly financed and managed facility. Innovative wastewater treatment could also result in reuse.

2016 ERAC Report

- Elements of draft report assembled by Brian Burkhart and Terry Schmidt were presented for input. The specifics of ERAC's Watershed Review Board function in 2016 need to be added and the EIA Reviews in 2016 should be noted in separate section. The phrase *advancing environmental stewardship* should be inserted into the Mission and Goals. The *Barriers and Challenges* section needs revision from 2015. The Committee membership is now stabilized so no longer a *Challenge*. The suggestion was made to include innovative stormwater and wastewater infrastructures as *Challenges*.

- Terry Schmidt will email request for comments by ERAC on the 2016 Report revisions

Adjournment

- A motion to adjourn was made by Graham Swift and seconded by Mary Beth Koza and approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM

Next meeting will be July 13th at 6:30 PM.

Fran DiGiano, June 15, 2016