

Minutes of the Chatham County Environmental Review Advisory Committee (ERAC) Meeting

October 12, 2017

Attendance

Committee members:

Present: Fran DiGiano, Dave Mattison, Terry Schmidt, Sherri Stuewer, Vic D'Amato, Farrell Moose, Mary Beth Koza, Ray Bode

Absent: Jeanette Ragland, Graham Swift, Elaine Chiosso,

Guests: Jeannie Ambrose

Staff: Brian Burkhart, Chatham County Environmental Quality Director

Call to order

- At 6:30 PM Chairman Terry Schmidt called for the meeting to begin following the published agenda.

Introductions of all in attendance

Selection of recording secretary

- Sherri Stuewer was designated by Chairman Terry Schmidt as recording secretary for the meeting.

Approval of minutes of the August 10, 2017 meeting

- Ray Bode moved to accept the draft minutes, and Vic D'Amato seconded the motion. All members of the committee voted to approve the motion. The approved minutes are attached.

Public input

- None

Updates from County staff – Brian Burkhart

- Brian Burkhart reported that the July 2017 sampling of ground water from the Charah Brickhaven site showed exceedances in barium, chromium, lead, zinc, cobalt, and vanadium (multiple wells). In addition, detectable concentrations of radium were found in some monitoring wells. He is planning follow-up on the sample results. The results are posted on the County website.
- New samples of coal ash, groundwater and air quality will be taken in the near future.
- Duke Energy will recycle coal ash from three sites, including the Cape Fear Plant in Moncure, with a process called Staged Turbulent Air Reactor (STAR). This process was developed by the SEFA Group of Lexington, S.C. The output of this process is suitable to be blended into concrete.
- The County is organizing Collaborative Impact Teams, made up of representative across multiple departments, to develop a path forward on the Comprehensive Plan recommendations. Brian will chair the team which focuses on natural resources and agriculture.

Announcements and Updates from ERAC Members

- Terry Schmidt reported that he presented the ERAC annual report to the Board of Commissioners. They expressed particular interest in wastewater treatment options and in understanding what should trigger EIA reviews.
- Vic D'Amato reported several items:
 - He is going to present information on distributed wastewater treatment options to the Board of Commissioners in the work session which precedes the next meeting of the Commissioners.
 - Vic led a tour of the Jordan Lake Business Center wastewater system and will offer a second tour to interested members.
 - He summarized the issues for wastewater treatment as 1) regulations for new systems and 2) review and assessment of existing systems.
 - He reported that Envirolink, the company that operates the wastewater treatment system for Briar Chapel, will take over treatment of the wastewater which is currently going to the Fearington wastewater plant. The Fearington plant will be shut down, but its discharge permit will be utilized for treated water from the Briar Chapel plant. Envirolink may operate the decentralized water reclamation facility in Chatham Park.
- Fran DiGiano reported several items:
 - The Clear Jordan Lake annual cleanup will be on Saturday, October 14.
 - The Chatham County department head retreat on October 17 will include a boat ride on Jordan Lake and some area cleanup.
 - The City of Cary has a GIS mapping system that keeps track of the status of development projects in the City. This system could be a template for a system in Chatham County which was discussed in the last ERAC meeting. Brian indicated that he communicated the interest of ERAC for such a system to Jason Sullivan, but the GIS staff is currently too busy to undertake the development of such a system. There was an interest in having Jason attend an ERAC meeting to talk about alternative ways for the public to track proposed development projects.
- Sherri Stuewer reported that the Triangle Land Conservancy had chosen Laura Stroud to make a presentation to ERAC on land preservation in Chatham County. Sherri is trying to contact Laura to arrange a date.

Chatham County Fracking Report

- The Hydraulic Fracturing Background Assessment Report by Charles Yuill will be presented to the Board of Commissioners on Monday, October 16. The Commissioners are considering a joint study with Lee County on what the two counties can do to mitigate issues created by potential fracking development. Sherri Stuewer highlighted two priority issues:
 - Adequacy of state level rules for fracking of shallow resources.
 - Potential for state severance fees to be channeled to local communities and counties to help offset costs (e.g. road damage) from fracking development.

Input from Commissioner Hales

- Commissioner Hales reported that the County sent a letter to the NC DEQ asking that Chatham County be given a seat as a voting member on the Nutrient Scientific Advisory Board.

Adjournment

- At 7:40 the meeting was adjourned.

Sherri Stuewer, November, 6, 2017