

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Chatham County Environmental Review Advisory Committee**  
**(ERAC)**  
**April 12, 2018 - 6:30 p.m.**  
**Performance Building Conference Room**

**Present:**

**Staff (Brian Burkhart was absent)** Rachael Thorn, Watershed Protection Supervisor, Lindsay Ray, Clerk to the Board of Commissioners

**Members Present:** Fran DiGiano, Vic D'Amato, Elaine Chiosso, Jeanette Ragland, Terry Schmidt, Sherri Stuewer, Ray Bode, Farrell Moose, Terri Tyson

**Guests:** Jeannie Ambrose, Diana Hales

**1. Introductions**

New ERAC member – Terri Tyson

**2. Selection of the recording secretary** for the meeting minutes – Elaine Chiosso

**3. Approval of meeting minutes** from December 14, 2017  
Minutes approved by acclamation

**4. Public Input** - none

**5. Swearing in of Watershed Review Board**

**6. Presentation by Rachael Thorn**, Watershed Protection Division Supervisor – Chatham County Erosion Control Program

**Highlights from presentation on CC Watershed Protection Division**

**<> Division Staff and Structure:**

- Brian Burkhart Dept Head, Rachel Thorn, watershed manager and 3 watershed specialists
- Rachel is hoping to add 6 -7 positions in the next 6-10 years

**<> Regulations**

Erosion and Sedimentation Control - Chatham has its own delegated local plan. All projects in NC that disturb an acre or more of land must have an Erosion Control (EC) plan. EC Plan + NCG01= Storm water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP)

In Chatham, an EC plan is needed for construction of new residential dwellings with 25,000 sq. ft.; commercial greater than 20,000 and multiple lot construction in the same subdivision by same builder cumulatively disturbing greater than 25,000 sq ft.

*Question:* Can you clear land before you have a ES plan Not if you plan to develop it within 3-5 years

*Question:* what is proof of agriculture for exemption from ES: not an easy answer, hard for county to prove otherwise.

### **Site Inspections by staff for the first quarters of three years:**

63 plan reviews by staff in 2016

286 in 2017

363 n 2018

Currently 93 active sites. Staff is meeting goal of 2 inspections per month

Residential lot permits tend to be less seen, mostly through complaints

### **CC Stormwater Requirements**

Stricter than state minimum but there are exemptions, such as projects approved before 2010. Stormwater permits are issued to new major subdivisions (six lots or more) and commercial projects.

**Riparian Buffers** – more protective than most counties in NC (see ordinance for specific numbers)

**Flood Damage Prevention** – rarely issue floodplain development permits,  
**Initiatives and Issues**

**Town of Pittsboro** is covered by Chatham's Sedimentation and Erosion Control local program.

**Chatham Park:** Stormwater plan for Section 5.1 North for CP looks like Briar Chapel –Chatham has learned lessons they would like to share from Briar Chapel experience. "Exceptional" Sedimentation & Erosion in Chatham Park will have pilot project on Thompson St. Subdivision with filter bags, tire wash, rock baffles, PAM

### **Ordinance Revisions**

- Erosion Control – update to reflect state changes, coverage for mulching operations
- Stormwater – allow bonding on commercial projects
- Develop Alternative design Standards
- Participation in writing UDO

### **Other initiatives**

- More outreach and education for contractors (workshop) creek week, HOA stormwater maintenance education
- Electronic submittals via Portal for plans, plan reviews

- Goldston and Siler City Inter-local agreements
- Data collection and GIS mapping of stormwater control measures
- Inspections every 15 days for active sites

### **Hoffman Property – Watershed Review Board**

Located off of Hwy 751, in Jordan lake watershed, created in 2010. There is a stream that was not correctly identified. Second stream does not have buffer, stream identified after purchase and site plan approval. Owner had cleared and plans to build garage in buffer. Staff consulted counsel, variance was advised. This issue will come before Watershed Review Board for minor variance. This is one point away from being a perennial stream. Garage is in-between buffers for both streams Minor variance will allow conditions – including reinstating buffers on the stream (other than where the garage is).

### **7. Updates from County Staff**

#### **a. Coal Ash – Air, Water, and Biosolids**

Brian was absent, so this will be taken up at next ERAC meeting (Dan showed up at last minute and gave update)

Current data for monitoring is on CC website, air monitoring is going on but trains are not coming as frequently now. Discussion of lawsuit - landfill vs mine reclamation - Charah is appealing the decision but has been allowed to continue project in the meantime. What will happen to Duke's coal ash ponds at closed Cape Fear plant is still being debated – they would like to build plant to reburn fly ash, but the site is in a floodplain which would prohibit building.

### **8. Announcements and updates from ERAC members**

- Remarks from Diana Hales – role of ERAC during UDO creation
- Elaine asked that we discuss emerging contaminants in our surface waters – particularly in Haw River and Jordan Lake at next meeting (include latest monitoring data from several sources).
- Terry was invited to Ag Review Board for presentation about wells, from NCSU – recharge rate in county is very slow. Chatham is still in drought conditions for recharge of wells.

### **9. Adjournment**

***Next meeting: May 10, 2018***

***6:30 pm at Performance Building Conference Room***

*Minutes submitted by Elaine Chiosso*