

STAFF UPDATE FOR ERAC – 1/10/19

1. Coal Ash-
 - a. Operations are winding and should be finished by end of January.
 - b. Sampling results from October 2018 provided for review. Website should be updated with this information.
2. Our EC Program is turning out numbers comparable to Wake County, which has 10 staff compared to our 4 full time employees.
3. Interactive Development mapping effort still in process, will take several months to complete
4. GIS Conservation Viewer presented at next CCP meeting January 17th
 - a. <http://gisservices.chathamnc.org/conservation>
 - b. Advisory board members can use for reviews of environmental data, as can consultants preparing environmental documentation and the general public
5. Oil and gas amendment to Zoning Ordinance to be adopted on January 22
 - a. should come to ERAC in February for development of special study standards
6. Conservation Subdivision Guidelines being revised to reflect that Element Occurrence and SNHAs data can no longer be accessed using County GIS, must be obtained directly from NC Natural Heritage Program and also have associated fees
7. UDO – After meeting with the other departments and incorporating feedback, Cara Russell will present the draft RFP to the Board of Commissioners Retreat. If approved, RFP would be released January 31st. Aim to have a consulting firm under contract by summer 2019.

Meeting Minutes DRAFT
Chatham County Environmental Review Advisory Committee (ERAC)
January 10, 2019 - 6:30 p.m. (6:33 start)
Performance Building Conference Room

Present:

Staff: Rachael Thorn, Watershed Protection supervisor

Members Present: Victor D'Amato, Terry Schmidt, Terri Tyson, Madison Ponder, Ray Bode, Fran DiGiano, Mary Beth Koza, Sherri Stuewer (remote)

Absent: Elaine Chiosso, Farrell Moose, Jeanette Ragland

Guests: Jeannie Ambrose, Sonny Keisler (from Climate Change Advisory Committee)

1. Selection of the recording secretary for the meeting minutes – Victor D'Amato

2. Approval of meeting minutes Fran suggested changing description of PFOS levels in Jordan Lake from “better” to “lower”. Change was made to minutes. Mary Beth motioned to approve and Ray Bode seconded. Approved.

3. Public Input Jeannie Ambrose asked if the ERAC was going to look at the fracking conditional use permit issue. Rachael Thorn indicated that it will be sent to the ERAC during their next meeting with the request to recommend standards. Rachael e-mailed the ERAC a link that Jason Sullivan, Planning Director, sent her for the zoning ordinance text amendment. Mary Beth thinks that areas zoned residential should be off the table for conditional use permits for fracking. There was interest in having Jason brief the ERAC at the next meeting when this will be considered. Conditional use permit changes are to be approved on January 22nd. The State puts a lot of restrictions on the County re: changing their conditional use permit ordinance.

4. Updates from Country Staff County: See attachment from Rachael.

5. Rocky River Report Summary: Sonny Keisler presented. He is a former member of the ERB, currently on the Climate Change Committee and owns property along the Rocky River.

- John Alderman – the ecological sciences consultant who conducted the last ecological assessment of the Rocky River – wrote the attached summary sheet, recommending a new study.
- When George Lucier was BoC, \$35K was allocated (routed through Rocky River Heritage Foundation) for the baseline ecological survey of the river by John Alderman. It is time to update it, which will cost \$50-75K (Ray Bode suggested that, as described in the narrative, the cost would probably be at least \$75K).
- Reasoning for proposal:
 - Climate Change Committee has made recommendations re: mitigation and adaptation. Climate change is stressing the Rocky.
 - Siler City WWTP: Mountaire will increase nitrogen discharges until the plant is upgraded. DEQ is holding a public hearing for the Siler City NPDES permit on

January 24th. SELC opposing. The Mountaire facility will be 50% larger than the two plants (Pilgrim's Pride and Townsend) that closed.

- What's the value? County can use good data to advocate for River to State. Also, can influence land use management and decision making – zoning, subdivision approvals, land preservation, etc.
- ERAC had extensive discussion. Ray agreed to take on additional research on Rocky River baseline study options/recommendations to bring back to ERAC.
- Fran volunteered to talk to Elaine and Nora Deemer on plans for water quality activities in the Cape Fear basin. He will pass the information on to Ray and the group. Ray suggested questions: how many stations, what analytes, sampling frequency?

6. ERAC Officer Selection

- After brief discussion, Terry nominated Ray as Chair and Elaine as Vice Chair. Mary Beth seconded. All present voted aye.

7. Adjournment: Fran motioned to adjourn, Madison seconded. Meeting concluded at 8:12 pm

Next meeting: February 14, 2019; 6:30 pm at Performance Building Conference Room