

Meeting Minutes

Chatham County Environmental Review Advisory Committee (ERAC)

November 8, 2018, - 6:30 p.m. (6:45 start)

Performance Building Conference Room

Present:

Staff: Rachael Thorn, Watershed Protection supervisor

Members Present: Vic D'Amato, Elaine Chiosso, Terry Schmidt, Terri Tyson, Madison Pondet, Ray Bode, Sherri Stuewer

Absent: Fran DiGiano, Farrell Moose, Jeanette Ragland, Mary Beth Koza

Guests: Jeannie Ambrose

1. Introductions

2. Selection of the recording secretary for the meeting minutes – Ray Bode

3. Approval of meeting minutes correction to minutes – Elaine and Vic were listed as both attending and absent. Corrected to show that they attended. Approval of minutes was nominated by Terri and seconded by Elaine. Approved.

4. Public Input Jeannie Ambrose asked if the ERAC was going to look at the fracking conditional permits going before the county board on 11/9/18. Rachael Thorn indicated that it may be sent to the ERAC next year for review.

5. Updates from County Staff: See attachment

6: Announcements and updates from ERAC members

- Update: Garage builder with the conflicting buffer determination (ERAC reviewed in previous session) was allowed to keep the buffer call as it was. County got the NCDWR input to support decision. Garage has been built.
- Allen Stone quarry construction update: Permit declined 3 times. Still not up to standards for erosion control.
- Briar chapel beavers: Not a county issue, but they are watching. There is now a non-profit organized to save the beavers. Hopefully it will translate to increased interest in water quality.
- Bynum dam and millrace: Millrace at the hydroplant is clogged. It is owned by PK Ventures, based in Florida. They neglected to renew the FERC permit about 10 years ago and a Bynum resident is applying for a new permit. The race is clogged due to needed machine repair and the backwater is causing mosquito problems. Because the FERC permit is unfilled, it has been turned over to the NC. However, the State doesn't pay any attention/maintenance if the dam is less than 25 feet high. Dam is Pittsboro's water supply. If dam breaks.....
- PFAS, 1-4 dioxane, PFOS levels are high in the Haw and in Jordan Lake. Lower levels in

the lake. Haw River Assembly advocates Pittsboro stop using the river for water supply and use the lake.

Adjournment: Terri motioned to adjourn, Sheri seconded. Meeting concluded at 7:42.

Next meeting: December 13, 2018; 6:30 pm at Performance Building Conference Room

STAFF UPDATE FOR ERAC – 11/8/18

1. County staff changes
 - a. Renee Paschal has retired and Dan LaMontagne is the new Interim County Manager.
 - b. Justin Hasenfus joined the Watershed Protection Department
 - c. Kevin Lindley is the new EQ Director
2. Hurricanes Florence and Michael
 - a. EOS and Building Inspections surveyed damage (+/-36)
 - b. One total loss of home within SFHA on Alston House Road.
 - c. Planning and Watershed worked with owner to comply with Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance during reconstruction
 - d. All fees were waived, house being moved out of SHA
 - e. Two other homes with substantial damage were not within SFHA, those areas are being recommended for further study for the future flooding events.
 - f. Majority of reported damages were not to the primary dwellings on properties (e.g. culverts, driveways, trees, fences).
3. Fracking
 - a. Presentation on October 15th to BOC for Zoning Ordinance amendments related to oil and gas exploration and special study requirements for high impact uses.
4. CCP on October 18th presentations made included Jordan Lake Management Study at UNC, Nutrient Development Criteria Plan Focus in Chatham by NCDWR, Top Threats to Haw River and Jordan Lake by Elaine Chiosso, Jordan Lake Partnership Water Allocations by Larry Bridges, and the Jordan Lake ONE Water Association by TLC. These should be available online at the new CCP website.
5. Larry Bridges, Utilities Director, will attend ERAC meeting in early 2019 to present on water and wastewater work completed by consultants, Hazen and Sawyer with TetraTech. This is the initial work needed to plan for future capital improvements for the County and the municipalities by refining demand projections for water and sewer needs, evaluating current capabilities, investigating potential sources/options for future needs, and looking at potential interconnectivity between the systems. This is not a plan of where to extend future services at this time.

6. Leachate from Brickhaven
 - a. Harnett Co. and Sanford WWTPs receive the material, which is tested during collection. We do not have that data and it is not part of the agreement with Duke Energy. Should be available for Public Record upon request to that entity.
 - b. A leachate sample is taken during semi-annual groundwater monitoring and we do have those results
 - c. Heavy rain events did not cause issues with leachate. Tank capacity is quite large
7. Groundwater Monitoring at Brickhaven
 - a. January event results posted online, presentation made to BOC on August 20th
 - Background levels in combination with TSS causing elevated results, coal ash operations not believed to have an impact on groundwater per the consultant (see PowerPoint and lab results)
 - b. Most recent event (July?) should be available soon
8. Coal Ash Beneficiation Plant
 - a. Follow-up meeting with departments and Duke Energy on October 22, 2018 to discuss Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance, Stormwater, and Zoning
 - b. Project is intended to be operational by December of 2020
 - c. No other waste can be brought on site or used in this plant except from the nearby coal ash ponds on Corinth Rd. This is a temporary operation and will be decommissioned by 2029.
 - d. Air permit being from DEQ being revised, issuance possible early next year. Incorporating metals and grinder process to ensure sellable product, redoing model.
 - e. 1000 tons per day burned at facility
 - f. Waste from the operation will be landfilled. Finish product hauled off site in sealed container trucks, about 50/day.
 - g. Follow-up presentation may given to the BOC (and possibly ERAC)
 - h. Public meetings for residents in the area in early 2019
9. Hoosier Dam has been removed on the Rocky River, work is ongoing but majority is complete. Pictures available if interested.

10. UDO progression:

- a. RFP under review in with Planning-> Dan -> Dept. Heads-> Finance-> BOC
-> selection process-> contract-> draft regulation = 4 yrs. to completion

11. Megasite sewer service from Big Buffalo Wastewater Treatment in Sanford online by end of 2019 per press release from City of Sanford

12. Watershed Department numbers-2018

- a. Total inspections: 1082 = 7% decrease
- b. Plan Reviews Completed: 160 = 19% increase
- c. Total Disturbed acres: 724 = 22% increase
- d. RLPs inspected: 222 of 387 = 57% of permits inspected 1 time
- e. Stormwater BMP inspections = 6 (county owned) of 129 total = 5% total
- f. EC Inspections every 15 days = 32 %

13. Work is underway on a GIS Interactive Development Map. Effort on the part of Planning, Watershed and GIS staff. ERAC feedback will be sought further down the line. Very preliminary stage.