

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

August 10, 2017

Attendance

Committee members:

Present: Fran DiGiano, Dave Mattison, Jeanette Ragland (via phone), Terry Schmidt, Elaine Chiosso, Sherri Stuewer, Vic D'Amato, Farrell Moose

Absent: Mary Beth Koza, Graham Swift, Ray Bode

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 June 8, 2017 meeting

- Vic D'Amato made a minor correction to the draft minutes from the June 8 meeting. Fran DiGiano moved to accept the corrected minutes, and Jeanette Ragland seconded the motion. All members of the committee voted to approve the motion. The approved minutes are attached.

Public Input

- None

Discussion of the Organization of the ERAC

- Brian Burkhart explained that it was necessary to choose a chairman and vice-chairman for the upcoming year. Several of the members were not eligible for the positions because their tenure on the committee ends during the next year.
- After some discussion, Elaine Chiosso moved to have Terry Schmidt continue as chairman and Sherri Stuewer continue as vice-chairman for the next year. Fran DiGiano seconded the motion, and all the committee members voted for the motion.

Status of the Annual Report

- Terry Schmidt presented the current draft of the ERAC annual report for discussion.
- There were multiple changes proposed to the report to improve its readability and to clarify items. The revised version is attached to these minutes, and it was approved by all members in attendance.
- The revised version will be presented to the Board of Commissioners by Terry Schmidt.

Updates from County Staff – Brian Burkhart

- Brian Burkhart reported that the July 2017 monitoring data on coal ash from the Charah Brickhaven Facility have been posted on the County website. The data show that antimony, copper, lead and zinc were found in detectable concentrations in the samples. The July data did not identify any standout issues.
- The County has received some data on coal ash leachate quality from Harnett County, but a summary table showing historical data in a consistent format is under development.
- Groundwater sampling is continuing around the Brickhaven Facility, and reports for July should be available soon.
- Another round of air monitoring at the Brickhaven Facility is scheduled for later in August.
- The pilot project to test aerosolization at Brickhaven is on hold. This pilot involved the spraying of leachate from coal ash storage into the air to promote evaporation and reduce the volume of leachate. The State is proceeding with a test of aerosolization for landfill leachate, but similar testing for coal ash leachate has not been approved.
- Guest Jeannie Ambrose asked where the WWT sludge from Harnett County is taken, and Brian agreed to provide the answer.
- Brian reported that deposition of coal ash at the Brickhaven site is expected to be completed in 2018.

Announcements and Updates from ERAC Members

- Terry Schmidt reported that there is a meeting planned on August 21 at the Courthouse in Pittsboro to make comments on the Chatham Comprehensive Plan. Final comments are due by August 28.
- A question was raised about when the report from Dr. Charles Yuill on fracking in Chatham County would be available. Brian Burkhart agreed to check.
- Fran DiGiano noted that there is strong interest among citizens about the development happening in Chatham County. He asked if there was a way to use the GIS tool to maintain a dynamic map of development activities in the County. Brian agreed to find out how the development of such a capability might be resourced in the County. Terry Schmidt agreed to talk with Planning Director Jason Sullivan to determine where such a capability might fit in the planning priorities for the County.
- The Planning Board recommended against rezoning the property for Polk Landing, after ERAC had reviewed the Environmental Impact Assessment. The committee discussed whether the role for ERAC in reviewing and commenting on EIA's might be strengthened as the County regulations on development are revised.
- Elaine Chiosso reported that the Haw River Assembly was participating in discussions with the Army Corps of Engineers about the proposed algaecide treatment for Jordan Lake. SePRO is the company that is proposed for the pilot project. Elaine reported that no application has been made to the Army Corps of Engineers for a permit to do the pilot project.
- Sherri Stuewer proposed that ERAC invite a representative from the Triangle Land Conservancy to speak at an upcoming meeting about opportunities for land preservation in Chatham County. Elaine Chiosso suggested the Chatham Conservation Partnership would also be a good speaker on the same topic. The Comprehensive Plan has several recommendations relating to preserving land, so by inviting experts on land preservation, ERAC might identify ways to support these Comprehensive Plan recommendations. Sherri agreed to pursue invitations to both organizations.

On-Site Wastewater Inventory Discussion

- The committee discussed how to move forward a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners to inventory the privately operated wastewater facilities in the County....as a first step in determining their adequacy. The initial inventory could be County wide, or could focus on the 15/501 corridor. Vic D'Amato mentioned that the USDA Rural Development has pre-planning grants (up to \$30 K with a 25% match) that might be an option for pursuing an inventory project. A subcommittee of Vic D'Amato, Fran DiGiano and Sherri Stuewer was formed to make a proposal at the next ERAC meeting.

Adjournment

- Elaine Chiosso moved to adjourn and Fran DiGiano seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

The next meeting will be September 14, 2017; 6:30 pm at the Performance Building Conference Room.

Sherri Stuewer, August 16, 2017