

# Chatham County Environmental Review Board Meeting

May 21, 2009

## Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 6:37 p.m.

ERB members present: Elaine Chiosso, Allison Weakley, Tara Alden, Sonny Keisler, Martha Girolami, Hal House, Raj Butalia, Mike Dunn

Staff present: Fred Royal, Environmental Resources Director

Also present: Laura Lauffer, Chair of Green Building Task Force

### Status of ERB Board vacancies:

Sonny Keisler made a motion - Recommend to BOC that an 11th seat be created on ERB as an at large seat. Tara Alden seconded; vote unanimous.

ERB recommends that the 11<sup>th</sup> seat be someone with expertise in land conservation, toxicology/air quality, meteorology, and/or environmental planning.

### Approval of Meeting Minutes

Mike Dunn made a motion to accept minutes with noted changes. Tara Alden seconded; vote unanimous.

Brief discussion on the idea of a new landfill and how the ERB might have influence. Our role should be to look at how any such proposal might impact environmental resources. We will look to ask chair of the solid waste committee to present at the June meeting. How much are we spending to haul to Sampson County, what percent of our waste is being recycled?; what percent is construction waste?; what about methane capture? Other questions to ask at next meeting should be sent to Elaine.

### Public Input:

None

### Staff Report:

Fred showed the county web site and hits for various departments. He suggested some improvements be made to the environmental resources web site. He updated us on time available on Time Warner Cable for public messages on environmental issues. Updated us on a proposed EA addendum to the Northwest District Park, Camp Maranatha. It was suggested that we add two sentences – they need to abide by the County riparian buffer rules and submit a trail plan to the ERB for review and approval.

Raj Butalia made a motion that we fine-tune the language to be added to the EA and will send it to Elaine for approval. Hal House seconded; vote unanimous; Allison Weakley recused herself since the firm she works for is involved.

### Tick Creek 319 grant update:

Presentation by Christy Perrin from Watershed Education for Communities and Officials, on issues of concern to stakeholders on the Rocky River and Tick Creek. Sonny Keisler updated the ERB on efforts being done by the Rocky River Association in grant seeking.

### Update on Jordan Lake Rules:

Elaine updated us on the Jordan Lake Rules. There were proposed revisions to the Existing Development Rules. Local governments, including Chatham County, championed a new draft, which improved the draft for Existing Development Rules. That has now passed the House. The Board thanked Elaine for her efforts in this regard.

### Green Building Sustainable Practices checklist:

Presentation by Laura Lauffer, chair of the Green Building Task Force on the status of the Sustainable Practices checklist. Feedback included considerations about the issue of the protected solar window and balancing that with benefits of shade from hardwoods as climate changes; encouragement of use of native plants (not planting invasive plants as listed by the NC Native Plant Society); referencing certain aspects of the environmental requirements (Laura suggested that ERB send her a list of specific questions we would like to ask regarding environmental issues); use of terms like gray water might be confusing; break up the long list of issues under the Community Needs and Local Development section; how is the question asked regarding the sustainability of the materials used in the building process/use of alternative building materials?; the need for integration of all of these rules.

### Climate Change:

Reviewed a document entitled Sustainable Community Development Code. Raj suggested it provides a framework for integrating the work of many of the County Boards. It was suggested that ERB read it and see what aspects are applicable to our tasks. It was suggested that we give a copy to the new Sustainable Communities Development Director when that person is hired.

### Adjournment

Allison Weakley moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:01 p.m. seconded by Hal House. The vote was unanimous.

Next meeting is scheduled for June 18, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. at the Dunlap Building classroom.