



**Chatham County Environmental Review Board
Meeting Minutes**

Meeting Date: May 20, 2010

Location: Dunlap Classroom

Board Members Present:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Tara Alden	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hal House
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lin Andrew	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sonny Keisler
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Catherine Bollinger	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Allison Weakley
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Raj Butalia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Vic D'Amato
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Elaine Chiosso (Chair)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steve Wing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Martha Girolami		

Present: George Lucier, Commissioner Liaison
Fred Royal, Chatham County Environmental Resources Division

Copy: Amelia Price

1. Approval of meeting minutes from April 15, 2010.

Elaine Chiosso moved to approve. Motion seconded. All approved

2. Remembrance of Jim Willis

3. Public Input

Catherine Bollinger - Requested watershed comments tabled for later in meeting

4. Staff Report

Fred Royal presented Clean Jordan Lake highlights:

- ACOE participated and others were involved excellent turnout.
- Approximately 12 boats and 100 people involved.
- ACOE provided food and materials dumpsters.
- ACOE had 15 staff on site and in uniform.
- First efforts to clean up lake began in 2008.

Discussion regarding Jordan Lake / Talking points:

- DWQ – waiting for response for watershed protection ordinance amendments. Should get comments on buffer ordinance in June. Stage One proposal (Joint Program with Town of Pittsboro) has been approved and submitted to Environmental Management Commission.
- Watershed protection ordinance references the Watershed Areas Map. This map needs to be revised indicating the Jordan Lake Watershed boundary.
- Public hearing issue/requirement – What’s state’s opinion? Questions: Mass mailing, signs, newspaper ads. Legal requirement to notify public. County Attorney will be asked to provide opinion. Chatham County’s revised ordinance (which one(s)?) needs to be adopted in November, 2011.
- New Jordan Lake stormwater model ordinance – expected around Feb 2011. Model to come out in February and then 6 months to review. Have to meet new nitrogen and phosphorus TMDLs. Elaine Chiosso explained Phase II stormwater retrofits for Jordan Lake must identify two BMP retrofits per year. This is a part of the Stage One Joint Program described above.
- Stage One ends with baseline of current lake health.
- Stage Two begins with what state of lake is via monitoring water quality and looks at all impacts, including small WWTPs (wastewater treatment plants).
- BMP retrofits built for another reason that are doing well can be used to get credits. Example: BMP that is maintained, and in an easement, can be used to reduce nitrogen requirements. Town of Pittsboro has these retrofits. Chatham County currently does not.
- Raj Butalia asked about a watershed assessment for county regarding assessment and then restoration. Suggested a targeted watershed approach such as Tick Creek and Dry Creek. Fred Royal indicated that he will begin working on a watershed assessment this summer.

5. (Note: Shambley Meadows was moved to later in the meeting) Discussion of formal documentation review policy between advisory boards

Elaine Chiosso indicated the need for formal guidelines for documents awaiting comments from other boards.

Catherine Bollinger suggested that expectations be set and schedules determined so appropriate input is received and documents are as complete as possible before going to the Board of Commissioners.

Elaine Chiosso agreed to develop a one-page draft communication protocol that will promote advisory board interconnectivity and create a sense of good will with other boards.

6. Approval of Watershed Review Board Procedures

Given the need for a more thorough review of the procedures, the Environmental Review Board agreed to vote on procedures at the next board meeting.

Fred Royal indicated the procedures have been peer-reviewed; however, if there are questions, please send to Tara Alden and he will send out an e-mail to the board.

7. Chatham Conservation Plan – Presented by Allison Weakley

Highlights:

- Chatham County Partnership submitted three grants and received three grants to fund the entire plan.
- No county funds are involved..
- Developed an environmental resource database
- Began in October 2009. Will complete in 2010.
- Encouraged to attend Chatham County Partnership meetings
- Will have draft plan for Chatham County Commissioners in August 2010
- Data will be available via the Chatham County GIS Web site
- Encouraged to log on to list serve – <http://www.chathamconservation.wikispaces.com>
- NC Conservation Planning Tool (NCCPT) - <http://www.onencenaturally.org/ConservationPlanningTool.html>

Raj Butalia mentioned that the process used to create the features in the stream dataset based on LiDAR breaklines was not provided in the presentation.

Please see **Attachment 1** below for more detailed information.

George Lucier indicated the County will create task force to make sure the plan remains updated and will provide a way to integrate economic, recreation, and agricultural data.

8. Shambley Meadows – response to ERB recommendations

Fred Royal indicated Shambley Meadows was responsive to recommendations:

- Pulled houses closer to road
- No houses are on moderate slopes
- No steep slopes on property
- Will fully meet stormwater ordinance
- Easement for level spreaders will be the HOA responsibility
- Reduced and limited disturbance
- Shrike habitat maintained

Catherine Bollinger moved to approve. Martha Girolami seconded. Shambley Meadows approved.

9. Climate Change Resolution - Presentation to Planning Board on June 1, 2010

Sonny Keisler and Martha Girolami agreed to attend.

George Lucier requested a list of items completed at a local level (e.g. stream buffers, ordinances)

10. Announcements, and updates from ERB members

Elaine Chiosso invited board members to a public meeting Tuesday, May 25, 2010 regarding the permit for Stericycle, Corp. (medical waste disposal entity).

11. Adjourned

Next meeting:

Date: June 17, 2010

Time: 6:30 PM

Location: Dunlap Classroom

Attachment 1

CHATHAM CONSERVATION PLAN - Presentation by Allison Weakley, Biologist/Ecologist, RJG&A

Ms. Weakley gave a PowerPoint presentation entitled, "A Conservation Plan for Chatham County".

Some specifics noted were:

The Conservation Plan for Chatham County will develop a process for assembling and synthesizing conservation data and information for interpretation and public use in local, regional and statewide decision making. The Plan will also present a strategic approach to integrate conservation science, landscape ecology, environmental data, and plans into a decision support tool for community action. Consequently, this Plan will enhance the understanding of conservation issues and priorities, and help the county, along with local, state and federal stakeholders, including landowners, to take action to influence land use and policy decisions and maximize conservation value.

This project is being completed on behalf of the Chatham Conservation Partnership (CCP). The mission of the CCP is to develop and implement strategies for a community conservation vision that builds awareness, protection and stewardship of Chatham County's natural resources. The CCP consists of over 50 organizations and participants, including federal, state, and local government agencies, non-profits, business owners, developers, farmers and other landowners. In 2007, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed and included Chatham County BoC, Planning Department, Parks and Recreation Department, Environmental Review Board, NC Cooperative Extension, Chatham Soil and Water Conservation, and many others. The Conservation Plan is being developed on behalf of the CCP with all funding being received from private foundation and state and national grants.

Funding for the Conservation Plan is through the following grants (administered by Triangle Land Conservancy and the Piedmont Conservation Council):

- Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation
- NC Wildlife Action Grant Program
- NC Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program

Goals of the Conservation Plan include:

- Develop a community vision for natural resources
- Promote greater understanding and awareness of the importance and location of natural resources
- Highlight the economic importance of forest resources for timber, recreation and water quality
- Increase knowledge of impacts and threats to important natural resources
- Provide strategies to manage and protect natural resources

Project Overview

This project began in October 2009 and is estimated to be completed by October 2010. The project includes the following overall components:

COMPILATION AND SYNTHESIS OF DATA AND INFORMATION: The best-available existing conservation and land use data, conservation science, plans, policies and ordinances relative to conservation planning in Chatham County is being compiled and synthesized into one Plan document to provide easy reference.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE DATABASE: The best-available existing GIS data will be included in an environmental resource database to be used for conservation planning in Chatham County. Further data needs and gaps will be identified and described. These data will be made available on the County's GIS website for use by planners, elected officials, developers, landowners, and the general public – available for download and also in a user-friendly online mapping tool.

IDENTIFICATION AND PRIORITIZATION OF IMPORTANT HABITATS, SPECIES, and FOREST RESOURCES: Important habitats, species, and forest resources have been identified and described. Connections between these important resources and other agricultural, forestry, and recreation areas will also be identified, described, and mapped.

MAPPING OF PRIORITY HABITATS AND FOREST RESOURCES: Modeling and mapping of priority habitats and forest resources have been conducted using a Geographic Information System (GIS), focusing on priorities outlined in the NC State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) and those identified from stakeholder input.

FOREST RESOURCE ANALYSIS: An analysis of the ecosystem and economic values of forest resources is being conducted for timber, recreation, and water quality.

ONLINE TOOL: An online tool for conservation information that consists of GIS data layers, documents, and other resources, as well as instructions for navigating the Plan and online tool.

STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT: Citizen engagement by way of focus group meetings and community workshops is being conducted to solicit input and feedback and develop a community vision for natural resources in Chatham County.

IMPACTS and THREATS: Potential impacts and threats to natural resources are being identified and described.

MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION STRATEGIES: A summary of current and preferred management strategies for important habitats, species, and forest resources is being developed.

METHODS for PLAN DEVELOPMENT: A detailed methodology of the process used to develop the Plan is being documented. The methods include documentation for development of goals and objectives; data compilation, synthesis, and creation;

identification and mapping of priority resources; stakeholder involvement (including development of a community vision); and development of recommendations and strategies for implementation.

A **Focus Group** was formed to help guide the Plan process; provide input on important data and sources of data; review data analysis, maps, and the Plan document; and provide feedback throughout development of the Plan. Members of the Focus Group include Chatham County staff, State and Federal agencies, and many others (see PPT presentation). Anyone is welcome to join to Focus Group – go to the CCP wiki to sign up for the Focus Group listserve to receive announcements of meetings, review meeting minutes and presentations, and other relevant information.

The Conservation Plan is building on State and Regional Conservation Planning efforts to create a County-level tool; this Plan will serve as a model for other Counties, and is the first of its kind in NC. The following state and regional tools are being considered in development of the Chatham Conservation Plan:

NC Conservation Planning Tool (NCCPT)
Southern Forest Land Assessment (SFLA)
NC State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP)

Priority Habitats and Species will be highlighted in the Plan. Priority Habitats include those outlined in the SWAP. Priority Species have been identified as:

1. Rare Species and natural communities tracked by the NC Natural Heritage Program
2. SWAP Priority Species

Lists of these species and habitats have been peer-reviewed and are posted on the CCP wikispace.

Important Conservation Layers for Chatham have been identified, and conservation values are being assigned. Examples of GIS data being updated for local mapping of important natural resources include: streams, wetlands, SWAP priority habitats, forestland, slopes, hardwood forest blocks, and rare species watersheds.

Community meetings have been scheduled for local citizens to learn more about the Conservation Plan and provide input:

June 23, 2010 – 6:30-8pm

CCCC Multipurpose Room (Bldg 2), Pittsboro

June 24, 2010 – 6:30-8pm

Western Chatham Senior Center, Siler City

Conservation Plan PowerPoint presentations are available on the ERB website:

<http://www.chathamnc.org/Index.aspx?page=1369>

