



**Chatham County Environmental Review Board
Meeting Minutes**

Meeting Date: August 19, 2010

Location: Dunlap Classroom

Board Members Present:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tara Alden	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Martha Girolami
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lin Andrew	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sonny Keisler
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Catherine Bollinger	<input 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

Present: Clyde Miller (Rocky River Heritage Foundation), Delonda Alexander (Chatham County resident)

Copy: Fred Royal, Chatham County Environmental Resources Division

Note: Motions and resolutions are noted in **red**

Elaine Chiosso opened the meeting.

1. Approval of Environmental Review Board (ERB) meeting minutes from July 15, 2010.

Ms. Chiosso moved to approve the July meeting minutes. Martha Girolami seconded the motion. All approved.

2. Public Input

Delonda Alexander, a Chatham County resident, addressed the Environmental Review Board (ERB) regarding natural gas prospecting in Chatham County. Ms. Alexander expressed her concern about natural gas prospecting in Chatham County regarding drilling and fracking and the potential contamination of surface waters and drinking wells.

Ms. Alexander cited the HBO documentary *Gasland* and suggested ERB members may want to view it. The documentary is about a drilling technology for natural gas deposits known as hydraulic fracturing (aka "fracking").

Ms. Chiosso suggested that County Commissioner, Sally Kost, be contacted regarding the documentary. Ms. Alden will contact Ms. Kost.

3. Staff Report

a. State Geologist's Report

Ms. Chiosso cited the State Geologist's report to the Board of Commissioners on the Deep River shale/natural gas.

Fred Royal gave an overview from that report of shale deposits and why there is an interest in natural gas deposits in Chatham County. There are natural gas deposits near the surface in the vicinity of the Deep River. Mr. Royal noted that from an engineering standpoint there are many questions that need to be answered regarding drilling. Ms. Chiosso noted that horizontal drilling and fracking are illegal in NC at this time, but that could be changed by the legislature.

Mr. Royal cited the potential time table for detailed geologic mapping in areas of Chatham County. He displayed a slide of the high priority quadrants that consist of Bynum, Farrington, Pittsboro, and Merry Oaks.

Mr. Royal asked for the ERB's recommendation on the priority areas and where the mapping should begin. The ERB recommended Pittsboro and Merry Oaks.

b. ERB email addresses

Mr. Royal reviewed public email policy with Attorney and indicated that email addresses on Chatham County list serves are public domain. Mr. Royal asked that ERB provide him with any e-mail changes that may be warranted.

c. Discussion of Potential Legislative Initiatives

Discussion ensued regarding legislative goals suggestions for the County Commissioners to take to the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC). Mr. Royal will confirm the deadline for information due to the Board of Commissioners. Ms. Chiosso suggested that the state not change current laws regarding fracking.

Ms. Bollinger would like to know if sludge is a legislative issue. Discussion ensued about sludge and how sludge issues need to be reported.

d. October 21, 2010 Briar Chapel walk-through

Mr. Royal announced there will be a walk-through of the Briar Chapel development. It is voluntary and open to the public. The ERB suggested the time be moved to 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. Mr. Royal will check with Briar Chapel and advise.

e. Bynum Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP)

Mr. Royal indicated there was a \$30,000 upgrade to the Bynum WWTP. The upgrades included new aeration, better monitoring, and a new outfall. The new outfall will eliminate back up in the pipe and inflow and infiltration.

f. Landfill Site Update

Camp, Dresser, McKee (CDM), an engineering consulting firm, is conducting a study of potential new landfill site locations in Chatham County. The final recommendation for a site will be completed by the end of January 2011. Mr. Royal displayed a slide showing groups of parcels identified as potential sites. Ms. Chiosso noted there is information on the Chatham County website's home page regarding information about the sites.

Ms. Chiosso and Raj Butalia would like CDM to present their findings to the ERB. Mr. Royal will investigate CDM's availability.

Mr. Royal noted that Chatham County has recently hired Teresa Chapman, Waste Reduction Coordinator and Dan LaMontagne, PE, Solid Waste Director. These staff are taking the lead with the land search and the county recycling and solid waste program.

4. Rocky River Heritage Foundation Request for County Funding

Representing the Rocky River Heritage Foundation, Mr. Clyde Miller updated the ERB on its most recent proposal for funding for a study to evaluate water quality impairment along the upper part of the Rocky River.

Mr. Miller indicated that copies of proposal had been provided and reviewed the proposal for the funding request. Mr. Miller explained that North Carolina State University's Department of Marine, Earth & Atmospheric Sciences (MEAS) is able to provide a staff member (PhD) to conduct the study. This study will detail the upper river and subsequent studies are planned to include tributaries.

For this study, the Foundation is requesting \$6,000 from County and \$5,000 from the Foundation.

Discussion ensued. Steve Wing wanted to understand the outcomes of the study. Mr. Miller explained that the findings will most likely indicate the river is impaired and will help identify point source and nonpoint sources. The North Carolina Division of Water Quality (NC DWQ) will assess the study's results on total maximum daily loads (TMDLs). Dr. John Fountain, MEAS's department head, will help develop a hydraulic model for the study.

Ms. Bollinger wants to make sure the proposal includes a presentation to the Board of Commissioners and suggests Dr. Fountain present.

Mr. Royal wanted to know if there is an assurance that NC DWQ and EPA Region IV will validate the study process. Mr. Miller will obtain contact names from Mr. Royal for NC DWQ and EPA Region IV. Mr. Miller wants the funding process to continue in concert with getting the study approach validated with the identified agencies. Ms. Chiosso suggested contacting Alan Clark at NC DWQ.

Ms. Chiosso moved the ERB recommend to the Board of Commissioners that \$6,000 be approved to help fund the study: Evaluation of Nutrient Loading to the Upper Rocky River, Phase 1. Mr. Butalia seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

(Note: Tara Allden will help craft recommendation statement to the Board of Commissioners. Ms. Chiosso indicated the recommendation statement should be sent to Sally Kost and Charlie Horne, with a copy to George Lucier.)

5. Draft Proposal for Sludge Materials on County Website

Steve Wing presented the Q&A document concerning land application of sludge he and Catherine Bollinger developed for Chatham residents. Vic D'Amato had provided comments. The ERB reviewed Mr. D'Amato's comments.

Dr. Wing will cite sources for data referenced in the questions.

Mr. Royal will send the draft Q&A document to Ms. Bollinger to review and provide a final draft. The final draft will be presented at the September 16, 2010, ERB meeting for approval. The document will then be submitted to the Board of Commissioners.

6. Jordan Lake Buffer Revisions

Mr. Butalia reviewed his suggested revisions to the Jordan Lake buffer rules, which were prepared by Mr. Butalia and Allison Weakley. Mr. Butalia provided suggestions to Mr. Royal to review with the county attorney. The ERB commented on Mr. Butalia's suggestions and discussion ensued about policy and ordinances.

Ms. Chiosso indicated that revisions needed to be finalized for the Environmental Management Commission meeting in the fall.

Mr. Royal will handle any changes and follow up with the Board of Commissioners and NC DWQ.

7. Review of Final Hwy 64 Corridor Plan ERB Comments (submitted)

Ms. Chiosso presented an additional sentence to be added to the comments.

Ms. Bollinger moved to add the sentence. Ms. Alden seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Announcements

Ms. Chiosso suggested that Rachel Thorn take Jim Willis's place as an Ex-Officio ERB member and be invited to the ERB's September meeting.

Developer permit extensions have been further extended by the legislature to December 2012 as documented in SL 2009-406. The ERB would like to make recommendations to the Board of Commissioners to not extend the time-frame. This local government "opt out" of the permit extension is allowed by the passage of a local resolution. Ms. Chiosso suggested the ERB may wish to make a recommendation at a later meeting to the BOC to pass such a resolution.

10. Adjourned

Ms. Girolami moved to adjourn. Ms. Bollinger seconded the motion. All approved and the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Next meeting:

Date: September 16, 2010

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: Dunlap Classroom