



**Chatham County Environmental Review Board  
Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting Date:** October 21, 2010

**Location:** Dunlap Classroom

**Board Members Present:**

Raj Butalia	Steve Wing
Elaine Chiosso	Martha Girolami
Catherine Bollinger	Tara Allden
Allison Weakley	

**Present:** Fred Royal, County Environmental Resources Division

**Copy:**

**Note:** Motions and resolutions are noted in **red**. Other actions are noted in **blue**

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1. Briar Chapel field visit.
2. Convene as Watershed Review Board (WRB)
  - a. Review Revised Watershed Protection Ordinance (WPO)
  - b. Prepare Recommendations for Adoption to be submitted to the Board of Commissioners.(BoC)

Since the last WRB meeting, this document has been reviewed by the NC EMC and approved. It must be adopted unchanged by the County in November. The BoC requires the WRB to give its opinion; if no opinion the BoC assumes the WRB recommends adoption.

Allison reminded the WRB that the Table of Uses for the Lake Jordan watershed in the Watershed Protection Ordinance allows new items to be built such as fences in stream buffers. This is not consistent with the rest of the County in which no uses are specified and will possibly lead to future confusion.

Fred stated that the county staff needs legal interpretation in order to administer this Ordinance for Lake Jordan, versus countywide.

**Motion by Elaine Chiosso to recommend to the BoC to adopt the revised Watershed Protection Ordinance to comply with the Lake Jordan Rules. Catherine Bollinger Seconded. All approved.**

3. **Motion by Allison Weakley to adjourn as the WRB. Seconded by Elaine Chiosso. All approved.**
4. Approval of meeting minutes from September.

Catherine Bollinger moved to approve the September minutes. Raj Butalia seconded.  
All approved.

5. Public Input. None.
6. Staff Report (Fred Royal)
  - a. Chatham County Bicycle Plan – October 26 Transportation Advisory Board meeting  
Main bicycle routes proposed for Chatham will be presented at the meeting.
  - b. Clean Water Management Trust Fund Planning Grant Award: Western Shore of Jordan Lake. Funds for the \$40,000 grant are finally being awarded to the County. The grant will be used to define subwatersheds for the western side of Jordan Lake and to determine locations for BMP retrofits, and conservation easements using GIS and stakeholder data. A consultant will be hired to do this work.
  - c. Briar Chapel stream restoration: Some members of the ERB took a tour of the Briar Chapel culverts that had been in violation of the 404 permit . Allison pointed out that the culvert was not one foot under the stream bed at the North end of Pokeberry Creek. Nevertheless the DWQ signed off on the remediation.
7. Discussion of Expiring Board Member terms in 2011  
The current 4 year terms of six ERB members will expire February 2011. The Expiration dates for each member’s terms are given below. Re-appointment is up to the Board of Commissioners and of course the desire of the members to serve another term

<u>ERB Member</u>	<u>Term Expiration Date</u>
Tara Allden (co-chair)	Feb. 2011
Elaine Chiosso (co-chair)	Feb. 2011
Lin Andrew	June 2013
Catherine Bollinger	May 2012
Raj Butalia	Feb. 2011
Vic D’Amato	Jan. 2014
Martha Girolami	May 2012
Sonny Keisler	Feb. 2011
Allison Weakley	Feb. 2011
Steve Wing	Feb. 2011

Elaine will send a memo to the BoC about this and a request for a replacement for Hal House who has resigned leaving one vacancy.

8. Final Decision on Sludge Materials on County Website (Steve Wing)

Catherine Bollinger moved that the ERB recommend to the BoC that the “Q & A on Sludge Application” document with links to include location spreadsheet and map, be prominently and accessibly posted the County website. Raj Butalia seconded. All approved.

9. Discussion of Fracking/Natural Gas (Elaine Chiosso)

This issue may heat up in 2011 when the Legislature convenes. The potential environmental impact is significant – contamination of wells from chemical injection and gases and contamination to surface waters, land and wildlife from large open storage ponds of caustic chemicals. Injection of chemical into the underlying rock (fracking) and horizontal drilling are not allowed under NC regulations, but the pressure is on from the industry to change the law. Elaine gave the ERB a hand-out titled "Hydraulic Fracturing for Natural Gas In North Carolina" and recommended that the board read the Audubon article on fracking by Ted Williams that she sent a link to.

Elaine believes that North Carolina should wait until EPA completes its study on the environmental consequences of this type of mining and associated activities. The study is expected to end in December 2011. She is concerned that residents in the Deep River basin may bear the brunt of this issue in Chatham County since that is where the gas seams are. The Haw River Assembly and Clean Water for NC plan to show the documentary film "Gasland" in Pittsboro in November to raise awareness around this issue. The farm policy group RAFI, based in Pittsboro, is working with farmers to help them understand leases for mineral rights and how to protect their best interests.

Action: A representative from RAFI would like to give the ERB a presentation about their work on this issue at our next meeting. There was agreement from ERB members to invite him.

10. Announcements

Allison announced that the new Chatham Conservation Plan can be viewed on its Wikispace. She will present the Draft Plan and Maps on November 16, 2010 at Chatham Mills from 7 to 9 pm.

11. Pittsboro Draft Permit. (Elaine Chiosso)

Pittsboro is planning a new waste water discharge into the Haw River at the Highway 64 bridge. This capacity increase would include the proposed water usage by the the Preston project. Overall it would be for over 12,000 new people over 20 years. Their permit is now open for public comment by DWQ. Elaine says the notification was inadequate (only posted in the Sanford Herald) and because of the importance of this issue, the comment period should be extended by one month until November 29.

Elaine said there are many parts of the permit that need more scrutiny and that because the water will be treated to tertiary standards, the permit should include actual plans on re-using the water.

Elaine Chiosso moved that the ERB send a letter to the DWQ asking for a one month extension of the public comment period for the permit for the Pittsboro NPDES Outfall discharging into the Haw River. Raj Butalia seconded. All approved.

Elaine will contact the BoC for permission and will write the letter to the DWQ.

12. Adjourn

Catherine Bollinger moved to adjourn at 8:00 pm. Tara Allden seconded. All Approved.