

Chatham County Environmental Review Committee

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: December 15, 2011

Location: Dunlap Classroom

Committee Members Present:

Vic D'Amato	Martha Girolami
Steve Meads	Delonda Alexander
Jerry Cole	

Present: Dan LaMontagne, County Director of Environmental Quality
Chris Hopper, Environmental Officer, Dep't of Environmental Quality
John Alderman, President, Alderman Environmental Services, Inc.

1. Mr. LaMontagne called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Mr. Cole agreed to keep the Minutes.
2. After minor changes to the Minutes of the ERC meeting of October 10, 2011, Mr. Cole moved that the Minutes be approved. After the motion was seconded by Ms. Girolami, the motion was approved unanimously.
3. Mr. Alderman presented a statement in favor of maintaining the current buffer requirements on all stream types, springs, seeps, and wetlands under the Chatham County Watershed Protection Ordinance. A copy of his statement is attached.
4. Mr. LaMontagne noted that some individuals have requested that the Board of Commissioners (BOC) relax some of the buffer requirements under the Chatham County Watershed Protection Ordinance. Mr. Hopper made a presentation to the BOC regarding the buffer requirements. (Copy attached) Following the presentation, the BOC recommended that the ordinance be modified to eliminate the category "Seeps & Springs" and that a better definition of "Ephemeral Streams" be developed. Mr. Hopper then made the same presentation to the ERC. It was noted that "Seeps and Springs" would still be regulated as either "Wetlands" or "Streams".
5. Mr. LaMontagne and Mr. Hopper noted that the current Chatham County Watershed Protection Ordinance is over 90 pages long. It is in serious need of revision in order to simplify it and make it more "user friendly". After discussion, it was the consensus of the ERC that the Ordinance be

reorganized and presented in two sections: buffers and watershed. While the ERC does not recommend changes in the Ordinance requirements at this time, staff should present separately any suggested changes.

6. Ms. Girolami brought to the attention of the ERC upcoming meetings on fracking and a Cary-Chatham land use meeting. She agreed to provide further information to Mr. LaMontagne for circulation to the ERC.
7. It was noted that the next meeting will be on January 19, 2012 at 6:30pm in the Dunlap Classroom.
8. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm

Jerry Cole
ERC Member