

Meeting Minutes

Chatham County Environmental Review Advisory Committee (ERAC)

February 13, 2020 - 6:30 p.m. (6:35 start)

Performance Building Conference Room

Present:

Staff: Rachael Thorn, Watershed Protection supervisor (remote)

Members Present: Ray Bode, Jeannie Ambrose, Elaine Chiosso, Frank Stillo, Farrell Moose, Madison Ponder

Absent: Terri Tyson, Heather Holley, Sarah Justice, Mary Beth Koza, Jeanette Ragland

Guests: Sharon Garbutt, Randy Voller

1. Selection of the recording secretary for the meeting minutes – Madison Ponder

2. Approval of meeting minutes

- **October 10th, 2019** - not enough members present to approve yet
- **November 14th, 2019** – not enough members present to approve yet
- Members should send comments and revisions to RT by Feb. 27

3. Introduction of ERAC Member

- **Updated roster handout** – members should send comments and revisions to RT by Feb. 27

4. Announcements and updates from ERAC members

- **JA:** Started group discussion about DEQ Public Hearing on Cape Fear Station Ash Basin Closure Plan coal ash meeting (2/12/20) and asked if anyone who attended could summarize what was discussed during the meeting.
 - **SG:** Attended the meeting.
 - Asked about monitoring for heavy metals. The presenter said there was nothing in the application for monitoring heavy metals.
 - There were also questions about the de-watering process of the ash and whether it would go to a wastewater site to be cleaned before being discharged into a nearby river. The presenters said the water will be reduced to 25% before being trucked and processed.
 - Another question was asked about whether more coal ash would be brought into Chatham County for processing. **RT:** Informed ERAC that there will not be additional coal ash brought in from other county sites.
- **EC:** Updated the group on the Haw River Assembly (HRA) lawsuit against Burlington.
 - Burlington is now doing more monitoring and they recognize that there is a problem with their system. The HRA does believe there is progress with the discussions that have come about since the initial notice of intent to sue. Both parties have learned more about what is occurring with the wastewater treatment plant in Burlington.

- We can expect more updates as they become available to the public.
- **RB:** Discussed the new changes from the EPA regarding the Waters of the US Rules
 - Article for reference on these changes: <https://www.epa.gov/nwpr/definition-waters-united-states-recodification-pre-existing-rules>
 - The changes are expected to reduce federal jurisdiction over wetlands and surface waters.
 - The finalized policy change was put forward by EPA in January 2020, but has not been fully implemented.

5. Environmental Impact Assessments

- **Jordan Dam Storage Facility** – Need review from ERAC Members by March 12.
- **Williams Corner** - Need review from ERAC Members by March 12.
 - **EC:** Provided a brief background to this project and the relationship between Williams Corner, Fearington Village, and Briar Chapel wastewater treatment.
 - **RT:** Referenced permit for wastewater treatment between Briar Chapel and Fearington Village: <https://www.chathamnc.org/home/showdocument?id=32133>. Also mentioned building out a website for the public to better understand this project.

6. Jordan Lake Study Final Report

- **EC:** Briefly discussed the results of the study.
 - Suggested to review results for the section regarding the upper New Hope arm of the lake.
- **RT:** Suggested to break this study into multiple parts to discuss in chunks throughout the next few meetings when we have higher attendance.

7. Staff Update

- Reference attached document.
- Key Takeaways:
 - Land-Disturbing Permit for Mosaic at Chatham Park revoked.
 - Unified Development Ordinance put on brief hold.
 - Coal Ash STAR Plant Air Quality Permit
 - Watershed Protection Department inspection numbers

8. Public input

- **SG:** Discussed a meeting of the NC Oil and Gas Commission regarding fracking in Chatham County she attended led by NC DEQ.
- **SG:** Asked whether there is any way to monitor the radioactive effluent wastewater in the Deep River as it relates to the coal ash site. **RT:** Said they are checking the leachate. **JA:** Said they are not checking radioactivity. **RT:** Said they will check for the different sampling.

9. Adjournment: Meeting concluded at 8:00 pm

Next meeting: March 12, 2020; 6:30 pm at Performance Building Conference Room