



HENDERSON COUNTY ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

Environmental Advisory Committee Thursday, June 2, 2011

The Environmental Advisory Committee met on Thursday, June 2, 2011 at 3:00 pm at the King Street Meeting Room at 100 N. King St.

Committee members present: Dr. Richard DeSimone, Dr. Robert Sweeney, Mr. Jim Fickes, Ms. Marijane Pell, Mr. Ronald Ehlinger, and Mr. Richard Naylor.

Staff present: Ms. Megan Piner, Mr. Sarah Zambon, Mr. Anthony Starr

Guest: Dr. Barbra Barnett

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Interim Committee Chairman Richard DeSimone called meeting to order at 3:02 PM.

The minutes from May's meeting were approved.

Sarah Zambon with the County Attorney's office presented an updated set of Bylaws to the committee for their recommendation to send the updated bylaws to the Board of Commissioners. The updated bylaws are consistent with other boards and committees; the major change to the bylaws is switching to quarterly meetings of the EAC with the allowance to form sub-committees.

A motion was presented by Dr. Sweeney to accept the modified bylaws and recommend them to the BOC. Dr. DeSimone seconded; approved with one opposition.

Land Development

No Updates.

Stormwater and Erosion Control

Mr. Naylor brought up an email that was sent to him from ECO about the possibility of the Soil and Sedimentation Control program being returned to the State of North Carolina. Ms. Zambon said that this was one of the topics that was discussed in a previous BOC meeting discussing the budget.

Mr. Ehlinger moved that the Interim Chair draft a letter stating that the EAC would like the program to be retained by Henderson County, and not turned over to the State of North Carolina; approved.

Water Quality

The Mills River Partnership is moving ahead; a tour of the watershed will be coming. They are still working on their finances; the Cities of Hendersonville and Asheville are still discussing adding a charge to their customer's water bills to support the partnership.

Dr. Sweeney also noted that the Mud Creek program is being funded again.

Dr. DeSimone wanted to note that the City of Hendersonville was presenting an award to the Girl Scouts at their meeting later that afternoon for their work in the Adopt a Stream Program along Marsh Creek.

Small Area Plans

The Dana Plan was accepted. Edneyville plan implementation is ongoing.

Energy Management

Mr. Naylor read an article released by the Engineering Department to the County Newsletter updating the County's completion of the Lighting Retrofit project.

Fire Prevention

Mr. Fickes updated that it is expected to be a mild fire season.

Air Quality

Richard Freudenberger sent an email to Mr. DeSimone with additions to his comments at the previous meeting.

1. Regarding wood burning appliances, it is the Federal program, not Buncombe County offering the Federal tax credits for stoves meeting minimum efficiency requirements if installed in primary residence.
2. Blue Ridge Paper and other industries will likely have to retrofit costly emissions controls but the timetable was not specifically discussed.
3. The Clean Air Institute Rules (CAIR) affect utility power plants that create emissions which cross state lines. That is different from the focus now on motor vehicles (not just light trucks). What happened is that the installation of scrubbers to Progress Energy's Skyland plant in 2005 shifted the focus to motor vehicles, which are now Asheville's #1 pollution source. As far as trucks, one program reported on was the installation of diesel oxidation catalysts onto pre-2007 fire trucks, which must idle a lot to run their pumps and generators. The \$31,500 in funds to the WNCRAQA will reduce fire truck particulate, hydrocarbon and CO emissions from 20% to 66% depending on the type of emission.

Commissioners Meeting

No Updates.

DISCUSSION

The group discussed the formation of Sub-Committees; it was suggested that the EAC create three sub-committees: Land Issues which include the areas of Land Development, Small Area Plans and Forestry issues; Water Issues which include stormwater, erosion control, water quality and watershed issues; and Air Issues that include Air quality and Fire prevention.

Dr. DeSimone made a motion to form the committees; Dr. Sweeney seconded. Approved.

Dr. DeSimone discussed that a note was sent to the Commissioners a while ago about Erosion Assurity in the Land Development Code. The group decided that the water sub-committee would do more research on the issue and it would be resubmitted to the Commissioners for consideration at a later date.

Mr. Starr informed the EAC that the Landslide Hazard Mapping Program's Senior Geologist with DENR will be presenting their plan to the Commissioners at Monday's meeting and the Planning board will be hearing an extended presentation at their next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 pm.

The next meeting will be September 1, 2011 at 3:00 pm.

Minutes submitted by Ms. Megan Piner, MPA

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