

The seal of Henderson County, North Carolina, is circular. It features a central illustration of a red apple with a green leaf, set against a light blue background. The words "HENDERSON COUNTY, NC" are written in a circular path around the top, and "FOUNDED 1838" is written around the bottom.

**Environmental Advisory Committee  
Thursday, May 5, 2011**

The Environmental Advisory Committee met on Thursday, May 5, 2011, at 3:00 pm at the King Street Meeting room at 100 N. King Street.

Committee members Present: Chairman Dr. Richard DeSimone, Mr. Ron Ehlinger, Dr. Robert Sweeney, Mr. Jim Fickes, Mr. Richard Freudenberger, Mr. Richard Naylor

Staff: Mr. Anthony Starr

Guest: Mr. Larry Rogers

**CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME**

Chairman DeSimone called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm.

The minutes of the April 7, 2011 meeting were approved as issued.

The question of whether Mr. Jeff Jennings' term on the committee was due to expire was raised. The Chairman will look into this.

Land Development

No updates.

Small Area Plans

No updates.

Stormwater and Erosion Control

No word yet from the BOC about EAC's prior recommendation on this issue. The Chairman stated that Mr. Anthony Starr's presence would be helpful at the next meeting.

Water Quality

Bob Sweeney reported that the Mills River Partnership is moving ahead with Asheville approving in principle the matter of funding. The Partnership meets monthly and meetings are open to the public at the Asheville Water Treatment facility.

Energy Management

Richard Naylor reported that the retrofitted lighting will be completed this month. He will investigate the savings this is projected to provide the county. He is waiting for information about when the CNG station will open to the public.

### Fire Prevention

Jim Fickes reported nothing new. The Chairman, with the concurrence of Mr. Fickes, suggested that Fire Prevention might be included in the broader topic of Forestry Issues. The consensus of the committee supported that suggestion. Our agenda will be changed to reflect the broadened topic.

### Air Quality

Mr. Richard Freudenberger reported on an air quality press conference of March 31, 2011 held by the DAQ, the Regional AQ, and NOAA. He discussed current EPA ozone ranges and estimated that the new range of 60-70 ppb might financially impact Henderson County since two areas (Frying Pan and Joanna Bald) would not be in compliance. He also reported that Blue Ridge Paper needs emission control equipment but have postponed it to September. He reported that the Clean Air Interstate Act increases compliance standards and focuses now on light trucks. There was no mention at the conference about how to mitigate economic hardship such compliance imposes. He also reported that Buncombe County is offering tax rebates for increased use of catalytic combustion stoves in wood burning to reduce particulate emissions.

### Commissioners Meeting

No updates.

### DISCUSSION

Chairman DeSimone asked Mr. Anthony Starr whether or not the BOC had appointed a liaison and a replacement for Charlotte Wolfe. Mr. Starr wasn't sure what action had been taken. It was recommended to contact Ms. Terry Wilson to check status of this and of our BOC liaison appointment.

The Committee discussed amending EAC by-laws, specifically, #5 under membership, establishing length of member appointments which are currently limited to two consecutive terms. It was recommended that the term limit requirement be eliminated. In addition, it was recommended that the EAC chairman be elected by the EAC members and not appointed by the BOC. (This may apply to all committees and not be possible to change.) The sentence defining a quorum makes no sense. As it currently reads, a majority of members present could be as little as two out of three attendees. The Committee feels that a quorum should consist of one-half plus one (5) of the full membership of the Committee. The issue of filing reports to the BOC was discussed. This has not been done in recent memory. It was recommended that Ms. Terry Wilson be contacted to determine if other advisory committees file reports to the BOC.

Mr. Anthony Starr advised EAC to contact Sara Zambon, Deputy County Attorney, about by-laws. The Chairman will follow up with Ms. Wilson and Ms. Zambon.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:44 pm.

The next meeting will be June 2, 2011 at 3:00 pm.

Minutes submitted by Mr. Richard Naylor

[ranjaq@bellsouth.net](mailto:ranjaq@bellsouth.net)