



HENDERSON COUNTY ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

Environmental Advisory Committee

Thursday, October 7, 2010

The Environmental Advisory Committee met on Thursday, October 7, 2010 at 3:30 pm at the King Street Meeting Room at 100 N. King St.

Committee members present: Dr. Richard DeSimone, Dr. Robert Sweeney, Mr. Jim Fickes. Mr. Richard Naylor, and Ms. Marijane Pell and Mrs. Charlotte Wolf

Staff present: Ms. Rebecca Coplin, Mr. Shaun Moore

Guest: Larry Rogers and Rudi Simko, Barbra Barnett

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Committee Assistant Chairman Dr. Richard DeSimone called meeting to order at 3:30 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The motion was made to approve the September minutes, Passed.

Mills River Watershed Sustainable Funding Project

Update by Mr. Shaun Moore of the Soil and Water Conservation District, he first spoke with the EAC in January of 2010 about this project.

The North Carolina Department of Water Quality began monitoring Mills River again after a fish kill during the Summer of 2007. This monitoring shows pesticides that are current and some residual. There were low levels detected for all of the identified pesticides. NCDWQ does not know if the levels are a health concern. The levels are congruent with the growing season. The City of Hendersonville, City of Asheville and the Town of Mills River are heavily involved in the meetings regarding the monitoring that have happened, the EPA has also attended a couple of the meetings as well as local farmers.

Farmers and Growers are doing quite a bit, but there is room for improvement, the farmers are interested in doing what they can. Farmers are required to report what pesticides they use and how much they use to the Department of Agriculture; this information is private and not shared with the Department of Water Quality.

Finances are the biggest problem, Soil and Water uses grant and State money to do the work, Henderson County only pays (Shaun) his salary. Shaun is currently looking for sustainable funding to keep someone at Soil and Water permanently. The Environmental Finance Center put together a recommendation for the City Manager (of Hendersonville) for a sustainable program.

Currently there are three Mills River pesticide stations that are being used, and they are being used properly. The source of the pesticides in Mills River is thought believed to be from run-off, not dumping or equipment cleaning. Farmers do get some incentives to improve or create new barriers and other things that will help solve the problem.

The most recent development is that the stake holders are working with the Cities of Asheville and Hendersonville are working to the situation. Henderson County involvement is recommended because many County residents get water from Mills River.

Boylston Creek, that is within the Town limits of Mills River; a church group is working on a buffer for the creek along their property.

Small Area Plans

The Planning Board approved the zoning for The Etowah Small Area Plan, sent to the Board of Commissioners for review.

Water Quality

Drought is still a problem in the area, Soil erosion is the number one cause of storm water problems.

Energy Management

New Law Enforcement Center will use upgraded items in the building to help on energy costs.

DISCUSSION

The next meeting will be November 4, 2010 at 3:30 pm.

Minutes submitted by Ms. Megan Piner, MPA

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