



HENDERSON COUNTY ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

Environmental Advisory Committee

Thursday, September 3, 2009

The Environmental Advisory Committee met on Thursday, September 3, 2009 at 3:30 pm at the King Street Meeting Room at 100 N. King St.

Committee members present: Chairman Ronald Ehlinger, Mr. Jeff Jennings, Dr. Richard E. DeSimone, Mr. Richard Freudenberger, Mr. Anthony J. Brancato, Mr. Jim Fickes, Dr. Tom Davis, and Mr. David Lowles.

Staff present: Mr. Marcus Jones, Ms. Alexis Baker, and Ms. Katie Aultman.

Guest Speaker present: Mr. Mike Byrd (michael.byrd@ncdenr.gov)

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Chairman Ehlinger called meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The motion was made to approve the minutes. The motion was passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION

Guest Speaker: Mr. Jim Fickes introduced our guest speaker, Mr. Mike Byrd. Mr. Byrd is a county forester based out of Mills River who works for the State Forest Service. The State Forest Service primarily oversees fire control on private property. However, they also conduct large scale reforestation, oversee forest practice guidelines, administer information education and manage the Urban Forestry Program. Mr. Byrd discussed several topics having to do with fire control and prevention in out of the county during the upcoming fire season and the role of the Forest Service when citizens obtain burn permits. Mr. Byrd would like to find ways to advertise the Firewise Program in Henderson County.

Water Quality: A large amount of foam was recently spotted on the south fork of Mills River. This was alarming to citizens and this part of the Mills River does eventually lead to our drinking water.

It has still not been decided at which university the Environmental Quality Institute will continue its research. ECO has hired a group to do water testing in the interim.

Air Quality: Air quality has been good this summer. Paul Muller may come in as the guest speaker at the next EAC meeting.

Other: The Solid Waste Division has worked on a grant that will install solar thermal water heating on the county detention center. They are also working on the Henderson County Strategic Energy Plan.

Motions: *Mr. Jim Fickes suggested a motion to have fire education resources connected to the County website and included on the County news channel. The motion was passed unanimously.*

A second motion was made by Mr. Lowles to include fire prevention recommendations in the Natural Resources section of the Henderson County small area plans. The motion was passed unanimously.

The October 1, 2009 meeting did not have a quorum. The next meeting will be November 5th at 3:30 pm.

Meeting Adjourned

Minutes submitted by Ms. Katie Aultman

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