



HENDERSON COUNTY ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

Environmental Advisory Committee

Thursday, February 4, 2010

The Environmental Advisory Committee met on Thursday, February 4, 2010 at 3:30 pm in the King Street Meeting Room, 100 N. King St. Hendersonville, NC.

Committee members present: Dr. Richard E. DeSimone, Mr. Jeff Jennings, Mr. Richard Freudenberger, Ms. Marijane Pell, Mr. Jim Fickes, Dr. Tom Davis.

Staff present: Mr. Matt Cable, Planner, Ms. Alexis Baker, Environmental Programs Coordinator and Ms. Rebecca Coplin, Solid Waste Division Administrative Assistant

Guest present: Larry L. Rogers (PEP)

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Committee member Dr. Richard DeSimone called the meeting to order in Mr. Ron Ehlinger's absence.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

DISCUSSION

Land Development: Mr. Matt Cable advises the committee that the next Board of Commissioners meeting will be on March 1st, 2010 and that a hearing date will be set for the stormwater management text amendment.

Small Area Plans: Dr. Richard DeSimone requested clarification as to what the Farmland Preservation Program is. Mr. Cable explained that it is a voluntary program in which farmers can participate that provides them some protection from development.

Stormwater and Erosion Control: Model regulation provided by the state is in question by the Committee in terms of their effectiveness in Henderson County. Question: Should something more appropriate for Henderson County be considered before the Board of Commissioners passes the model state regulations? Mr. Cable explained that the North Carolina Division of Water Quality (NCDWQ), currently manages the stormwater programs and enforces stormwater

regulations in Henderson County. Where a county, like Henderson, seeks delegation they must, at minimum, adhere to the established State standards provided in NCDWQ's model ordinance. Mr. Cable explained that Henderson County Planning Staff was given specific direction to incorporate the provisions of the model ordinance, to ensure that the County did not exceed the standards established and currently enforced by the State. Mr. Cable was asked about exceeding the standards. He explained that counties can exceed the standard and establish more stringent requirements if they choose. The committee remained concerned that state regulations do not take into consideration topographical differences from the mountains to coastal regions when applying stormwater regulations. Mr. Cable explained that the Stormwater Design Manual, would be incorporated by reference by the proposed text amendment, discusses appropriate stormwater management techniques for steep slope areas and that all of the regulations for controlling velocity and volume remain the same regardless of slope. The committee recommended further research and review happen on the part of EAC in order to adequately advise the Board of Commissioners as how to best move forward in either passing the proposed text amendment or encourage the Board of Commissioners to implement more stringent stormwater regulations. It was agreed by the committee that the members would make contact with various organizations and conduct research to find out what other neighboring counties and towns have done in their ordinances. Land of Sky Regional Council and John Colebria were mentioned as possible resources the committee would be in contact with.

Water Quality: There will be Bio-Monitoring Training at Blue Ridge Community College on March 13, 2010. Anyone interested can go to the ECO website for more information.

Energy Management: Ms. Alexis Baker announced the preliminary approval for a grant from the Federal Government under the ARRA that will allow for many county buildings to upgrade lighting from T12's to T8's and well as changing can lights to LED's. This will upgrade 80% of the lighting and also allow for occupancy controls to be installed in the bathrooms due to the cost in savings from Duke Energy.

Fire Prevention: Etowah has a new fire station

Air Quality: Mr. Tom Davis announces the upcoming EPA restrictions. The current standard is 75 parts per billion. The new regulations will require an attainment of 60 to 70 parts per billion. Asheville will be used to judge if Henderson County is in compliance and non-attainment has not been reached due to the reading at the Bent Creek Station. The effects of being non-compliance include difficulties for new industry growth in the area. If an area is non-compliant help is offered from the Federal Government in the form of grants to aid in becoming compliant.

Other: The Solid Waste Department is moving forward with the design phase of the Material Recovery Facility. The estimated date of operation is November, 2010. No updates in Hazardous Materials collection. There will be a promotional Battery collection for Earth Day this year and also noted that recycling for electronics is available every Wednesday from 9:00 A.M. to Noon.

The next meeting will be March 4th at 3:30 pm.

Meeting Adjourned

Minutes submitted by Rebecca L. Coplin

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