



HENDERSON COUNTY ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

**Environmental Advisory Committee
Thursday, November 4, 2010**

The Environmental Advisory Committee met on Thursday, November 4, 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 Freudenberger, Mr. Richard Naylor, and Ms. Marijane Pell, Mr. Ron Ehlinger and Mrs. Charlotte Wolf

Staff present: Ms. Alexis Baker, Ms. Megan Piner

Guest: Barbra Barnett

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Committee Chairman Mr. Ron Ehlinger called meeting to order at 3:30 PM.

Land Development

Proposals for changes to the land development code need to be sent to Ron Ehlinger so that he can email them out to the entire group. Anthony Starr, Planning Director, will be invited to the December meeting to address questions about the Land Development Code and how to properly propose changes.

Small Area Plans

No Updates.

Stormwater and Erosion Control

ECO and the Soil and Water Conservation District are partnering to build buffers along Boylston Creek in conjunction with the landowner.

Reclassification of Boylston Creek is coming up soon; and info meeting was held recently that had many attendees concerned about property rights not water quality. November 9th, 2010 is the last day to give opinions about the possible change to the Department of Environmental and Natural Resources.

Ms. Marijane Pell made the motion for the Chairman to write a note on behalf of the group to DENR in support of changing Boylston Creek to a trout stream. Dr. Robert Sweeny seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

Water Quality

Dr. Robert Sweeney recently attended two meetings with Mills River concerning pesticide use in the area. The Town of Mills River's Mayor Rodger Snyder called the meeting and Brett Laverty, a Hydrologist with DENR was in attendance to make a presentation. Mr. Laverty is conducting a study in the Mills River area in response to the fish kill in Mills River. Mr. Laverty has concluded that the problems in Mills River are the result of historical problems, not new pesticides. His study concludes that there is really an erosion problem, not a pesticide problem. Pesticides can last in the soil for about 35-40 years. There will be a more focused study conducted by DENR to try to pinpoint the location of the pesticides. The Department of Agriculture keeps track of what chemicals farmers put on their crops but this information is not public record; and they will not give this information to DENR.

Dr. Sweeney's suggestion is for better erosion controls for farmers since fertilizer is lost in the dirt along with the pesticides that erode into the river. Dr. Sweeney is going to try and partner with Soil and Water and DENR to help start an education program for farmers.

The second meeting that Dr. Sweeney attended concerned the Hendersonville Water Plant. The director of the plant, Ron Reid was in attendance. The City has plans to shut down the intake of the water plant if river levels rise to a certain level within in a certain time frame; to help prevent possible chemicals from entering the water supply.

Energy Management

EECB Lighting Retrofit Project has had schedule changes because of hiring issues and backordering of supplies. The City of Hendersonville and County will have significant cost energy savings.

Residential Duke Power customers should look on Duke Power's website to see if there are available paybacks available for green upgrades.

Fire Prevention

No updates. Fertilizer plant on Sugarloaf road is in compliance according to Anthony Starr's comments on the radio; this information will be confirmed by a committee member.

Air Quality

The October 31st Deadline for attainment levels has been delayed again. The new date for release is December 31st, 2010. This extension was approved by the Federal Appeals Court.

Commissioners Meeting

The County is seeking grants for Agricultural Economic Development. There is a public hearing on November 9th for the Etowah Zoning changes.

DISCUSSION

Mr. Ehlinger will send a list of all members' email's and phone numbers to the group.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:25 pm.

The next meeting will be December 2, 2010 at 3:30 pm.

Minutes submitted by Ms. Megan Piner, MPA
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