



Environmental Advisory Committee MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, February 5th, 2026

In Person: King Street Meeting Room - 100 North King Street

Virtual - <https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/29377279188828?p=t2UIRZuEQ4HxYMvsT5>

Meeting participants: Nancy Diaz, Jere Brittain, Tommy Oakman, Ben Wittmier, Arielle Emmet, Roy Serrao

County staff: Paulina Jones, Autumn Radcliff; Janna Bianculli

1. Call Meeting to Order: 3:02PM

2. Informal Public Comment

None

3. Approval of February Agenda

Arielle – Motion; Jere – 2nd; Unanimous approval

4. Approval of August, October, and December Summaries

Jere – Motion; Arielle – 2nd; Unanimous approval

5. New Business

- a. Update EAC Roster - Appoint Vice Chair and discuss recruiting for vacant position
Jere nominates; Arielle – Arielle accepts
Nancy – Motion; Tommy – 2nd; Unanimous approval
Vacancies – follow up with Mike Morgan for public outreach – review applications at next meeting
- b. Review EAC Mission/Vision/Purpose
Arielle – We don't have the power to execute anything at this time being just an advisory board
Nancy – No direct requests at this time, Comp 2045 plan should guide our work plan
Ben – Interested in exploring grant opportunities; Nancy – Use grant funding to fund priority projects
EAC would present BOC with grant opportunities – BOC would approve applying for it; then Planning would administer it
Action – Send copy of mission/vision/purpose in summary
- c. Comp 2045 Implementation Plan Review – Review and discuss EAC tasks identified in Comp 2045 plan
Coates Cannon mentioned regarding local zoning - [Limits on "Down-Zoning" - Coates' Canons NC Local Government Law](#)
Reviewed action steps and discussed how EAC can engage with responsible parties to support action step implementation
- d. EAC Priority Survey Discussion



Reviewed priority survey results and discussed how these align with current projects and work plan for 2026.

- e. Compile Event List for 2026
 - Earth Day – Adopt a Highway litter clean up
 - Strive not to drive – May 15th – 22nd

6. Old Business

- a. EcoHeros
 - Nominations by Earth Day – If no nominations, wait for later in the year to award; coordinate with county communication staff (Mike Morgan and Tiffany Lucey) to share nomination information
- b. Adopt a Highway Spring Litter Sweep – Schedule during last two weeks of April (4/20/2025 – 4/30/2025)
 - Scheduled for Tuesday, April 21st at 9:00AM – Berkley Rd
- c. Approve 2026 Meeting Calendar:
 - i. 5 Feb 2026
 - ii. 2 Apr 2026
 - iii. 4 Jun 2026
 - iv. 6 Aug 2026
 - v. 1 Oct 2026
 - vi. 3 Dec 2026

Arielle – Motion to approve; Jere second; Unanimous;
- d. County Tree Canopy Protection Update
 - Reviewed recommendations presented to planning board and discussed next steps; Waiting on validated damage data from US Forest service to inform canopy protection goal and resume discussion about recommendations

7. Environmental Programs Update

- a. Compost Program Update
 - Considering grant funding opportunities to purchase a 26' box truck with lift so that county has capacity to collect food waste from more schools.
- b. Water Quality Monitoring
 - Environmental Quality Institute applied for FY27 non-profit budget allocation; pending decision from BOC; would allow EQI to continue water quality monitoring at priority sites around County; EAC to review site locations and provide feedback
- c. UNC Asheville Graduate Student Special Projects
 - Summary of the two student's projects: A) Natural capital assessment of undeveloped land in county; B) Prioritization of properties acquired through HMGP funding

8. Adjournment – 4:30PM