



HENDERSON COUNTY ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

Environmental Advisory Committee

Thursday, November 5, 2009

The Environmental Advisory Committee met on Thursday, November 5, 2009 at 3:30 pm at the King Street Meeting Room at 100 N. King St.

Committee members present: Chairman Ronald Ehlinger, Dr. Richard E. DeSimone, Mr. Richard Freudenberger, Mr. Anthony Starr, Ms. Marijane Pell, Mr. Larry Rogers, Mr. Anthony J. Brancato, Mr. Jim Fickes, Dr. Tom Davis, and Mr. David Lowles.

Staff present: Ms. Alexis Baker and Ms. Katie Aultman.

Guest Speaker present: Mr. Paul Muller

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Chairman Ehlinger called meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The motion was made to approve the minutes pending the change that Mr. Jeff Jennings not be listed as present. The motion was passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION

Guest Speaker: Mr. Muller is the Environmental Program Supervisor for the Division of Air Quality for NCDENR. The Division of Air Quality creates programs to monitor and improve regional air quality. The DAQ monitors for ozone and fine particles in the Asheville local network which contains Buncombe, Henderson, Madison, Transylvania, Swain, Yancey and Jackson Counties. Mr. Muller states that April through October has higher rates of Ozone concentration and November through March has higher rates of fine particles. Ozone levels in North Carolina in 2009 are the lowest they have been since monitoring began in the 1970's. Mr. Muller attributes these improvements to lower pipe emissions and cleaner power plants.

The air quality index under the Bush Administration outlined a standard for ground level ozone that states that levels of .076 ppm and above exceeds the regulated limit. President Obama is now proposing a new limit. The new standard will take effect in August of 2010. By 2011 there will

be a new standard for fine particles. Concern over fine particles comes from a strong correlation between fine particle concentration and increased mortality rates.

The Clean Air Interstate Rule seeks large reductions in emissions from coal fire power plants by putting a cap on NOx and SO2 levels. The three local facilities with the highest numbers of emissions are Coats America, Printpack, and Wilsonart.

Information on state emissions regulations and programs as well as “real time” air quality data can be found at www.ncair.org.

Mr. Muller can be contacted at paul.muller@ncdenr.gov

Land Development: Land Development is working on an amendment for runoff standards. It will be January before anything is ready to be presented to the BOC.

Small Area Plans: Monday November 9, 2009 at 6:30 will be a public input session for Dana, Tracy Grove and Upward Communities.

Water Quality: Due to a rainy year, there are lower counts of life in water.

Energy Management: Energy plan being reviewed by Steve Wyatt. To be approved administratively.

The next meeting will be December 3rd at 3:30 pm.

Meeting Adjourned

Minutes submitted by Ms. Katie Aultman

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