



HENDERSON COUNTY ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

Environmental Advisory Committee

Thursday, June 3, 2010

The Environmental Advisory Committee met on Thursday, June 3, 2010 at 3:30 pm at the King Street Meeting Room at 100 N. King St.

Committee members present: Mr. Ron Ehlinger, Dr. Richard DeSimone, Mr. Richard Freudenberger, Mr. Anthony Brancato, Ms. Marijane Pell, Mr. Jeff Jennings, Dr. Tom Davis, and Mr. David Lowles and special representative, Commissioner Chuck McGrady

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

Guest: Larry Rogers

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Committee chairman Mr. Ron Ehlinger's called meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The motion was made to approve the April minutes.

DISCUSSION

Ms. Marijane Pell led a discussion on small area plans. There does not seem to be any implementation on any of the plans yet. Edneyville Plan has been approved. Commissioner McGrady explained that for the Etowah and Horse Shoe plan, landuse issues and zoning must be brought before the Planning Board to implement changes. Some large issues similar in many plans should be handled in a countywide fashion. Commissioner McGrady will talk to the planning director more on the direction of plans. A third plan is soon to be in motion.

Commissioner McGrady talked about stormwater. A stormwater ordinance was passed at the last Board of Commissioner's meeting. The specific change that would make the ordinance more focused on our geology did not get adopted. The ordinance is in Raleigh being reviewed by the Department of Environmental and Natural Resources. It should be signed off around September 1st.

Dr. Richard DeSimone led the discussion on water quality. Mills River is a 303d impaired stream due to pesticides from pepper and tomato farms. DENR cannot do all the testing and Soil and Water Conservation is working with farmers to implement best practices. However, chemicals are still draining from fields into the stream. Commissioner McGrady mentioned that Mills River was off of the 303d list after a successful campaign from Shaun Moore, Watershed Coordinator. However, it has now returned to the list. Dr. DeSimone mentioned that farmer's have continued to mix pesticides at the river instead of in contained areas. 1973 State Stormwater Rules exempts agriculture, forestry, and mining from regulations for normal development. The federal Clean Water act, however, does not exempt these areas.

Commissioners McGrady talked about negotiations with Saluda for the purchase of the water and wells related to the old Tuxedo mill. The well is being tested by a local engineering firm to determine the quantity. Acquiring the wells would allow Saluda to take less water from the City of Hendersonville.

Mr. Dave Lowles talked about a grant from Land of Sky and the Appalachian Regional Commission for \$55,000 for an energy efficiency project and \$20,000 to develop an energy plan. He will also give this information to the City of Hendersonville and the school system.

Commissioner McGrady suggested that the Old Health Department Building, which will house land development activities, should be looked at by waste reduction partners. The King Street will house tax collector, tax assessor, and 911 residual. The law enforcement building could be reviewed by WRP as the plans are not yet finalized

Ms. Alexis Baker quickly introduced Ms. Megan Piner. Ms. Piner is administrative assistant to the engineering department and will take over minutes and administrative functions for the Environmental Advisory Committee.

Dr. Tom Davis talked about air quality. Air quality has been good with all the rain. EPA has not yet come up with the new ozone standard. It will likely be somewhere around 60-70 ppb. The Great Smokies and most ridgetops will be out of compliance. Commissioner McGrady talked about problems with counties and states complying with standards. High altitude meters measuring non-attainment could be the result of ozone from surrounding counties and states. Ozone maps need to recognize that no single state or county may be responsible for high ozone levels.

Staggering of meetings was discussed by Mr. Ehlinger. The committee decided to wait until after the next meeting in July as new members will be taking the place of Mr. Dave Lowles and Mr. Tom Davis whose terms expire at the end of June and cannot be renewed due to term limits.

The next meeting will be July 1, 2010 at 3:30 pm.

Meeting Adjourned

Minutes submitted by Ms. Alexis Baker

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