

**MINUTES: Healthy Carolinians of Macon County – Environmental Quality Task Force**

**DATE:** February 9, 2011

**PLACE:** Health and Human Services Building

**TIME:** 8:30 – 10:00 AM

**ATTENDEES:** Rhonda Blanton, Kathy McGaha, Teresa Murray, Barry Patterson and Chuck Seigel

<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>FOLLOW-UP</b>
Welcome and Approval of Minutes	Barry Patterson welcomed everyone to today’s meeting of the Environmental Quality Task Force. Mr. Patterson asked the task force members to review the minutes of the last meeting. Teresa Murray motioned for the approval of the minutes. Chuck Seigel 2 <sup>nd</sup> the motion, with a unanimous vote for approval.		
Review of Recommendations from Jackson County’s Water Study Task Force	Barry Patterson delayed the review of the recommendations from Jackson County’s Water Study Task Force till the next meeting.		
Water Issues	<p>Barry Patterson asked the task force members to consider the following two points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Target water issues that we can educate the public about</li><li>• Target water issues that we need to take action on</li></ul> <p>Mr. Patterson said as this group further investigates the topic of water issues; that the task force members will need to decide which of the two points listed above each topic will go under.</p> <p>Mr. Patterson said the topic of water issues will only become more important in the future. One current example is the discussion between Macon County and Rabun County over protection of the headwaters of the Little Tennessee River.</p> <p>Mr. Patterson asked the task force members to consider the two points mentioned above as this group researches and discusses water issues.</p>		
Group Discussion of Water Issues with Consideration of Recommendations to	Barry Patterson led the task force members into a group discussion of water issues with consideration of recommendations to other Boards or Planning Groups.		

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other Boards or Planning Groups	<p>Mr. Patterson stressed that it was important to educate other boards or planning groups, as well as the general public, on water issues. Mr. Patterson said water issues could become the #1 problem facing future generations. He said that this problem could lead to possible wars or conflicts.</p> <p>Mr. Patterson said some educational materials, on different topics, have been developed and used. Mr. Patterson said he would still like to have articles on different topics in our local paper and is still pursuing that idea.</p> <p>The task force members present, agreed that this topic should be further discussed at a future meeting.</p>		
Trip to Highlands Biological Station	<p>Rhonda Blanton said she had contacted Highlands Biological Station about our group taking a field trip to visit their facility. Ms. Blanton said she had talked with Dr. James Costa, who is the Executive Director at HBS.</p> <p>Dr. Costa was very willing for our group to tour the facility and he offered to lead our group. He suggested planning our tour on a Tuesday; that is the best day for him to be able to lead us.</p> <p>After a group discussion, the task force members agreed to the dates of April 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> as possible dates. Ms. Blanton will contact Dr. Costa and schedule the date.</p>		
Other Items of Discussion	<p>Other Items for Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Barry Patterson asked the task force members to be aware of environmental issues, especially in our area. Mr. Patterson said even though we are presently concentrating on water issues; it is important to stay current on all environmental issues.</li> </ul>		
Next Meeting Date	<p>The next meeting date of the Environmental Quality Task Force is scheduled for Wednesday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, from 8:30 AM – 10:00 AM in Meeting Rooms A/B at the Health and Human Services Building.</p>		

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