

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

**DATE:** February 11, 2010

**PLACE:** Health and Human Services Building

**TIME:** 9:00 – 10:30 AM

**ATTENDEES:** Rhonda Blanton, Dennis Holland, Matt Mason, Kathy McGaha, Teresa Murray, Barry Patterson, Derek Roland, Chuck Seigel, Al Slagle, Wayne Swank and Charles Womack

**GUESTS:** Harold Faircloth, Stacy Guffey, Colin McCandless, Tiffany Plemens and Josh Pope

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION	FOLLOW-UP
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. Chuck Seigel motioned for the approval of the minutes. Matt Mason 2 <sup>nd</sup> the motion, with a unanimous vote for approval.		
Update on Slope Development Committee	<p>Barry Patterson asked Al Slagle to update the task force members on the Slope Development Committee. Mr. Slagle said that this committee is ready to present their findings and recommendations to the Planning Board at their next meeting.</p> <p>Mr. Slagle said the Planning Board would review the recommendations and suggest any necessary changes. Mr. Slagle said if the Planning Board agrees with these recommendations, the recommendations would then be presented to the Macon County Board of Commissioners.</p> <p>Mr. Slagle said this committee had been formed in spring of 2009 to study steep slope requirements and make recommendations of regulations and how these regulations should be enforced. Mr. Slagle said they started conducting regular meetings last summer.</p> <p>Mr. Slagle said one area they concentrated on was the ranges of slope development. Mr. Slagle said the committee is considering the following recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ 0% -to 30% - This would require no action outside of established ordinance requirements.</li><li>➤ 30% to 40% - This would require a county</li></ul>		

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	<p>inspection of the project site.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 40% and above – This range would require an engineer or design professional to inspect the site and submit plans/specs for the project.</li> </ul>		
Wildflower Landslide	<p>Barry Patterson next thanked both Stacy Guffey and Josh Pope for being at today’s meeting. Mr. Patterson reminded the task force members that the Wildflower Development was started before the Subdivision Ordinance was in place.</p> <p>Mr. Guffey informed the task force members that flights will be offered on Friday to view several landslide areas in Macon County. Mr. Guffey said this service is being offered by South Wings. (This is a Conservation-Aviation group that aids non-profits with their mission.)</p> <p>Mr. Guffey gave a brief history of the Wildflower Development. Mr. Guffey stated this is a 2,200 acre gated community located northeast of Franklin. The Franklin Press had reported that Ultima Carolina had initially set lot prices from \$100,000 to \$300,000.</p> <p>Josh Pope next presented slides of the Wildflower Development. Mr. Pope first showed the task force members the latest landslide to happen there. Mr. Pope presented several difference views and angles of this slide area.</p> <p>Mr. Pope also had a GIS map that illustrated numerous slope failures in the Wildflower Development. He had several slides that showed various slides, cracks, scarps and bank failures in this development.</p> <p>Mr. Pope and Mr. Guffey stated they are willing to volunteer to attend other meetings and present the slides and information.</p>		

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Water Quality & Drinking Wells	<p>Harold Faircloth and Tiffany Plemens presented a 30 minute overview of groundwater and water quality issues. Sampling and analysis for Coliform Bacteria, Nitrate/Nitrite, and Metals are a routine part of the well permitting process. EH staff is responsible for review of analytical results, comparison to EPA maximum allowable contaminant levels (mcl), and informing property owners of the potential impacts of results exceeding the mcl's. Public health impacts related to each of the parameters analyzed were presented. All water quality results are entered into the GIS database so trends and problem areas can be identified.</p>		
Input on Process of "Educating the Public"	<p>Barry Patterson thanked Colin McCandless of The Franklin Press for attending today's meeting. Mr. Patterson explained to Mr. McCandless that this task force had been interested in placing news articles in our local media outlets.</p> <p>Mr. Patterson said he would like for these articles to be published monthly and could contain information of topics this task force was currently working on, as well as, other health department information. Mr. Patterson asked Mr. McCandless if he thought this concept was doable and the best way to handle it.</p> <p>Mr. McCandless suggested that Mr. Patterson meet with his editor, Barbara McRae. Mr. Patterson said he will set up this meeting and report back to the task force members at the next meeting.</p>	<p>Barry Patterson will contact Barbara McRae and set up a meeting to discuss the possibility of doing monthly news articles.</p>	
Other Items for Discussion	<p>Other Items for Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Wayne Swank reported that he is still trying to locate some old local records for Macon County covering several topic areas such as water quality. Mr. Swank said he will continue trying to discover their location. Mr. Patterson thanked</li> </ul>		

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	<p>Mr. Swank for trying to locate this information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Al Slagle asked Mr. Patterson if any further decisions had been decided on the fees for well <u>repair</u> permits. Mr. Patterson said this topic would be discussed in the upcoming meeting of the Fees &amp; Billing Committee. Mr. Patterson will report further on this topic at the next meeting.</li></ul>	<p>Barry Patterson will report on the status of the well repair permit fee at the next meeting.</p>	
<p>Next Meeting Date</p>	<p>The next meeting date of the Environmental Quality Task Force will be held on Thursday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM in Meeting Rooms A/B at the Health and Human Services Building.</p>		

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