

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

DATE: March 18, 2008

PLACE: Health and Human Services Building

TIME: 9:00 -11:00 AM

ATTENDEES: Chuck Bates, Nelson Bates, Rhonda Blanton, Jim Bruckner, Stacy Guffey, Dennis Holland, Kathy McGaha, Jack Morgan, Jenny Sanders and Barry Patterson

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION	FOLLOW-UP
Welcome and Approval of Minutes	Kathy McGaha welcomed everyone to today’s meeting of the Environmental Quality Task Force. Ms. McGaha asked the task force members to review the minutes of the last meeting. Barry Patterson motioned for the approval of the minutes. Dennis Holland 2 nd the motion, with a unanimous vote for approval.		
Introductions	Kathy McGaha asked everyone to introduce themselves and tell what organization they represented. Kathy McGaha gave a brief review of why this task force was formed and the objectives this task force is currently working on.		
Review EQTF Objectives	Jim Bruckner reviewed the EQTF Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Plan, develop and implement a program to inform, educate and prompt homeowners on how and/or when to monitor and perform routine maintenance on private drinking water wells and on site waste water systems (septic systems)❖ To create a list of available resources in the community and at the state level for those who can’t afford system repairs❖ To develop a partnership with installers, drilling companies and others to build a system to improve our environment and conserve resources		
Public Education	Jim Bruckner and Kathy McGaha led a group discussion on the following topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Suggested Guidelines and Education Materials for the Public – Pat Muse and Barry Patterson<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Pat Muse and Barry Patterson said they were gathering materials and information for suggested guidelines and education purposes. They passed around some examples they had		

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	<p>for the task force members to review and consider.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mr. Muse and Mr. Patterson said they will gather more materials and information and present this at the next meeting. ● Review of other county websites – Rhonda Blanton <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ms. Blanton passed out handouts for different county websites (including Macon County) plus other websites that covered the topics of wells and septic systems. The task force members reviewed and discussed these handouts. ○ Ms. Blanton said she planned to further investigate other county websites and will bring this information to the next meeting. ● Possibility of sending information through tax mailings – Kathy McGaha <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ms. McGaha said she had talked with Richard Lightner of the tax office about tax bill mailings. Ms. McGaha said tax billings are mainly sent in July of each year and are handled by Data Max out of Atlanta. ○ Mr. Lightner stated that he would only send entire mailings not districts. He also stated he would not be willing to add anything to the tax bill that was not related to the bill. ○ Ms. McGaha said a one page insert could be done at a cost of 10¢ – 12¢ per page. Ms. McGaha said page front and back would be a few cents more. ● Postcard Mailers – Group Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mr. Bruckner and Ms. McGaha led a further group discussion on using postcard mailers to promote consumer awareness for well and septic system maintenance. 	<p>Pat Muse and Barry Patterson will gather more materials and information and present this at the next meeting.</p> <p>Rhonda Blanton will further investigate other county websites and bring this information to the next meeting.</p>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mr. Bruckner stated that the postcard reminder would include information for the county website and phone number for Environmental Health. 		
Infrared System	Jenny Sanders reported about the infrared system. Ms. Sanders said the group working on the grant proposal had not progressed any with it. Ms. Sanders said she would keep the task force members informed of the status.		
Other Resources Available	Kathy McGaha asked the task force members to consider what other resources were available either in the community or elsewhere that this task force could use and bring these to the next meeting.	All task force members will bring other resources they have gathered to the next meeting.	
Next Meeting Date	The next meeting of the Environmental Quality Task Force will be held on Tuesday, May 20 th , at the Health and Human Services Building in Meeting Rooms A/B from 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM.		