

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

DATE: May 13, 2010

PLACE: Health and Human Services Building

TIME: 9:00 – 10:30 AM

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

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. Charles Womack 2 nd the motion, with a unanimous vote for approval.		
Environmental Quality Issues Updates	Barry Patterson gave the task force members updates on the following Environmental Quality Issues: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Rabies Clinic<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Mr. Patterson reported that 828 animals were vaccinated during the recent Rabies Clinic’s▪ Mr. Patterson said 600-800 more pets will be vaccinated this fall▪ Mr. Patterson reported that in 2009 there were 5 bite victims in Macon County2. Slope Development<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Al Slagle said the sub-committee working on slope development had submitted their recommendations to the Planning Board▪ Mr. Slagle said the Planning Board had then taken these recommendations to the Board of Commissioners, who then tasked the Planning Board with drafting an ordinance based on their proposal▪ Derek Roland said several future meetings would be held in different communities to discuss this topic3. WaDE (Wastewater Discharge Elimination) Program<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Mr. Patterson reported that this program is proposed to be eliminated in the upcoming budget year		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr. Patterson reported there were 61 incidents in Macon County that fell under the WaDE Program ▪ Mr. Patterson explained that investigation of these discharges will now be complaint driven <p>4. Wells (Repair Fees and Other Issues)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ At the last meeting, Mr. Slagle has asked about the possibility of the well repair fees being lowered. Mr. Patterson said he had recently met with the Health Director (Jim Bruckner) and the Board of Health. Mr. Patterson reported currently the fees will stay at their current level. ▪ Mr. Slagle then asked what process would need to be followed to pursue further discussion on lowering these fees. Mr. Patterson said the process would be to bring this issue up first to the Board of Health. If they thought a fee change was needed, this proposal would then be presented to the Board of Commissioners. ▪ The task force members questioned how Macon County fees compared to other surrounding counties. Mr. Patterson said he had a list of these fees (both wells and septic) from surrounding counties and bring this list to the next meeting. ▪ Mr. Seigel next discussed a situation with a well that a resident of Mill Creek had explained to him. Mr. Seigel said this resident had a well installed in spring 2009, but a water sample was not taken till February 2010. This water sample stated that the Iron content exceeded safe levels and the owner was notified. Mr. Seigel stated that he had not been directly involved but was only 	<p>Barry Patterson offered to bring the list of fees (both wells and septic) from surrounding counties to the next meeting.</p> <p>Barry Patterson will investigate the situation discussed today and report on it at the next meeting. (See attached timeline)</p>	

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	<p>reporting the situation as he had been explained to him. Mr. Patterson said he would investigate this situation and report on it at the next meeting.</p> <p>5. Recurring News Releases</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr. Patterson is still pursuing the possibility of putting a news article in the local newspaper on a regular schedule ▪ Mr. Patterson explained that the Communications Committee must review anything being released to the media ▪ Mr. Patterson informed the task force members that Pat Muse is currently covering several topics on the local radio station this week 		
<p>Further Discussion of EQTF's next Focus Area</p>	<p>Barry Patterson next led the task force members on a further discussion of the EQTF's next focus area. Mr. Patterson reminded the task force members that in a previous meeting, they had prioritized topics for this task force to further discuss and pursue.</p> <p>The topic coming in first is water. Mr. Patterson asked the task force members to be more specific in what aspects the topic of water was to be considered. After a group discussion, the task force members listed the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Surface Water ❖ Sedimentation ❖ Ground Water ❖ Wells (Bored, Hand-dug and Springs) ❖ Disposal of Chemicals ❖ Disposal of Medications and Pharmacuetals <p>Mr. Patterson suggested for the task force members to further consider these suggested items. Ms. Blanton will</p>		

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	<p>send this list out to the task force members and ask them to rank them, with the topic this group wants to undertake first as being #1. Mr. Patterson and Ms. Blanton will compile this list and bring it to the next meeting.</p> <p>Ms. McGaha asked the task force members to define the main issues for this committee. After a brief discussion, the task force members listed the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Education 2. Target Audience <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. General Public b. Key Stakeholders <p>Ms. McGaha explained that the Substance Abuse Task Force is currently looking at the issue of prescription drug abuse. Ms. McGaha said one facet of this topic is the disposal of prescription medications. Ms. McGaha asked Mr. Patterson if he would come and speak to the members of this task force on proper disposal methods. Mr. Patterson agreed to do this.</p>	<p>Rhonda Blanton will send the list of items out to task force members to prioritize for the topic of water.</p> <p>Barry Patterson and Rhonda Blanton will compile the results from the task force members and will bring it to the next meeting.</p> <p>Barry Patterson will speak to the Substance Abuse Task Force about proper disposal of prescription medications.</p>	
Coweeta Lab Visit	<p>Barry Patterson reminded the task force members in discussions from past meetings, one request was for this group to visit Coweeta Lab. Ms. Blanton had contacted Coweeta Lab last year and they suggested planning our visit during the warm weather months.</p> <p>Wayne Swank has volunteered to be the liaison between Coweeta Lab and this task force. Mr. Swank asked the task force members for suggestions of topics that might be covered during the visit. Mr. Slagle suggested changes in vegetation and how this affects water flow and runoff. Mr. Swank said to forward any other ideas or suggestions to Ms. Blanton. Ms. Blanton offered to send out an email to remind the task force members to send in these ideas and suggestions.</p>	<p>Rhonda Blanton will send out an email asking for ideas and suggestions to cover during our tour at Coweeta Lab.</p>	

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	<p>Mr. Patterson then asked the task force members to consider what date to have our visit. After a group discussion, the task force members agreed on the date of July 22nd starting at 9:00 AM. Mr. Swank will verify that this date and time are agreeable. Mr. Patterson said the task force could have a very brief meeting and then take the tour. Mr. Swank suggested no more than 20 in the group.</p>	<p>Wayne Swank will verify the date and time (July 22nd and 9:00 AM) are agreeable with Coweeta Lab for the tour.</p>	
<p>Other Items for Discussion</p>	<p>Other Items for Discussions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mr. Patterson stated that Pat Muse had recently attended a conference on earthquakes. Mr. Patterson said we might invite Mr. Muse to talk about this conference at a future meeting. 		
<p>Next Meeting Date</p>	<p>The next meeting date of the Environmental Quality Task Force will be held on Thursday, July 22nd, from 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM at Coweeta Lab.</p>		

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Ellen Swafford – New Private Drinking Water Well

Time Line:

28Jan09 Application

10Feb09 Left phone message for Ms. Swafford

11Feb09 Spoke with Ms. Swafford – referred to Holland Drilling

Called Holland Drilling and scheduled site visit/evaluation at 4:00 on 12Feb09

9Mar09 Construction Authorization issued

12Mar09 Holland called for grout inspection – inspection completed/signed

12Mar09 GW-1a Well Construction Form completed by Holland

13Mar09 Pump installed [*EH not notified, no request for well head inspection – see attached ‘owners/agents responsibilities’]

17Mar09 GW-1a Well Construction Form received by EH

Jan10 Year end review by EH identifies Swafford well as ‘incomplete’

12Feb10 Well Head inspection completed/signed

16Feb10 WQ sample collected

17Feb10 T/F Coliform results reported = absent, mailed to owner

27Feb10 Inorganic WQ results from State – Fe and Pb exceed mcl
Called Ms. Swafford and left message

8Mar10 Called Ms. Swafford again and left message

22Mar10 Spoke with Ms. Swafford – Cautioned about Fe/Pb results – do not drink or cook with water, suggest resample and consultant

29Mar10 Written cautions from State Environmental Epidemiology Branch – do not drink or cook, recommend resample in one month – use first flush

*Well should not have been placed into service by driller or owner without Certificate of Completion [15A NCAC 02C.0306(d)]