

**MINUTES: Healthy Carolinians of Macon County – Environmental Quality Task Force****DATE:** August 12, 2008**PLACE:** Health and Human Services Building**TIME:** 8:30 – 10:00 AM**ATTENDEES:** Rhonda Blanton, Stacy Guffey, Kathy McGaha, Jack Morgan, Barry Patterson, Al Slagle 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. Kathy McGaha asked the task force members to review the minutes of the last meeting. Jack Morgan motioned for the approval of the minutes. Stacy Guffey 2 <sup>nd</sup> the motion, with a unanimous vote for approval.		
Update on Well Program	<p>Barry Patterson updated the committee members on the Well Program. Mr. Patterson said the Well Program started on July 1<sup>st</sup> per a state mandate on well construction standards.</p> <p>Mr. Patterson explained that compliance of the law requires four trips for a well inspector.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Site visit of the well or location of the well on the property</li> <li>2. Grout Inspection</li> <li>3. Permit and Well Head Inspection</li> <li>4. Collecting a water sample</li> </ol> <p>Mr. Patterson stated that there are two full-time well specialists – Harold Faircloth and Tiffany Plemens. Mr. Patterson said four additional Environmental Health staff have also been cross-trained in the well program. Mr. Patterson said the fee for a permit to construct a well is \$375 and the fee to repair a well is \$80.</p>		
Public Education	<p>Barry Patterson led a group discussion on public education:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final Draft of Postcard <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Mr. Patterson said he is still working on the final draft of the postcard. Mr. Patterson said he was in the final stages of its development and would have it ready very soon.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Mr. Patterson suggested that he would like to mail the postcard to a select group for a trial run. Mr. Patterson will meet with Rhonda Blanton to develop a small mailing list for a test mailing of the postcard.</li> <li>○ Mr. Patterson will gather feedback from the test mailing of the postcards and bring this feedback to the next meeting.</li> <li>● Mailing Schedule               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The committee members next discussed a mailing schedule for the postcards once they are ready for mass mailing to the community. After a group discussion, the committee members suggested starting with the first batch in January of 2009.</li> <li>○ The committee members next agreed that the mailings would start with the septic systems installed before 1990.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Barry Patterson will meet with Rhonda Blanton to develop a test mailing list for the postcard.</p> <p>Barry Patterson will gather feedback from the test mailing of the postcards and present it at the next meeting.</p>	
Other Items for Discussion	<p>Other Items for Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Barry Patterson gave an update on the status of the proposed animal shelter for Macon County. Mr. Patterson said the officials from Macon County have visited other counties to examine their animal shelters and are working on plans for our animal shelter. Mr. Patterson said county officials are also working on finalizing the animal control ordinance.</li> <li>➤ Barry Patterson informed the committee members that the North Carolina House and Senate passed legislation for the current well water test so that it tests for Volatile Organic Compounds. If the governor signs this legislation, the costs for this testing would increase the total fee for a new well from \$375 to \$575. If signed, this law would not be effective until September 2009.</li> </ul>		

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	<p>➤ Stacy Guffey stated that he had checked on the publication titled – <i>Mountain Home Guide</i>. Mr. Guffey said this publication is still found widely in the public and is available on the internet. Mr. Guffey said that Mountain Landscapes is developing a book that will include information like what is presented in the book and will be up to date.</p>		
Next Meeting Date	The next meeting of the Environmental Quality Task Force will be held on Tuesday, November 18 <sup>th</sup> , at the Health and Human Services Building in Meeting Rooms A/B from 8:30 AM – 10:00 AM.		