

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

DATE: September 2, 2009

PLACE: Health and Human Services Building

TIME: 9:00 – 10:30 AM

ATTENDEES: Rhonda Blanton, Matt Mason, Kathy McGaha, Teresa Murray, Jack Morgan, Derek Roland, Al Slagle, Kathy Tinsley and Charles Womack

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION	FOLLOW-UP
Welcome and Approval of Minutes	<p>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. Jack Morgan motioned for the approval of the minutes. Matt Mason 2nd the motion, with a unanimous vote for approval.</p>		
Feedback from other Local Committees on Educational Opportunities	<p>Kathy McGaha briefly reviewed the minutes of the last meeting covering the areas that were prioritized and the following strategies suggested to develop these areas. Ms. McGaha also stated at the last meeting the task force members decided the vision of this task force was to inform and educate the public about existing environmental issues.</p> <p>Ms. McGaha stated the homework assignment from the last meeting was to gather feedback from other local committees and groups and report this information at the next meeting. Ms. McGaha then went around the room and asked each task force member to report their findings:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Teresa Murray<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Safe Slopes/Landslide Maps<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Murray stated that the recent presentation by Rick Wooten was very informative.2. Kathy Tinsley<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Sedimentation<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Tinsley said the Watershed Council constantly looks at this issue.b. Leakage of home heating oil tanks<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Tinsley said this issue has		

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	<p>concerned her. Mr. Morgan stated that commercial tanks are regulated, but home tanks are not.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Tinsley volunteered to further investigate this issue and report back at the next meeting. • Ms. Murray volunteered to bring a home inspections form to the next meeting. • Ms. Murray also volunteered to talk with Gary Rowland to obtain further information about this topic. <p>3. Al Slagle</p> <p>a. Abandonment of wells</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Slagle said the abandonment of wells is regulated to some degree. Mr. Womack said permits are now required to abandon wells. <p>b. Sale Slopes/Landslide Maps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Slagle said future consideration of a Safe Slope Ordinance needs to include the use of the landslide maps. • Mr. Roland volunteered to ask Josh Pope to speak at the next meeting on mapping. <p>4. Derek Roland</p> <p>a. Planning Board and the Comprehensive Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Roland said the Planning Board is currently working on the Comprehensive Plan for Macon County. The next development for this process is the creation of sub-committees to study the selected elements in depth and report back to the Planning Board. 	<p>Kathy Tinsley will further investigate home heating oil tanks and report at the next meeting.</p> <p>Teresa Murray will bring a home inspections form to the next meeting.</p> <p>Teresa Murray will talk to Gary Rowland to obtain further information.</p> <p>Derek Roland volunteered to ask Josh Pope to speak on mapping at our next meeting.</p>	

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	<p>5. Matt Mason</p> <p>a. Erosion Control Ordinance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Mason said the Erosion Control Ordinance has been updated and the next step is to get this information out to the public starting with the local licensed grading contractors. Mr. McGaha asked Mr. Mason if he could also do a presentation for our task force, once it is ready. <p>b. Water Law Seminar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Mason will be attending a Water Law Seminar in Raleigh on October 7th & 8th. Mr. Mason will give a report to this task force on the items discussed at that conference. <p>6. Jack Morgan</p> <p>a. Abandoned Mobile Home Initiative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Morgan said since this initiative went effect, only one homeowner has had an abandoned home removed. <p>b. Subdivision Ordinance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Morgan said this ordinance has been updated to include an exemption for the transfer of family property. <p>7. Jenny Sanders (Rhonda Blanton reporting)</p> <p>a. Headwaters of the Little Tennessee River</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Blanton reminded the task force members about the concern for the headwaters of the Little Tennessee River and what might happen with this issue. <p>8. Charles Womack</p> <p>a. WaDE Inspections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Womack said the planned WaDE inspections were placed on hold due to 	<p>Matt Mason will present the slide show presentation on the Erosion Control Ordinance to the task force, once it is ready.</p> <p>Matt Mason will report on the Water Law Seminar at our next meeting.</p>	

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	all these topics and try to start narrowing them down. The task force members will then work on developing action steps for the topics they have chosen.		
Next Meeting Date	The next meeting of the Environmental Quality Task Force will be held on Thursday, October 29 th , from 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM in Meeting Rooms A/B at the Health and Human Services Building.		

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