

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

**DATE:** September 17, 2010

**PLACE:** Health and Human Services Building

**TIME:** 8:30 – 10:00 AM

**ATTENDEES:** Rhonda Blanton, Kathy McGaha, Teresa Murray, Barry Patterson, Al Slagle and Charles Womack

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION	FOLLOW-UP
Welcome and Approval of Minutes	<p>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 two meetings (May 13<sup>th</sup> and July 22<sup>nd</sup>). Al Slagle motioned for the approval of both sets of minutes. Charles Womack 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, with a unanimous vote for approval.</p>		
Recap of Coweeta Lab Trip	<p>Barry Patterson gave a brief recap of the Coweeta Lab Trip. Mr. Patterson said he had received numerous compliments from everyone that went on the trip.</p> <p>Mr. Patterson first wanted to thank Wayne Swank for setting up the trip and then leading the group. Ms. Blanton passed around a thank you card for everyone to sign. Mr. Patterson then praised Colin McCandless for the wonderful newspaper article on the trip.</p> <p>Mr. Patterson said that one result from this trip is the development of a long-term relationship between his department and Coweeta Lab. Mr. Patterson said his department could also make use of the vast volume of data that Coweeta Lab has collected over the years.</p> <p>Mr. Patterson suggested that this task force try to visit Coweeta Lab at least once per year. Ms. Blanton also suggested a future visit to the Highlands Biological Station. Ms. Blanton stated that this would help our task force in seeing what data they collect and how we may use it.</p>		
Possible Water Quality Public Forums?	<p>Barry Patterson next covered possible Water Quality Public Forums.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Survey Results – Mr. Patterson passed out results of the recent survey that Ms. Blanton had sent to everyone. The results are:</li></ul>		

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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Surface Water</li> <li>2. Ground Water</li> <li>3. Sedimentation</li> <li>4. Wells (Bored, Hand-dug and Springs)</li> <li>5. Disposal of Medications and Pharmaceuticals</li> <li>6. Disposal of Chemicals</li> </ol> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How/When/Where? – Mr. Patterson led the task force members in a group discussion of what to first consider for surface water. The two main suggestions were sedimentation prevention and impaired streams.               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Sedimentation Prevention                   <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Types of devastation</li> <li>b) Support of a Storm Water Ordinance</li> <li>c) River Bank Restoration</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. Impaired Streams</li> </ol> </li> </ul> <p>Mr. Patterson suggested that at our next meeting it would be nice to invite a representative from the Land Trust of the Little Tennessee, Soil and Water Conservation, Clean Water Management Trust Fund and Colin McCandless from The Franklin Press.</p>	<p>Rhonda Blanton will contact Mike Breedlove (Soil and Water Conversation), Jenny Sanders (Land Trust of the Little Tennessee), Tom Massie (Clean Water Management Trust Fund) and Colin McCandless (The Franklin Press) about participating at the next meeting.</p>	
<p>Environmental Health Updates</p>	<p>Barry Patterson next gave updates on Environmental Health issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Well Program – Mr. Patterson said the issue of reducing the well repair fee had been presented and discussed at a recent Board of Health meeting. The Board of Health agreed not to reduce the fee at the current time.</li> <li>• Scaly Mountain Area Animal Poisonings – Mr. Patterson said twelve dogs have recently died in the Scaly Mountain area of Macon County. He stated that several dogs are missing and two dogs</li> </ul>		

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	<p>survived after receiving treatment. Mr. Patterson said this has occurred in a two mile stretch and the sample of one dog's vomit contained the chemical organophosphate. Macon County Animal Control and the Environmental Health section are currently working on this situation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meth Lab – Mr. Patterson explained to the task force members that his department is responsible to oversee and sign-off on the clean-up of meth lab sites. Mr. Patterson also explained that the owner of the property is responsible for the costs involved in the clean-up. Mr. Patterson stated this is information that he wanted to make the task force members aware of.</li> <li>• Rabies Clinic's – Mr. Patterson said dates for two Rabies Clinic's have been set. The dates are October 9<sup>th</sup> and October 23<sup>rd</sup>. Mr. Patterson said recently there has been an increase in the number of animal bites (14 in June alone). Mr. Patterson so far there has been no confirmed cases in the domestic animal population. He stated that his department is aggressive in public education and are diligent in conducting each follow-up on animal bites.</li> <li>• On-site Pump Systems – Mr. Patterson stated there were 350 on-site pump systems in the county. He explained that they have to be periodically inspected.</li> <li>• Food and Lodging               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Food Borne Illness – Mr. Patterson stated there have not been outbreaks of food borne illnesses in Macon County. Mr. Patterson stated that his department is very aggressive in their inspections</li> <li>○ Bedbugs – Mr. Patterson explained to the task force members that bedbugs have</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		

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	<p>become a big problem across the nation. He explained they are very hard to exterminate. He stated that so far this year, there has only been one outbreak in a motel this past spring.</p>		
<p>Upcoming State PDW/OSW Meeting to Close Gaps in Rules Enforcement</p>	<p>This item was referred to the next meeting.</p>		
<p>Other Items for Discussion</p>	<p>Other Items for Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Barry Patterson stated that the WADE Program was not eliminated in the current budget.</li> <li>○ Barry Patterson said he had met with Barbara McRae from The Franklin Press and she was open to the idea of a regular column in the paper.</li> <li>○ Kathy McGaha said the Communications Committee has been considering ideas to get messages and information out to the public. Ms. McGaha said they have looked at trailers at the movies, PSA's, website blogs and a text network.</li> <li>○ Kathy McGaha explained that Mr. Patterson had recently talked to the Substance Abuse Task Force about medication disposal. This task force is considering disposal method of medications for our county.</li> <li>○ Al Slagle stated that the Steep Slope Committee is still meeting monthly and working on the Steep Slope Ordinance.</li> <li>○ Barry Patterson reported that the summer intern had completed her thesis which looked at our County Well Program. Mr. Patterson said he would present this report at a future meeting.</li> </ul>		
<p>Next Meeting Date</p>	<p>The date for the next meeting of the Environmental Quality Task Force will be set at a later time.</p>		