

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

DATE: November 18, 2008

PLACE: Health and Human Services Building

TIME: 8:30 – 10:00 AM

ATTENDEES: Chuck Bates, Nelson Bates, Wes Bintz, Rhonda Blanton, Kathy McGaha and Barry Patterson

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. Nelson Bates motioned for the approval of the minutes. Wes Bintz 2 nd the motion, with a unanimous vote for approval.		
Update on Well Program	<p>Barry Patterson updated the task force members on the Well Program. Mr. Patterson reminded the task force members the Well Program started on July 1st and has been proceeding very well.</p> <p>Mr. Patterson stated there are two full-time well specialists and currently four additional Environmental Health staff who have been cross-trained for the Well Program. Mr. Patterson said the fee for a permit to construct a well is \$375. He stated that the fee to repair a well recently increased from \$80 to \$125.</p> <p>Mr. Patterson said the majority of well permits are being processed in four working days. Mr. Patterson said one idea being considered is to offer a discount fee if both septic and well permits are applied for at the same time.</p>		
Public Education	<p>Barry Patterson led a group discussion on public education:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Patterson said a trial mailing was sent to a small listing of members from this task force plus a few other selected names. Mr. Patterson asked for feedback from the task force members that had received the sample mailing.• Kathy McGaha (who received the sample mailing) made the following suggestions:<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Add www. to website information➤ List actual signs of a septic system failure		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ State/explain why this mailing is being done ➤ Do PR/media release before starting the actual mailing • Wes Bintz suggested that the fourth bullet read – Malfunctioning or “failing” septic systems must be reported immediately to the Local Health Department and may require a Permit to repair. • Mr. Patterson said he would redraft the letter/postcard and let some task force members plus Becky Barr review the sample letter/postcard. Mr. Patterson said he would like to send out another sample mailing to a small selected group. 	<p>Barry Patterson said he would redraft the letter/postcard and send out the redraft in a second sample mailing.</p>	
<p>Other Items for Discussion</p>	<p>Other Items for Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mr. Patterson stated that a Subdivision Ordinance would be going into effect in Macon County. ○ Mr. Patterson informed the task force members that the <i>Mountain Home Guide</i> was available in their lobby and would be added to their website. ○ Mr. Patterson stated the plans are almost complete for the animal shelter. He stated that once building begins the hope is to have the shelter completed in six months. ○ Mr. Patterson informed the task force members about the success of the Watershed Association in Haywood County. Mr. Patterson stated they had a development plan and a restoration plan for their county. He also stated they had also received a grant. Mr. Patterson suggested that Jenny Sanders speak to the task force members about what the Macon County Watershed Association is currently undertaking. Rhonda Blanton will 	<p>Rhonda Blanton will contact Jenny Sanders about speaking to the task force members about the local Watershed Association.</p>	

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	contact her about speaking to this group		
Next Meeting Date	The next meeting of the Environmental Quality Task Force will be held on Thursday, January 22 nd , from 8:30 AM – 10:00 AM in Meeting Rooms A/B at the Health and Human Services Building.		