

MINUTES: Healthy Carolinians of Macon County – Environmental Quality Task Force**DATE:** January 22, 2009**PLACE:** Health and Human Services Building**TIME:** 8:30 – 10:00 AM**ATTENDEES:** Chuck Bates, Nelson Bates, Wesley Bintz, Rhonda Blanton, Robert Crisp, Justin Harrell, Mark Holland, Matt Mason, Ned McCoy, Bill McGaha, Jack Morgan, Bill Nellis, Barry Patterson, Lewis Penland, Jenny Sanders, Chuck Seigel, Al Slagle, Kathy Tinsley 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. Nelson Bates motioned for the approval of the minutes. Wes Bintz 2 nd the motion, with a unanimous vote for approval.		
Introductions	Barry Patterson asked everyone to introduce themselves and tell what organization they represented.		
Creation of this Task Force	<p>Barry Patterson gave a brief history of the creation of this task force. Mr. Patterson stated that in 2007 Healthy Carolinians of Macon County conducted a Community Healthy Assessment. One priority from this assessment was Promoting Environmental Quality.</p> <p>Mr. Patterson explained that the Environmental Quality Task Force was created to handle this priority. This task force was asked to promote water quality by providing information on the importance of maintaining effective sewer and septic systems and wastewater management.</p>		
Healthy Carolinians	<p>Rhonda Blanton gave a brief explanation on Healthy Carolinians of Macon County and reviewed their current Health Priorities. Ms. Blanton stated that the mission of HCMC is to assess and develop health and safety resources for Macon County.</p> <p>Ms. Blanton briefly reviewed HCMC's current task forces and sub-committees and what interventions they are currently addressing. Ms. Blanton also listed some of the past accomplishments and interventions of HCMC.</p>		
Watersheds Issues and Updates	Barry Patterson next introduced Jenny Sanders. Ms. Sanders is the Executive Director with the Little		

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	<p>Tennessee Watershed Association. Ms. Sanders informed the task force members about the current watershed issues and also gave updates on past and current programs.</p> <p>Ms. Sanders said that LWTA has been formed since 1993. Ms. Sanders said the mission for LWTA is to protect and restore water quality and habitat in the Little Tennessee River and its tributaries upstream of the Fontana Reservoir.</p> <p>Ms. Sanders listed and reviewed some of the past and current programs or issues that LWTA have undertaken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Little Tennessee River Biomonitoring Program ▪ Streambank Restoration ▪ Little Tennessee River Headwaters Initiative ▪ Inner Basin Transfers ▪ Rainwater Collection ▪ Conservation and Education 		
<p>GPS/GIS Applications in Environmental Health</p>	<p>Barry Patterson next introduced Wesley Bintz. Mr. Bintz works with the Environmental Health Program at the Macon County Public Health Center.</p> <p>Mr. Bintz explained the use of GPS (Global Positioning System) and GIS (Geographic Information System) for mapping and data input on wells and septic systems. Mr. Bintz explained that the GPS unit is used to pinpoint a spot and then that information is entered and tracked with the GIS software.</p> <p>Mr. Bintz began the program with a brief history of GPS. The GPS was initially designed for the military. Mr. Bintz said by 1994 the Department of Defense had developed a network of 24 satellites and the system was launched.</p>		

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	<p>Mr. Bintz explained the process involved in going to a land parcel and using the GPS unit to obtain location data. Charles Womack took a GPS unit around the room for everyone to examine.</p>		
Round Table Discussion	<p>Barry Patterson opened up the meeting for a Round Table Discussion. Mr. Patterson gave brief updates on the current numbers of septic and well permits, how the well program is going and steep slope issues.</p> <p>Mr. Patterson also explained that with the help of Healthy Carolinians one project they are currently working on is to send repair reminder letters to county residents with older septic systems.</p> <p>Mr. Patterson next asked the task force members and invited guests for their comments and ideas. Mr. Patterson also offered to answer any questions that were offered.</p>		
Next Meeting Date	<p>The next meeting of the Environmental Quality Task Force will be held on Thursday, April 2nd, from 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM at the Community Facilities Building.</p>		