

Name of Committee:	Environmental Review Advisory Committee	
Date of Presentation:	October 20, 2014	
Time Period Covered:	January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013	
# of Meetings Held During Period (including any special meeting or community input)	6	
MISSION & GOALS – Summarize concisely the committee’s mission (charge), key goals, objectives and measures below. You also may attach as a separate document, but limit to no more than one page single-spaced.		
<p>The mission of the Environmental Review Advisory Committee (ERC) is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advise the Board of Commissioners on environmental policy and related county ordinances, including the watershed ordinance. • Conduct special projects, as assigned, to protect the environment. • Assist County staff with review of required state and federal environmental permits for projects in the county. • Partner with towns in the county and other interested governmental agencies on mutual concerns related to the environment. <p>NOTE: The Environmental Review Advisory Committee also serves as the Watershed Review Board.</p>		
ACCOMPLISHMENTS & ACTIVITIES – Summarize concisely below the committee’s major accomplishments and activities of the past year. This should include reports, research, projects, public input, etc. Be sure to identify how they relate to specific goals, objectives or measures. You also may attach as a separate document but limit to no more than one page single-spaced.		
<p>The Environmental Review Advisory Committee (ERAC) met six times last year. As part of those meetings, the Committee met twice as the Watershed Review Board (WRB). In that capacity the WRB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Granted an Authorization Statement for a non-perpendicular crossing of a waterline through a Zone 1 riparian buffer on the finding of “no practical alternative”. • Approved with conditions a plan to allow two non-contiguous properties in the same watershed to be treated as a single contiguous property for purposes of compliance with the impervious surface requirements of the Chatham County Watershed Protection Ordinance. <p>The Committee received the following presentations on issues pertaining to environmental quality in the County:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A presentation from Allison Weakley, DNER Natural Heritage Program on the Comprehensive Conservation Plan for Chatham County, which was issued in 2011 by the Chatham Conservation Partnership. • A presentation from Fran DiGiano of Clean Jordan Lake, focusing on how the volunteer activities of his organization in removing trash from shoreline and preventing recurrence affect water and habitat quality in and around Jordan Lake. <p>Committee members continued to follow the activities of the NC Mining and Energy Commission on horizontal hydraulic fracturing, the Town of Pittsboro on the development of Chatham Park, and the use of solar powered aerators to help mitigate the impact of high algae concentrations in Jordan Lake. The objective is to bring specific environmental concerns to the attention of the BOC in a timely manner. During the year, the ERAC brought to the BOC concerns about loss of local environmental regulatory authority and the delay of Jordan Lake pollution control rules by actions of</p>		

BARRIERS & CHALLENGES – Identify any barriers or challenges that make it difficult for the committee to achieve goals or objectives. Limit to the space provided below

- The Committee experienced turn-over in membership with the resignation of Steve Meads and the appointment of new member, Nanishka Abaladejo and anticipates further changes in the next year. This has the advantage of adding new expertise to the Committee, but requires frequent review of issues to bring new members up-to-date.
- The development of Chatham Park within the Pittsboro extra-territorial jurisdiction, but not subject to jurisdiction by Chatham County, may cause adverse environmental impacts in the County. While the Committee will continue to monitor the development, its ability to make meaningful recommendations to prevent adverse environmental impacts in the County may be inhibited.

RECOMMENDED CHANGES: Please list any recommendations to the Board of Commissioners related to the changes in the advisory committee’s membership, mission, goals, objectives or other related issues.

The Committee wishes to continue its monitoring activities of the following issues of environmental interest to Chatham County:

- The activities of the NC Mining and Energy Commission regarding hydraulic fracturing.
- The development of Chatham Park.
- The performance of solar-powered aerators to control algae in Jordan Lake

The ERC met with the chair and a member of the Agriculture Advisory Committee to hear their concerns about Chatham Park's broad impacts on the County. The Committee recognizes the importance of water supply and waste water management to the development and environment of Chatham County. For example, it has been claimed that the housing developments within former agricultural areas cause the loss of groundwater supplies for agricultural uses. It is recommended that water supply and waste water management considerations be included in any future developments plans.