

ADVISORY COMMITTEE SUMMARY ANNUAL REPORT

NOTE: Attach current list of members and identify officers.

Name of Committee:	Environmental Review Advisory Committee	
Date of Presentation:	12/20/2021	
Time Period Covered:	FY 2020-2021 (July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021)	
Name of Chairperson:	Ray Bode	
# of Meetings Held During Period (including any special meeting or community input)	8	
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 (ERAC) 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>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>ERAC activities during period:</p> <p>EIA review:</p>		

- Williams Corner - Withdrawn

WRB:

- Vickers Bennett Group, LLC to amend the language in the Watershed Protection Ordinance, Sections 109, 302 [E] (2), 303 (A), and 303 (C), to accommodate language for Mixed-Use Development and Cluster. – Tabled and ultimately withdrawn
- Moncure Holdings, LLC, and Moncure Holdings West, LLC, to amend Section 302 (E)(2)(b) of the Watershed Protection Ordinance to establish an overlay district where the 10/70 rule applies in the Cape Fear WS-IV Protected Area watershed district and amend the Watershed Protection Map to establish the boundaries of the overlay district. – Approved with the condition that riparian buffers under the Chatham County Watershed Ordinance be required for all properties within the 10/70 option of the Moncure Megasite.

Presentations:

- Clean Water Act, NC, and Chatham 404/401, buffer rules process and permitting. Special considerations – Chatham Park/Pittsboro agreements, Chatham County Rules, Jordan Rules – Elaine Chiosso, Ray Bode
- Brownfields – Frank Stillo
- NE Chatham wastewater – Stop Chatham North - Liz Rolison
- Utility-scale solar farms - NC Clean Energy Technology Center - Simon Sandler, Steve Kalland

Established regular liaison arrangement with Planning Board

Initiated joint working group with Planning Board to review and recommend revisions to the EIA process and Conservation Subdivision Ordinance/Guidelines

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.

Revisions needed to the EIA process
ERAC involvement needed in the UDO process

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.

We recommend that ERAC be inserted into the Environmental Impact Assessment Review Process for major subdivisions, by reviewing the EIA and the peer review of it before the First Plat is submitted to the Planning Board.

We recommend changes be made to the Conservation Subdivision Ordinance to strengthen its purpose as a conservation tool. These include not allowing land protected under other regulatory provisions to be included in the Conservation Space calculation; a site review and recommendation for most valuable conservation lands to be carried out by the NC Natural Heritage program; removing the density bonus for agricultural lands, allowing community gardens in Open Space (but not agriculture or silviculture) and requiring a 50' natural perimeter buffer.

OTHER INFORMATION: Provide any other information or observations that the Board of Commissioners should know about. Provide in the space below.

ERAC should stay apprised of actions the town is taking to improve drinking water quality due to the industrial contaminants in its source water, the Haw River.