

Name of Committee:	Environmental Review Advisory Committee	
Date of Presentation:	TBD	
Time Period Covered:	January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016	
# of Meetings Held During Period (including any special meeting or community input)	9	
MISSION & GOALS – Summarize concisely the committee’s mission (charge), key goals, objectives and measures below. You may also 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 matters affecting the environment and the protection of natural resources in Chatham County. • Provide advice to the County Commissioners on environmental policy and county ordinances, including the watershed ordinance and long-range planning updates. • Assist County staff with peer review of required state and federal environmental permits for projects in the county. • Review State and Federal environmental projects and monitor data on development projects as needed. • Conduct special projects, as requested, to protect the environment. • Recommend initiatives on advancing good environmental stewardship. • Work with the municipal governments of Chatham County and other jurisdictions to cooperate on environmental issues of common concern as appropriate. <p>The Environmental Review Advisory Committee also serves as the Watershed Review Board (WRB).</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>As the ERAC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presented information on SolarBee technology to the BOC¹, leading to preparing the SolarBee Resolution² which was adopted by the BOC. This action supported the removal of the SolarBee devices from Jordan Lake. • Reviewed implications of land applied sludge regarding 1,4-Dioxane entering the Haw and Deep Rivers. • Reviewed coal ash monitoring reports. • Provided inputs to the Comprehensive Plan. • Reviewed Sanford WWTP notice of violation on Charah’s self-sampling of coal ash leachate • Reviewed coal ash air, water and biosolids sampling reports. 		

¹ Presentation to BOC of ERAC SolarBee Report, February 2016

² Resolution Urging State Action to Effectively Improve Jordan Lake Water Quality, May 2, 2016

- Presented information to ERAC and the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee on new approaches to wastewater management.
- Performed two EIA reviews: Extra Garage IV and Golf Cart Guys

As the WRB Revised the Watershed Protection Ordinance (WPO) for these additional uses:

- Solar Farms that: (1) Disturb tree cover less than the built-upon area percentage for the corresponding watershed (i.e., Solar Farms in WS-III can disturb less than 12% of existing tree cover), and (2) Use only crystalline silica photovoltaic solar panels
- Office – Business and Professional requirements
- Events Centers Limited requirements

Revision to WPO allowing a special non-residential intensity allocation (SNIA) for WS-IVPA to WPO for the Moncure Megasite

Provided a revised Text Amendment Request Application to County Planning Staff for consideration

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

- Need to seek approaches, possibly through local media, to raise the profile of Environmental Resources in Chatham County
- Need process to define triggers that refer Environmental Impact Assessments to the ERAC

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.

In addition to its assigned responsibilities, the Committee wishes to continue its monitoring activities of the following issues of environmental interest to Chatham County:

- Hydraulic fracturing impact on neighborhood and county-wide environments
- Chatham Park and other large-scale development and infrastructure projects
- Water quality issues in Jordan Lake
- Coal ash fill at the Brickhaven Mine site
- Pending revisions to the Chatham County land use ordinances that impact the County environment
- Options for County incentives for innovative wastewater management infrastructures.
- Implementation of priority environmental recommendations in support of County staff