

Name of Committee:	Environmental Review Advisory Committee	
Date of Presentation:	May 16, 2016	
Time Period Covered:	January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015	
# of Meetings Held During Period (including any special meeting or community input)	10	
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>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 Committee received presentations from several groups concerning environmental issues of importance to Chatham County. These included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A presentation from representatives of the Rocky River Heritage Foundation concerning its efforts to mitigate various impairments in water quality of the Rocky River. • A presentation from Catherine Deininger of the Conservation Ordinance Review Committee, The goal of the Conservation Ordinance Review Committee is to support the work of the Chatham Conservation Partnership by developing recommendations on the optional provisions of the Model Natural Resource Conservation Ordinance and the Model Tree Protection Ordinance. • A presentation from John Graybeal and Sonny Kreisler seeking ERAC endorsement of the formation of a County Climate Change Advisory Committee. The ERAC had no objection to the proposal but declined to endorse it. • A presentation from Jason Sullivan, County Planning Director, on how the ERAC’s reviews of EIAs could be more useful in the planning process. While, at present, reviews of EIAs by the ERAC have no legal impact on zoning requests, the ERAC will continue to review EIAs and will present possible environmental issues to the applicants, the Planning Board, and the BOC.” • Regular updates from County staff and members of State and other legislative and regulatory activities that have, or could have, impacts on the environment of Chatham County or on local environmental regulations. <p style="text-align: center;">(Continued in attached Annex)</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

There is a lack of clarity about the appropriate role of the ERAC in the review of EIAs. At present, there is no mechanism requiring the ERAC's comments to be taken into consideration by the applicants or the Planning Board.

There are several issues that impact the Chatham County environment, but over which the County has little or no control. These include:

- the development of Chatham Park within the extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ) of Pittsboro,
- the coal ash structural fill disposal site in southern Chatham County.
- the continuing blockage of the implementation of the Jordan Lake rules on nutrient management.

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 Oil and Gas Commission regarding hydraulic fracturing.
- The development of Chatham Park and its impact on county land and infrastructure.
- The performance of solar-powered aerators (Solarbees) to control algae in Jordan Lake
- The coal ash structural fill at the Brickhaven Mine site.
- Environmental Impact Assessments as appropriate.
- Land application of biosolids from Sanford which could be impacted by the treatment of coal ash leachate at the wastewater treatment plant.