

Name of Committee:	Environmental Review Advisory Committee	
Date of Presentation:	September 21, 2020	
Time Period Covered:	January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019	
# 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 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 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 (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"> • Rocky River report summary and presentation. A citizen group presented a proposal requesting County funding of ecological survey of the Rocky River to monitor its biological health. ERAC reviewed the proposal and recommended that the group present proposal to the BOC and that the County should review data collection currently in process by NCDEQ. • Charah Brickhaven. Received briefings regarding monitoring and closure of the coal ash site at the Charah Brickhaven Facility. • Chatham Park. Discussed and monitored news regarding the Chatham Park development. • Zoning. Discussed potential effects of oil and gas extraction and other heavy industrial use. Discussed potential for changes to reporting requirements and zoning conditions. • PFOS. Discussed and monitored news and studies regarding PFOS in the Haw River and Jordan Lake. • Duke Energy Coal Ash Recycling Plant, Corinth Road, Moncure. Received briefings regarding proposed coal ash beneficiation facility at the old Cape Fear Steam plant. • County Services. Received GIS Advanced Parcel Query Tutorial. • Membership. ERAC members retired from the committee: Terry Schmidt, Fran DiGiano, Sherri Stuewer, Victor D’Amato. ERAC new members: Jeannie Ambrose, Heather Holley, and Sarah Justice. • ERAC Officer Selection. Elaine Chiosso was nominated and approved as Vice Chair and Ray Bode was nominated and approved as Chair. 		

As the Watershed Review Board (WRB):

- **Carolina Meadows/CE Group.** Carolina Meadows applied to add additional impervious surface to develop a parcel by purchasing another parcel and use density averaging to mitigate the stormwater runoff from the development. The request for the modification of the conditional use permit was presented to the CCBOC in fall of 2018. The WRB voted to approve the request.
- **Chatham County Watershed Protection Ordinance Text amendment.** Presentation on the text amendment request of Applicant Ernest Clemmons that the Planning Board recommended for approval. WRB approved the request.

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 better define triggers that refer Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) to the ERAC.
- Need to better define ERAC’s role and process in reviewing EIA.

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 ERAC membership is comprised of environmental professionals, academics, and knowledgeable citizens of the County. The ERAC’s mission provides appropriate guidance for the Committee to collaborate with County staff and provide the BOC with informed recommendations.

The ERAC wishes to continue to monitor the following issues:

- Hydraulic fracturing and other heavy industry impacts on properties, neighborhoods, and county-wide environments.
- Chatham Park and other large-scale development projects.
- PFOS and other emerging contaminants in the Haw River and Jordan Lake.
- The coal ash beneficiation facility.
- Pending revisions to the Chatham County land use ordinances that impact the County environment.
- Review and monitor water quality data from the Rocky River downstream of Siler City WWTP.
- Wastewater treatment systems for new developments.