

**OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL
ASSISTANCE AND
PROTECTION**

**MINOR BARNETTE
DIRECTOR**



**ENVIRONMENTAL
ASSISTANCE AND
PROTECTION ADVISORY BO
ARD**

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RICHARD L. SIEG**

**VICE CHAIRMAN
BRENT S. ROCKETT**

**NATHAN ATKINSON
WILLIAM CROUSE
MARY BETH WILLIAMS
CHARLES E. WILSON
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**FORSYTH COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL ASSISTANCE and PROTECTION
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**

The Forsyth County Environmental Assistance and Protection Advisory Board met on January 21, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. via online meeting through the Microsoft Teams platform.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Nathan Atkinson
Nicole Mathis
Brent Rockett
Richard Sieg
Mary Beth Williams

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Charles Wilson
William Crouse

FCOEAP PRESENT:

Minor Barnette
Amanda Bashor
Peter Lloyd
Michael Settle
Valerie Shores

I. Call to Order

Mr. Sieg called the meeting to order.

II. Approval of the October 20, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes:

Mr. Sieg opened the discussion to approve the October 20, 2020 meeting minutes. Mr. Rockett made a motion to accept. Ms. Williams seconded the motion, all members of the Board in attendance approved.

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III. Director's Update

Mr. Settle, Community Hygiene Manager, provided updates on division operations. Staff are continuing to fulfill obligations with social distancing and avoidance of potential exposure during daily activities. The team is responding to citizen complaints as usual, though they have suspended some routine facility inspections that would cause unnecessary interactions (IE i.e. vapor recovery). Asbestos and demolition inspections have not slowed down at all due to the pandemic and continue at present. There are several outstanding court cases that continue to be postponed and will remain outstanding until the court systems resume operations. Tom Hillis has resigned as an Environmental Specialist and that position has been posted and will be filled as soon as possible.

Dr. Lloyd, Compliance and Permitting Manager, provided updates on division activities. All compliance evaluations, including those with on-site visits, were completed before the end of the Federal Fiscal Year in September. There have been adjustments made to inspection techniques with an emphasis on electronic record keeping and telecommunication instead of physical record inspection. This minimized on-site time and provided a more productive and efficient tool for inspection that will likely be retained for future interactions. One inspection was performed virtually this year. These virtual inspections are not fully recognized by the EPA but useful for non-EPA regulated site visits.

The emissions inventories were sent to the EPA by the end of the calendar year a bit ahead of schedule. There were very few errors on submissions this year. The new data analyst position is providing additional support for the new emissions inventory data requirements going into effect. Annual fee invoicing will be sent in the next few weeks. Staff has maintained a good compliance oversight presence and normative standard of service. Updated rules packaging is being put together which will hopefully be available for review by the next meeting.

Mr. Barnette provided updates on the Analysis & Monitoring and Logistics and Support Services divisions. Analysis & Monitoring has restored the sale of radon kits to the public via postal service. The Office can purchase kits with a substantial discount and is able to then pass along the savings to the citizens, even with the addition of postage to kit cost. The pollen season is approaching and A&M is not running the sampler on location for the season due to the in-office time requirements. Instead projections and forecast will be made based on over 20 years of historic data and samples being collected around the state. The week of February 8th EPA will be conducting the three-year technical systems audit of ambient pollution monitoring network. Due to the pandemic this will be the first ever virtual audit. The previous three-year audit was especially successful with only four findings, all of which have been successfully addressed.

The LASS division continues to support the other three divisions remote processes. Brian Hunt, the new data specialist brought on board in May 2020 is the first hire to be on-boarded virtually.

The county has discontinued daily COVID briefings and moved to a weekly format which will continue to be shared. Preparations are in full force to support vaccinations in Forsyth County despite system interruptions due to high demand. The county will be on track to support up to 1,000 shots given daily.

In addition to the vacant Environmental Specialist position the County Commissioners have approved the creation of a new position, Sustainability Program Manager. This position was created in response to the resolution in December 2019 supporting goals and aspirations of clean and renewable energy with an end goal of zero net carbon emissions by 2050. In the same re-visited budget approvals merit raises were also increased. The fleet manager has provided data from 2009 to 2019 regarding fleet usage, mileage, and fuel. This information was used to create a model of emissions from county fleet use that show a clear decrease as vehicles become cleaner and more fuel efficient. This model will be the baseline to measure emissions improvement in coming years and it is feasible that the fleet will transition gradually to electric vehicles. The new county parking deck was finished with solar panels as the first step towards energy generation and also constructed with consideration to adding electric charging stations in

the future without needing massive overhauls.

Two Community Hygiene appeals hearings are still pending and have been delayed until in-person hearings can be reasonably supported. At this time one appellant has indicated they are not interested in a virtual hearing and will proceed to wait until such time as hearings can resume normally.

IV. Other Business

Dr. Lloyd gave a brief overview of previous environmental awards practices, including awards for facilities that do not receive a notice of violation or notice of deficiency over the course of a calendar year. The special awards for environmental and air quality have received no applicants and are suspended pending activity at this time.

V. Next Tentative Quarterly Meeting:

Date: April 20, 2021

Location: Online Microsoft Teams Meeting

VI. Mr. Sieg adjourned the meeting.

Dated: 4/6/2021

Minor Barnette

Minor Barnette, Director

Approved:

Richard Sieg

Richard Sieg, Chairman