

**OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL  
ASSISTANCE AND  
PROTECTION**

**MINOR BARNETTE  
DIRECTOR**



**ENVIRONMENTAL  
ASSISTANCE AND  
PROTECTION ADVISORY  
BOARD**

**CHAIRMAN  
TBD**

**VICE CHAIRMAN  
BRENT S. ROCKETT**

**SUSAN E. APPT  
NICOLE CHILES  
GAYLE S. GOLDSMITH  
REID W. HUTCHINS  
JOE MANNUZZA  
CHARLES E. WILSON**

**FORSYTH COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL ASSISTANCE and PROTECTION  
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**

The Forsyth County Environmental Assistance and Protection Advisory Board met on July 19, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. via online meeting through the Microsoft Teams platform and in the BER Meeting Room of the Government Center.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Gayle Goldsmith  
Nicole Chiles  
Reid Hutchins

Brent Rockett  
Charles Wilson

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Susan Appt

**FCOEAP PRESENT:**

Minor Barnette  
Steve Lyda

Peter Lloyd  
Valerie Shores

**I. Call to Order**

Mr. Rockett called the meeting to order.

Forsyth County Government Center, 201 North Chestnut Street, Winston-Salem, NC 27101-4120  
Phone 336-703-2440 Fax 336-727-2777

Recycled Paper

which is an appendix to the state implementation plan. This is not anticipated to have any impacts on any regulated facilities or any impacts on our enforcement of the regulations.

The County Commissioners are anticipated to approve procurement of our first plug in zero emission electric vehicles this fall or winter. Chronic staffing issues resulted in revenue that was allocated for salaries, which was not used due to the workforce shortage. If we have the expected fund balance from unspent revenue, some of the money can be used for capital projects. That may include 8 plug-in electric vehicles and charging infrastructure to support the first 2 dozen electric vehicles in the next 3 years.

We plan to install charging infrastructure in the parking deck at the Government Center and in a parking lot at the Human Services campus for county-owned vehicles . There is a substantial motor pool fleet for the employees at these locations. The projects are complicated and expensive. We want to install sufficient infrastructure to enable incremental expansion of the number of chargers over the next three years. We are planning the projects to support our first 24 electric vehicles.

The commissioners approved \$100,000 in an alternative service level request for photovoltaic and other projects in the current year budget. We are looking at the feasibility of photovoltaic installations at county parks and other facilities, as we plan for future construction and roof replacement projects.

Mr. Rockett asked if the County Courthouse will be the site of one of these installations. Mr. Barnette said that the roof is not compatible at that location and he will find out why there is a lack of compatibility.

Mr. Barnette said that in February of 2021, 30 solar panels were installed on the top floor of the new parking deck between Chestnut St. and Church St. We can monitor clean energy production during varying weather conditions. The peak capacity is 10 kilowatts. It has generated 22 or 23 megawatt hours of electricity, so far. The return on investment is estimated to be 25 years. Larger projects become more cost effective due to economies of scale. We've been extensively researching different brands and types of electric vehicle chargers and photovoltaic systems.

Ms. Goldsmith asked Mr. Barnette if this topic could be added at each Advisory Board meeting. Mr. Barnette agreed.

## **V. Other Business**

Mr. Barnette informed the Advisory Board that we have appeals hearings that need to be scheduled. We have two open burning cases and a third notice of intent to appeal. The Advisory Board will receive advance notification and extensive documentation. One appellant requested an in-person hearing.

Mr. Wilson discussed the Forsyth County Noise Ordinance, frequency analysis and community noise.

Mr. Barnette extended an invitation to Mr. Wilson to help us with his expertise, if we are tasked with formulating an enforceable and reasonable county-wide noise ordinance. We can look at similar ordinances that have different and various decibel levels. Several exemptions for various sources of sound and noise will likely be necessary. The current ordinance is not based on an objective standard but based on a standard of reasonableness that is considered vague and unenforceable.

## **II. Annual Election of the Chair and Vice Chair**

Ms. Chiles nominated Mr. Rockett for the Chair position. All members approved. Ms. Goldsmith motioned to close the nominations. Ms. Goldsmith nominated Ms. Chiles for the Vice Chair position. All members approved. Mr. Barnette advised that we will recognize the former chair, Richard Sieg, for his service to the Advisory Board with a certificate of appreciation in the future.

## **III. Approval of the April 26, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes:**

Mr. Rockett opened the discussion to approve the minutes of the April 26, 2022 meeting. Ms. Chiles made a motion to accept. Mr. Hutchins seconded the motion, all members of the Advisory Board approved.

## **IV. Director's Update**

Mr. Barnette updated the Advisory Board about staff vacancies and general business. The Office of Environmental Assistance and Protection is currently executing a contract with the State of North Carolina Division of Air Quality to restore the Air Awareness program and staff position. Funding for the program and position had previously been discontinued in 2020 due to a shortfall of revenue in the North Carolina Department of Transportation during the first six months of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Community Hygiene Division has a vacant environmental specialist position. This position will perform Stage 1 vapor recovery inspections at gasoline dispensing facilities and inspection of dry-cleaning facilities that use perchloroethylene to clean fabrics. We plan for the position to pursue extensive training to perform inspections and issue permits for renovation and demolition projects involving asbestos and perform required inspections of county owned buildings and facilities with asbestos containing materials. There are currently four vacant positions within the department. County-wide, there are over 400 vacant positions. This has had an impact on our organization as there have been vacancies in critical positions and inability to procure equipment.

We have been hosting a fellowship this summer that will conclude on August 9<sup>th</sup>. A graduate student from Rochester Institute of Technology is working with us on a research project that started in early June. This was sponsored and paid for by the Environmental Defense Fund. The primary focus for this project is electrification of medium and heavy-duty transportation. As we proceed with electrification of our light duty transportation in the near future, we are hopeful we can obtain larger electric vehicles such as pickup trucks, box trucks and vans, as part of the long-term strategy.

Mr. Barnette informed the Advisory Board that on 7-14-22, the Forsyth County Commissioners adopted revisions to our air quality control ordinance and technical code, as well as changes to our local implementation plan. Changes were made regarding the potential emissions during periods of startup, shutdown, and malfunction of industrial processes, industrial equipment and pollution control equipment.

Dr. Lloyd advised that the process is almost complete and will be submitted to the EPA for approval and the State of NC for inclusion of the changes in the local implementation plan,

Ms. Goldsmith discussed limiting fossil fuels in mowing equipment and vehicles which would be beneficial by creating less noise.

Ms. Mathis advised a coordination with the city to discuss impacts and exemptions.

County Commissioners do have the authority to adopt a county ordinance to declare enforceable county-wide ordinances without being required to cultivate buy in from the municipalities. A major change would need to be supported by the political will, which would result in representation of citizens for their needs and desires. It wouldn't be adopted without a lot of thoughtful consideration.

#### VI. Next Tentative Quarterly Meeting:

Mr. Rockett verified the next tentative meeting.

**Date: October 18, 2022**

**Location: 201 North Chestnut St. Winston-Salem, N.C.**

#### VII. Adjournment

Mr. Rockett confirmed there was no other business. He asked for a motion to adjourn.

Ms. Goldsmith made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Hutchins seconded the motion. All members in attendance approved.

*1/24/2023*  
Dated: *Minor Barnette* Minor Barnette, Director

Approved: *Brent Rockett* Brent Rockett, Chairman