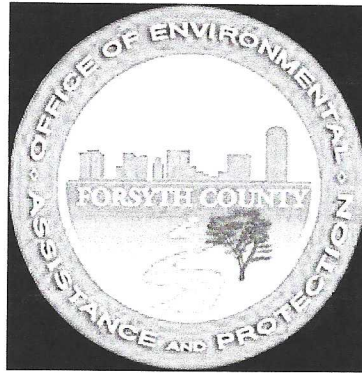


OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL
ASSISTANCE AND
PROTECTION

MINOR BARNETTE
DIRECTOR



ENVIRONMENTAL
ASSISTANCE AND
PROTECTION BOARD

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

The Forsyth County Environmental Assistance and Protection Advisory Board met on April 20, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. via online meeting through the Microsoft Teams platform.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Richard Sieg
Nathan Atkinson
Brent Rockett
Beth Williams

Bill Crouse
Charles Wilson
Nicole Mathis

MEMBERS ABSENT:

FCOEAP PRESENT:

Amanda Bashor
Minor Barnette
Janice Hillanbrand
Peter Lloyd

Steve Lyda
Michael Settle
Valerie Shores

I. Call to Order

II. Approval of the January 19, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes:

Mr. Sieg opened the discussion to approve the January 19, 2021 meeting minutes. Mr. Rockett made a motion to accept. All members of the Board in attendance voted approval.

III. Director's Update

Mr. Barnette introduced the attending division managers to give division updates. Mr. Lyda updated that Logistics and Support Services continues to support other divisions and annual permit fee invoices have been sent. Brian Hunt is currently developing new Emissions Inventory database compatible with the substantial new EPA regulations. Emissions Inventory databases will be going out within a week or so to facilities for the yearly reporting.

Dr. Peter Lloyd of Compliance Assistance and Permitting discussed the new Emissions Inventory database regulations. There have been many changes made to accommodate miscellaneous facility equipment and the CAP division is working on interpreting all the information and adjustments from EPA. The division is currently working to facilitate information dissemination for the permitted facilities in a cohesive manner and still meet submission deadlines. Technology tools have been very effective over the course of the pandemic to maintain regular functionality in the division. Procedures have been updated on how to accept and maintain confidential information on cloud service systems. NC Department of Air Quality rule updates are forthcoming and adoption is being proposed by the division to incorporate those changes in our local rules. There are fee increase / structure changes upcoming, particularly regarding Title V permitted facilities per these new rule updates. Other changes include requirements pertaining to landfills, facilities work practice standards handling volatile organic compounds, changes to National Ambient Air Pollution Standards.

Mr. Settle provided updates for the Community Hygiene division. Business continues as usual with additional volume from open burning and solid waste complaints. Staff is maintaining social distancing and have issued several civil penalties and several outstanding summonses that are waiting on the court system reopening. One Environmental Specialist position remains open, a candidate was extended an offer but they accepted offer from another employer.

Janice Hillanbrand from the Budget Office gave a brief on the upcoming fiscal year budget. The OEAP budget expanded by about 3.3%, mostly salary and benefit increases. Some restorations in the budget have resulted from pandemic pre-emptive action that was

underestimated. There are increases for necessary equipment to air monitoring stations and contracted recycling services have been adjusted for fluctuating commodities market. The Budget Office hopes to have the budget approved by Commissioners at the end of May for the total county budget.

Mr. Barnette provided updates for the Analysis and Monitoring division. The division is replacing some equipment and in-house repairs of existing equipment are also being done. Due to the pandemic seasonal daily pollen counting has been suspended since last March. This service will possibly be re-instated in a few weeks as more staff are expected to return to the office. Staff are still practicing social distancing and wearing masks away from desks as they return to the office. Pollen forecasting has continued through the pandemic using data from other sources and 20 years of historical data.

A new position of Senior Environmental Specialist will be posted to oversee sustainability initiatives for county facilities and operations, especially as regards clean and renewable energy processes.

On May 13th Mr. Barnette will present to the board of commissioners on county recycling. This presentation covers current costs of solid waste and recycling removal, items banned from landfill disposal, locations of recycling convenience centers, 2020 calendar year recycling volume, and historical recycling trends of collection and commodities.

Mr. Sieg expressed interest in how the county is finding efficiency in remote work. The staff has maintained a consistent workflow with remote practices. There has not been a decline in productivity and there have been modest increases in productivity in a few areas. Remote work has mainly adjusted how business is conducted and communication practices.

Mr. Rockett inquired about virtual inspections. Dr. Lloyd explained a hybrid of some on-site and some virtual walkthrough inspections of permitted facilities. All inspection records were requested prior to inspection for review, which actually served to improve inspection efficiency while minimizing on-site time. Moving forward requesting records ahead will probably be a standard practice. Hospital inspections were mostly done by photographs and assessments of visible emissions. Digital meeting tools have allowed for more efficient communication with

facilities and making the division more accessible to permitted facilities.

Mr. Wilson asked if the recycling program is worthwhile overall. Minor addressed this as a subjective topic, providing the public with opportunities to comply with landfill requirements. Landfill bans are not enforced or easily enforceable, but the intent is what is translated to regulatory agencies. Cost benefit is also subjective depending on the criteria for measurement and commodity pricing has a large impact on that balance.

Mr. Sieg asked about the trend of recyclables not actually being recycled. Contamination is a large roadblock to effective processing of recyclable items, the mixed stream for material recovery causing issues with recyclable items ending up in the landfill. "Wishful recycling" is also a large roadblock for processing items that are not acceptable for recycling despite perception of suitability.

The OEAP has two appeals hearings of civil cases still pending. These will remain pending until the Advisory Board transitions back to in-person meetings.

IV. Other Business

V. Next Tentative Quarterly Meeting:

Date: July 20, 2021

Location: Microsoft Teams Meeting, details to follow

VI. Ms. Mathis moved to adjourn. Mr. Sieg adjourned the meeting.

Dated: 7/20/2021 _____ Minor Barnette, Director

Approved: Richard L. Sieg Richard L. Sieg, Chairman