

**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 October 29, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. in the Board of Equalization and Review Room, Forsyth County Government Center, 201 North Chestnut Street, Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Peter DeVries      William Crouse      Brent Rockett  
Mary Beth Williams      Charles E. Wilson

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Nathan Atkinson      Richard Sieg

**FCOEAP PRESENT:** Minor Barnette      Steven Lyda      Peter Lloyd  
Amanda Severe

**I. Call to Order**

Mr. DeVries called the meeting to order.

**II. Approval of the July 16, 2019 Board Meeting Minutes:**

Mr. DeVries opened the discussion to approve the July 16, 2019 meeting minutes. Mr. Wilson made a motion to accept. Mr. Crouse seconded the motion, all members of the Board in attendance approved.

**III. Director's Update**

Mr. Barnette introduced Dr. Lloyd to discuss this year's awards. Dr. Lloyd discussed that there will be one presented to the school system this year and there have been no responses from the permitted community. Applications will be presented at the January meeting for review.

Dr. Lloyd discussed that audits of both enforcement files and inspections for this year  
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went very well. The first round of reporting has been completed and the department is currently correcting any problems. In an internal enforcement data audit there were a few irregularities but overall results were good.

Mr. Barnette commented favorably on Dr. Lloyd's leadership and skills regarding these audits. Two members of the Compliance Assistance and Permitting Division staff had accompanied auditors on inspections of two large facilities and there were no recommendations for improvement. Most areas of the audit categories reporting to EAP have successfully been completed with a few needing minor improvement.

Austin Edmonds left the department to pursue another career path.

Mr. Barnette introduced our county budget analyst, Janice Hillanbrand. There will be a new budget category for administration costs in the coming year by her recommendation. This will allow for easier tracking of expenditures on staff salaries, benefits, and costs associated with department administration.

The department is undergoing changes to reset maintenance of effort financial matching requirements. Through this process the department has given up one year of federal funding which will be recovered over the next 3-year grant cycle. Ultimately the department will be able to retain all federal funding and minimize maintenance of effort requirements. This has become necessary due to employee turnover and salary changes to maintain the department's federal funding levels for implementation for the Clean Air Act.

October 31<sup>st</sup> is the end of the ozone season for the year. There have been no exceedances of the national Ambient Air Quality Standards and the 2017 – 2019 data set is within attainment levels. Mecklenburg County is at risk of non-attainment for the three-year data set. In 2020 there will be a five-year review and there is a good indication they will re-evaluate the air quality standards.

Mr. Barnette introduced a presentation on the problem of solid waste and open burning in the county. In 2018 there were over 400 notices of violation issued, which was a record number. 2019 is on track to meet or exceed that record.

There are multiple properties in the county which have presented ongoing challenges for the department. Mr. Barnette gave an overview of several example properties which are out of compliance with the county code. The owner of the first example property was issued a civil penalty, then agreed to the conditions of a consent agreement for abatement, and the outcome resulted in refuse being dumped on DOT property. The sheriff's office refused to pursue felony littering charges as the District Attorney's office declined to prosecute. The second example property is a vacant property with unknown offenders burning various vegetative material and manmade debris. There are suspected parties with nearby construction projects, but all the evidence has been circumstantial. Several instances have included business violations such as tree trimming services burning transported material, which is not permissible.

Mr. Barnette then provided clarification on the department's existing relationship with the Sheriff's Office and neighborhood reporting behaviors. The minimum housing code is being rewritten which will establish more enforcement authority. There is a county manager's workgroup reviewing the possibility of pursuing a redevelopment plan for the distressed area. This particular area has extensive issues that include code enforcement problems, emergency response times, and quality of living standards.

Mr. Wilson suggested a resolution in support of EAP actions and to encourage inter-

departmental cooperation of enforcement action. Mr. DeVries recommended that Mr. Wilson draft a resolution for review. Mr. Wilson offered the support of the Advisory Board for EAP efforts in stopping/controlling illegal dumping, open burning and improper storage of solid waste and agreed to draft a resolution.

Mr. Barnette introduced new employee Amanda Severe, Sr. Office Assistant. There have also been significant changes among EPA staffing which should not be largely impactful to department operations.

In addition to the compliance and enforcement inspection audits, the EPA also conducted a comprehensive technical systems audit of the ambient air quality monitoring network and associated data management and reporting. There were only four findings from the audit and all four have been addressed.

Mr. Barnette then explained that two existing pollutants have been getting attention as they may have more impact and greater risk to health than previously understood, Ethylene Oxide (EtO) and perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). These substances are ubiquitous in the environment and new understanding shows a 30% greater risk of health impacts from exposure to EtO than previously understood. The two primary uses are medical sterilization facilities and chemical manufacturers. There are no significant sources in this county, though South Carolina has several. These substances are airborne and there are at this juncture many unknown factors and impacts.

Mr. Crouse expanded that it is a highly reactive substance. In many cases hydrogen peroxide is the preferred method for sterilization. Dr. Lloyd described monitoring and dispersion modeling for the area.

Mr. Barnette answered questions on the new solid waste franchise, providing explanations of the fuel surcharge. There are over 15,000 households subscribing to franchised solid waste collection service.

#### IV. Other Business

Mr. DeVries confirmed there was no other business.

#### V. Next Tentative Quarterly Meeting:

**Date:** January 21, 2020

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

VI. Mr. DeVries adjourned the meeting.

**Dated:** 1/21/2020



Minor Barnette, Director

**Approved:**



Richard L. Sieg, Vice Chairman

