

**OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL
ASSISTANCE AND
PROTECTION**

**MINOR BARNETTE
DIRECTOR**



**ENVIRONMENTAL
ASSISTANCE AND
PROTECTION BOARD**

**RICHARD L. SIEG
VICE CHAIRMAN**

**NATHAN ATKINSON
WILLIAM CROUSE
BRENT ROCKETT
MARY BETH WILLIAMS
CHARLES E. WILSON**

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

The Forsyth County Environmental Assistance and Protection Advisory Board met on January 21, 2020 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:

Nathan Atkinson Brent Rockett Richard Sieg Charles Wilson

MEMBERS ABSENT:

William Crouse Mary Beth Williams

FCOEAP PRESENT:

Minor Barnette Peter Lloyd Steve Lyda Shontell Robinson
Amanda Severe

I. Call to Order

The meeting started with a memorial song played to honor the late Peter DeVries who passed away on December 28, 2019. Mr. DeVries served on the advisory board since 1997.

II. Approval of the October 29, 2019 Board Meeting Minutes:

Mr. Sieg opened the discussion to approve the October 29, 2019 meeting minutes. Mr. Rockett made a motion to accept. Mr. Wilson seconded the motion, all members of the Board in attendance approved.

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

Recycled Paper

III. Director's Update

Mr. Barnette suggested to the board that board officer elections be discussed. Mr. Sieg opened discussion and Mr. Rockett nominated Vice Chairman R. Sieg to serve as Chairman, who accepted the nomination. There is one remaining board meeting for the current term, scheduled for April. Mr. Atkinson supported abstaining from an official vote until the full board was present in session. Mr. Wilson motioned to postpone elections and Mr. Sieg seconded. The term renewal process was clarified for those members up for re-appointment.

Dr. Lloyd gave an update on the awards status. Mr. Howard Moore, who previously spearheaded the school's efforts, has retired and no one has presently stepped into his position. There are no other awards at this time.

Mr. Barnette introduced Shontell Robinson, the new Assistant County Manager who oversees the Office of Environmental Assistance and Protection, then updated the board on current staffing. The Office currently has two vacant positions, one in the Community Hygiene division and one in Logistics and Support Services. Steve Lyda has been covering the responsibilities of two positions for almost 15 months and the open LASS position will be filling his previous position to alleviate that workload.

This is the second year that the OEAP is on track to issue 300 to 400 notifications or warnings for opening burning and/or illegal dumping, over 150 have been issued for the current fiscal year starting July of 2019. The calendar year of 2019 saw 400 issuances, which is a new record.

Several ongoing situations were brought to board attention by Mr. Barnette. There is a stretch of New Walkertown road that has been an unmitigated littering issue for several years and an illegal landfill was found with approximately an acre filled in. There is a consent agreement in place to excavate the debris and remove it properly, this will likely take six months to a year.

There was an in depth discussion on the resolution from the previous meeting and suggested reviews before sending to the Commissioners. Some of the concerns expressed were

the resolution wording expressing an appropriate desire for continued support versus implying lack of support from commissioners, the inter-agency relationships implicated in the resolution, and the full purpose of the document. This resolution originally stemmed from discussion regarding a case of illegal dumping that received lack of support for legal recourse when the District Attorney's office would not pursue felony-level littering charges.

Ms. Robinson advised the option for conversations with the Sheriff's Office to discuss other perspectives and that the commissioners do not need to be directly involved at this stage. There was discussion if the resolution was the appropriate solution, and the message it would send regarding perception of support from the commissioners and other agencies in the county. It was agreed that due to the current general support from the Sheriff's Office and Commissioners, it would be best to have discussions with the Sheriff's Office regarding expectations and efforts. The resolution will be re-worded and then revisited in the future.

Mr. Barnette spoke about a local environmental preservation group that invited him to be part of an initiative regarding clean energy use in the county, which he initially declined for political neutrality. After individual conversations between the group and several commissioners it was recommended by commissioners the group speak to Mr. Barnette for revisions on the document. The final proposal was presented and adopted by the Commissioners on December 5, 2019. Mr. Barnette showed part of the presentation from that adoption meeting. The resolution sets goals and aspirations for the county to pursue by 2030, taking action to cease fossil fuel energy use in county buildings and vehicles.

There is an open case that has been worked since October wherein the owners were unaware of tenant activities including hidden landfills. The property owner signed a consent agreement with a target date of March 3 for remediation on this large undertaking. If required, with show of appropriate actions being taken, that target date can be extended.

The county includes 230 square miles of unincorporated land with 27,000 households. Of this 15,000 use garbage services but 12,000 do not. Mr. Barnette gave a brief overview of the volatile market regarding commodity values for recyclables.

IV. Other Business

V. Next Tentative Quarterly Meeting:

Date: April 21, 2020

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

VI. Mr. Sieg adjourned the meeting.

Dated: 4/30/2020 . Minor Barnette Minor Barnette, Director

Approved: Richard Sieg Richard Sieg, Vice Chairman