

**OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL
ASSISTANCE AND
PROTECTION**

**MINOR BARNETTE
DIRECTOR**



**ENVIRONMENTAL
ASSISTANCE AND
PROTECTION ADVISORY
BOARD**

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GAYLE S. GOLDSMITH
REID W. HUTCHINS
JOE MANUZZA
CHARLES E. WILSON**

ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

The Forsyth County Environmental Assistance and Protection Advisory Board met on October 18, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. in the BER Meeting Room, 201 North Chestnut St. Winston-Salem, NC. and via online meeting through the Microsoft Teams platform.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Brent S. Rockett Susan Appt Gayle Goldsmith
Joe Mannuzza Charles Wilson

MEMBERS ABSENT: Nicole Chiles Reid Hutchins

FCOEAP PRESENT: Minor Barnette Peter Lloyd Steven Lyda
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**

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II. Approval of the July 19, 2022 Advisory Board Meeting Minutes:

Mr. Rockett opened the discussion to approve the October 18, 2022 meeting minutes.

Ms. Goldsmith and Mr. Rockett suggested edits to the meeting minutes. Mr. Rockett called for a motion for acceptance of the changes for the July 19, 2022 meeting minutes. Ms. Goldsmith made a motion to accept. Mr. Wilson seconded the motion, Ms. Appt supported the motion virtually. All members of the Board in attendance approved the edited July 19, 2022 meeting minutes.

III. Director's Update

Mr. Barnette opened the discussion to update the Advisory Board about various staff changes. The Community Hygiene Division is fully staffed. We hired an environmental specialist who will be working 80% in our air quality programs and 20% in our other programs. The air quality work will initially involve Stage 1 vapor recovery inspections of gasoline dispensing facilities and inspections of dry cleaners that use perchloroethylene to clean fabrics. Future training of the environmental specialist will include enforcement of regulations governing asbestos.

A 32-year veteran senior environmental specialist, Roy Gemmell, will be retiring at the end of December. He is one of the most knowledgeable professionals regarding regulation of asbestos containing materials and asbestos disturbing activities in the region. He is training another senior specialist to be able to transition into that responsibility. We will eventually have two people to cover critical responsibilities for our department and for the community.

The EPA was allocated a substantial amount of federal funding under the American Rescue Plan to support air pollution monitoring and air quality monitoring. We have been awarded an \$85,000 direct award, with no matching requirements, to be distributed to us under Section 103 of the Clean Air Act. These funds will be used to purchase additional equipment for monitoring particulate matter.

The new equipment will be deployed as our primary units in the monitoring network and some of our existing units will be retained in functional capacity to serve as backups. It is important to be able to continuously monitor for criteria pollutants. Particulate matter is one of the six criteria pollutants and it is the primary pollutant of concern in our region for its impact on human health. Particulate matter concentrations are being measured and recorded every minute of every day, 24 hours a day. Collection efficiency requirements are in our work plan for continued grant funding.

We will be able to purchase 3 pieces of equipment for \$95,847.00. By the time we were awarded the \$85,000, the price of equipment had increased by a total of \$10,847. We are currently negotiating with the EPA to see if we can receive additional funding. The EPA awarded all but \$18,000 of their total funds to over 20 air quality agencies in Region 4, our 8-state region. We were quick to respond and request the additional funds. If the additional money is not awarded, we may only have to spend \$11,000 out of our budget to get \$85,000.

Mr. Barnette informed the Advisory Board that Mr. Lyda was decisive and of vital importance in negotiating and completing the execution of the contract to restore the Air Awareness educational program and the position that is dedicated to that program. We have funding assurance for two years. We will have a full-time environmental educator position that will be focused on air quality, sources of air pollution and its impacts on human health.

V. Next Tentative Quarterly Meeting:

Date: January 17, 2023

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

VI. Adjournment

Mr. Rockett entertained for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Goldsmith motioned to adjourn. Mr. Wilson seconded the motion. Mr. Rockett adjourned the meeting.

Dated: 1/12/2023 W. Minor Barnette Minor Barnette, Director

Approved: Brent S. Rockett Brent S. Rockett, Chairman

The contract is with the NC Division of Air Quality, with funding from the NC Department of Transportation.

Mr. Barnette shared a slideshow presentation of solid waste and open-burning violations. He discussed the challenges that we face as regulators in the community. We are trying to protect human health, public safety, the environment and ultimately the current state of the human condition. A lot of people who we are engaging with try to resolve some of these issues in the community but some people are faced with extreme hardships. They are unable to overcome many of life's challenges. But, they have enough resources to buy consumer goods and bring things to their property that generate waste that needs to be disposed of. We have a level of effort and expense to remedy this problem and we have no choice but to hold them accountable for it. We assess conditions and track progress. We try to negotiate voluntary compliance but have had to take people to court for misdemeanor criminal charges. Open burning violations have increased.

Counties in North Carolina do not have the statutory authority to collect a mandatory fee for universal collection service. There was a brief discussion about how to help people with funding for remediation of their accumulated solid waste.

IV. Other Business

Mr. Wilson asked about particulate matter and ozone, as well as how we inform and communicate information to the public. There was a brief discussion about reporting in our air quality index, equipment and data. Ozone season begins March 1st and ends October 31st. For the 3rd year in a row, Forsyth County has not had any exceedances of the national ambient air quality standard for ozone during the air monitoring season. The new equipment will help us monitor for PM 2.5 and PM 10.

Ms. Goldsmith had questions about a previous research study conducted by an intern from RIT regarding the electrification of medium and heavy-duty transportation. The final report was in the form of a power-point presentation. Mr. Barnette advised he would send it to the members of Advisory Board.

Ms. Goldsmith inquired about the Forsyth County Commissioners anticipated approval of the procurement of the first plug-in zero emission electric vehicles. Mr. Barnette advised we are still planning to purchase 8 electric Chevrolet Bolts. The Commissioners have not yet formally committed to funding the investment.

There was a brief discussion about the public hearings planned to be conducted in January.