

**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 July 16, 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 Richard Sieg Nathan Atkinson
 William Crouse Brent Rockett Mary Beth Williams
 Charles Wilson

MEMBERS ABSENT:

FCOEAP PRESENT: Minor Barnette Steven Lyda Michael Settle
 Valerie Shores

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. DeVries called the meeting to order.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MEETING MINUTES:

Mr. DeVries opened the discussion to approve the April 23, 2019 meeting minutes. Mr. Wilson made a motion to accept. Mr. Atkinson seconded the motion, all members of the Advisory Board in attendance approved.

III. DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Mr. Barnette briefly reviewed the results of a recent comprehensive technical systems audit of the ambient pollution monitoring networks in Forsyth County. He informed the Advisory Board that The Analysis and Monitoring Division had rewritten the Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP). The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is using this revised plan as a model to improve the plans in other agencies across the nation.

Mr. Barnette explained that we had round four of our State Review Framework (SRF) assessment from the Enforcement and Compliance Division of the EPA. Two members from our Compliance and Air Permitting Division performed full compliance evaluations of a Title V facility and a synthetic minor facility. Our SRF indicated that all of our full compliance determinations for all of our facilities were accurate, on time and complete. Final reports will be given to the Forsyth County Commissioners' and Manager's Office.

The EPA has responsibility for promulgation of regulations in the setting of air pollution limits and standards while providing oversight of implementation of the Clean Air Act across the nation. The actual implementation and enforcement responsibilities delegated to the state, local and tribal agencies is comprised of 27% federal funding and the other 73% is from other local sources of revenue.

Mr. Barnette presented a slideshow of solid waste and open burning violations within Forsyth County. He discussed remediation efforts and changes to open burning regulations that remove size limits for residential open burning. He said that our Air Quality Technical Code has components that make it more stringent than the NC Administrative Code. Neither of these codes can have direct conflict with state law. There was a brief discussion regarding the impacts of these changes.

Mr. Wilson discussed particulate matter measurement as a way of taking action for violations. Mr. Barnette explained that ambient pollution analyzers are stationary and subject to rigorous sighting requirements. He discussed the lack of reliability of portable analyzers and citizen science, compared to stationary federal reference method equipment. There is concern the data is not accurate; it does trend up and down as ambient levels rise and fall. However, when we collocate these devices with our technical equipment, there are large discrepancies in the data. The data should not be used to make regulatory decisions.

Mr. Barnette presented a slideshow of a deteriorated neighborhood in Forsyth County. The area has high crime rates, rampant illegal dumping and excessive burning violations. The decision to designate this as a blighted neighborhood will undergo review by the Forsyth County Commissioners. We are collaborating with the other county offices to help the citizens who live in this development. We are trying to remove constraints, influence policy and remediation. He informed the Advisory Board that our Community Hygiene Division has issued 400 notices and warning letters for solid waste violations, open burning, illegal dumping and improper storage of management of solid waste.

Mr. DeVries discussed the history, complaints and health impacts with regard to abandoned property that may have problems with underground storage tanks. The North Carolina Constitution and General Statutes impose strict limitations on how public money can be used for remediation on private property. There was a brief discussion regarding responsibility for full remediation.

Mr. Barnette concluded the Director's update.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. DeVries confirmed there was no other business.

V. NEXT TENTATIVE QUARTERLY MEETING

Date: October 22, 2019

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

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. DeVries adjourned the meeting.

Dated: 9/20/2019

wm Barnette

Minor Barnette, Director

Approved:

Peter H. DeVries

Peter H. DeVries, Chairman