

**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 26, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. via online meeting through the Microsoft Teams platform and in the BER Room of the Government Center.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Susan Appt
Gayle Goldsmith
Reid Hutchins
Nicole Mathis

Brent Rockett
Richard Sieg
Charles Wilson

MEMBERS ABSENT:

FCOEAP PRESENT:

Minor Barnette
Amanda Bashor
Peter Lloyd

Steve Lyda
Paul Martin
Valerie Shores

I. Call to Order

Mr. Sieg called the meeting to order.

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

Mr. Sieg opened the discussion to approve the January 19, 2022 meeting minutes. Mr. Rockett made a motion to accept. Ms. Goldsmith seconded the motion, all members of the

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

Board in attendance approved.

III. Public Hearing Revisions to Chapter 3 of the Forsyth County Code - Air Quality Control and the Forsyth County Air Quality Technical Code

A second Public Hearing discussion of proposed revisions to the Local Implementation Plan addressing excess emissions during start up and shut down in response to 2015 call put forth by the EPA for revisions to State Implementation Plans. This is a necessary academic measure to align local guidelines with state guidelines with no anticipated practical impacts at this time.

Ms. Goldsmith motioned to accept changes, Mr. Rockett seconded. Vote by roll call was unanimous approval.

Ms. Goldsmith motioned to close public hearing, Mr. Rockett seconded. Vote by roll call was unanimous and the Public Hearing was closed.

IV. Director's Update

Mr. Barnette gave a presentation overview of the Winston Weaver fertilizer fire and its impact on the community. Thousands of tons of materials were onsite when the fire started. Enhanced air monitoring by the EPA Emergency Response Team around the incident shows hazardous conditions Monday 1/31/22 through Wednesday 2/2/22, unhealthy conditions through early Friday 2/4/22 and back to normal by Saturday 2/5/22, after which moderate PM levels were measured intermittently in a few limited areas. We were able to get through a very major incident without any serious injuries or fatalities. The outcome could have been a lot worse.

Mr. Barnette discussed areas of local streams where water quality samples were collected. Samples collected upstream from the incident revealed results that were not expected. Winston Weaver owned property in another location which had bulk material storage. The raw materials were not properly contained. Rainfall events created runoff from the stored compounds used to make fertilizer. This runoff went into the stream. A notice of violation with a civil penalty was issued from The City of Winston-Salem Stormwater Department to Winston Weaver for violations at that location.

Mr. Seig and Ms. Goldsmith thanked Mr. Barnette for his dedication and the agency's mission to protect the environment and the citizens of Forsyth County.

Mr. Barnette informed the Advisory Board about staff changes and challenges for various pending sustainability projects. There was a brief discussion about charging stations. Ms. Appt inquired about funds from the Volkswagen settlement and whether the funds can help support these initiatives. Mr. Barnette said that North Carolina's share of the Volkswagen settlement was about \$92,000,000. It is being allocated to fund different types of projects to mitigate the emissions of oxides of nitrogen. Excess NOx emissions were the basis for the penalty that was levied against VW. There are various projects that are being funded with this money. Phase I of the North Carolina Mitigation Plan has been completed and the money has been distributed. Phase II of the plan is currently underway. Information about the projects and fund allocation is available from the NCDEQ.

V. Other Business

Mr. Wilson, Mr. Seig and Mr. Barnette discussed Tier 2 reports and the potential risks which exist in many communities that have significant quantities of materials and reactive compounds in storage. We hope the more we learn, the more precautions we can practice in the future.

VI. Next Tentative Quarterly Meeting:

Date: July 19, 2022

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

VII. Adjournment

Ms. Goldsmith motioned to adjourn. Ms. Mathis seconded. Mr. Sieg adjourned the meeting.

Minor Barnette

Dated: 7/7/2022

Minor Barnette, Director

Approved: *Brent Rockett* Brent Rockett, Vice Chairman