



## ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY BOARD

### Regular Meeting

August 15th, 2024

The Waynesville Environmental Sustainability Board held a regular meeting on Thursday, August 1st, 2024, at 4:30 pm. in the Municipal Building Conference Room located at 16 South Main Street Waynesville, NC.

#### **Members present:**

William Hite (Chair)  
Case Brown (alternate)  
Paul Carlson  
Kay Kirkman  
Chuck Dickson  
Buffy Queen  
Besty Wall  
Reid Conway (Vice Chair)  
Aparna Keshaviah  
David Henderson

#### **Staff Members Present:**

Rob Hites, Town Manager  
Julie Grasty, Asset Services Manager

#### **A. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman William Hite called the meeting to order at 4:30pm.

#### **B. APPROVAL OF 8/1/2024 MEETING MINUTES**

***A motion was made by Vice Chair Conway, seconded by Board Member Kirkman, to approve the minutes from the August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.***

#### **C. PRESENTATION FROM ELETRICITIES OF NC-ANDY FUSCO, CHIEF STRATEGY OFFICER & GREGG WELCH, VP OF MEMBER OUTREACH AND EDUCATION**

Vice Chair Conway introduced Gregg Welch and Andy Fusco with ElectriCities of NC. Mr. Fusco stated that ElectriCities provides services over three states-trains lineworkers and provides consultations, and provides power supply to 51 municipalities across North Carolina, not

including Waynesville. He reviewed what “electric energy requirement” is and how it is measured:

- The amount of energy produced, transmitted, and delivered to electric customers over a defined time period
- Base unit of measure is watt-hour (Wh), more commonly measured in kilowatt-hours (kWh) or megawatt-hours (MWh)

And Electric Power Requirement:

- The rate at which energy is consumed
- This rate can be at a point in time (“instantaneous”) or averaged over a period of time (“average”)
- Base unit of measure is watt (W), but more commonly measured in kilowatts (kW) or megawatts (MW)

Mr. Fusco reviews the analysis of residential customer preferences. He said that survey results show that customers want reliable electric service, good value for the cost of electricity, good communication from their energy providers, and that the energy companies are responsible stewards of the environment. Mr. Hites said the Town will be participating in the retail customer survey that ElectriCities provides.

Mr. Fusco reviewed the NC Carbon Plan (HB 951) and the three options that Duke Energy proposes to comply:

#### Option #1

- Includes a resource mix that hits 70% target by 2030 (as required)
- 8.4 GW coal retired by 2035
- Heavy dependence on battery storage for dispatch requirements

#### Option #2

- Includes a resource mix that hits 70% target by 2033 (delaying statutory requirement)
- 8.4 GW coal retired by 2038
- More dependence on natural gas resources and small modular nuclear

#### Option #3

- Includes a resource mix that hits 70% target by 2035 (delaying statutory requirement)
- 8.4 GW coal retired by 2038
- More dependence on natural gas resources and small modular nuclear

Mr. Fusco said that there are several impacts of the Carbon Plan, both financial and to the operation of the grid:

- Delaying the 70% requirement significantly reduces financial impact to customers
- Utilizing cleaner conventional resources (gas) proves to be more cost effective than depending on batteries

- Utility bills may be up to 40% higher by the mid 2030s resulting from the law
- Grid edge technologies and non-dispatchable renewables make operating the grid more challenging
- Increased solar adoption has resulted in the “duck curve”
- More drastic load swings over shorter periods of time
- Higher actual demand once the sun sets
- Infringement on baseload generation can cause prices to go negative

There was much discussion about Advanced Metering Infrastructure.

#### **D. PARTNERING WITH WCU FACULTY TO INCORPORATE ACADEMIC LEARNING IN TOW INITIATIVES**

Board Member Henderson reported that his colleague at WCU has students that need to complete a community engaged project. He said the proposed statement of work for said project has six objectives for students regarding urban tree canopies. He said the students would complete tree ordinance research and evaluation as well as evaluation of the town’s current canopy. Board Member Henderson added they would also complete community surveys. He said after their project is completed, the ESB could then apply for the NC Forestry grant.

#### **E. NREL UPDATE(S): SLOPE ANALYSIS REVIEW, ETC.**

Chairman Hite requested that they table this discussion.

#### **F. ECOFAIR AT GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH ON 8/17**

Chairman Hite reported that the EcoFair is this Saturday.

#### **G. ESB VACANCIES**

Chairman Hite reported that there are two vacancies and Price Berryhill will be applying.

#### **H. OTHER BUSINESS**

Board Member Kayler reported that she attended a zoom call to discuss a state funding readiness contract that helps with federal grant funding (IRA), workforce development, stakeholder engagement, and application preparation and budgets. She said they are based out of D.C. and they help disadvantaged communities such as Waynesville get funding.

#### **I. ADJOURN**

***A motion was made by Board Member Henderson, seconded by Board Member Keshaviah, to adjourn the meeting at 6:17pm. The motion passed unanimously.***

ATTEST:

---

William Hite, Board Chair

---

Candace Poolton, Town Clerk