

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY BOARD

Special Meeting May 9th, 2025

The Waynesville Environmental Sustainability Board met on Thursday, May 9th, 2025 at 4:30 p.m. in the Public Services Training Room located at 129 Legion Drive Waynesville, NC.

Members present:

William Hite (Chair)
Reid Conway (Vice-Chair)
Paul Carlson
Betsy Wall
Aparna Keshaviah
Pric Berryhill
Kay Kirkman
Buffy Queen
Kipp Sutton
Chuck Dickson
David Henderson
Mary Kayler C
Case Brown (alternate)

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman William Hite called meeting to order at 4:35 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF 04/03/2025 MINUTES

A motion was made by Board Member Carlson and seconded by Board Member Henderson to approve the minutes from the April 3rd, 2025 meeting as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

3. MISSION, VISION, AND VALUES DISCUSSION

Vice-Chair Conway reported that eight members submitted votes for the ESB mission statements from the list of draft statements. After Board discussion of the top four scoring statements, suggested changes will be incorporated for further review. Next, he and Board Member Sutton will proceed with a similar exercise to develop Vision and Values statements for the ESB.

4. COMMUNITIES LOCAL ENERGY ACTION PROGRAM (C-LEAP) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT UPDATE

Board Member Keshaviah said that analyses of community energy use are expected to be delivered by the end of June and will be useful in the grant preparation for a funding opportunity through Dogwood Health Trust: *Improving the Community post-Helene*. She said that proposals are due at the end of June, project funding ranges from \$ 50,000-\$500,000 and span a 12-24 month period. Board Member Keshaviah said that an information webinar about the funding will be available next week titled “Collaboration, Innovation”. Board Member Keshaviah identified two potential energy-related projects for consideration. She said the Board needs to select the most appropriate project for this proposal by the next board meeting.

5. COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP: C-LEAP SUBGRANT TO ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION COMMUNITY OF WESTERN NC (EAC)

Website: Board Member Sutton reported that a website designer is developing that information will be available on the Town website within the next two weeks. There will eventually be linkages to other parts of the Town website, hyperlinks to other organizations, volunteer links, interactive maps, etc. The information will be regularly updated by the Town Clerk.

Volunteer Training: The first cohort of volunteers will finish training next week and be available to give presentations to public organizations. The objective is to help integrate the Town’s goals of embracing best energy practices through community education and involvement. A second cohort of volunteers will begin a training program in July.

Climate Interactive Presentation: Board Member Walls reported that EAC will be hosting Andrew Jones, Co-Founder and Executive Director of Climate Interactive on Thursday, May 15th at the Terrace Hotel Auditorium, Lake Junaluska. He will present a climate simulator model to demonstrate different solutions to climate challenges. Chuck Dickson, Waynesville Town Councilman, will discuss current energy efficiency planning at this event.

6. SOUTHEASTERN SUSTAINABILITY DIRECTORS NETWORK

Board member Sutton identified a regional organization, *Southeastern Sustainability Directors Network*, which could be beneficial to a new Town employee involved in sustainability issues. The annual cost of membership is \$300. A web link will be provided to Board members for review.

7. URBAN ECOLOGY: UPDATES AND TOWN TREE ORDINANCE WORK

Board member Kirkman reported that the Urban Ecology group plans to review proposed revisions to the Town Tree Ordinance for discussion with Town Manager Rob Hites. She will provide a draft to the sub-group for discussion by the next Board meeting.

8. CLEAN FUEL ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY (CFAT) PROJECT GRANT FOR TOWN OF WAYNESVILLE

Chairman Hite reported that a proposal for a 400 kW DC Fast EV car charging station in Hazelwood for \$ 500,000 was submitted to CFAT by the Town of Waynesville in April. Proposals are being reviewed and project funding awards will be announced next month.

9. STATE ENERGY CONFERENCE IMPRESSIONS

Board members Dickson, Walls, Sutton, Hite and Reid attended the State Energy Conference this month in Raleigh, NC. They reported on excellent, informative technical sessions and came away with a sense that the State of NC is strongly committed to clean energy and energy efficiency. These attendees will formally summarize their thoughts and ideas relevant to local actions and opportunities.

10.ELECTRICAL VEHICLE SUPPLY EQUIPMENT (EVSE) IN COUNTY PARKING DECK IN WAYNESVILLE: A HAYWOOD TDA CAPITAL FUND OPPORTUNITY

Board members Dickson and Hite reported on the opportunity for the TOW to seek funding for electrical vehicle chargers for the Parking Deck in Waynesville (owned by the County), through the Haywood County Tourism Development Authority (TDA). The Capital Fund Opportunity targets infrastructure improvements that can enhance tourism. Project proposals are due in July.

11.OTHER BUSINESS

Board member Sutton reported that May 23rd is a community event, *Strive Not to Drive*. A biking group will convene at 7:00 p.m. at Frog Level called Brew and Bikes for a ride and social. He encouraged Board members to participate.

12. THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 6:00 P.M.

Submitted by Kay Kirkman, Board Member

William Hite, Chairman