



ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY BOARD

Regular Meeting- March 6th, 2025

The Waynesville Environmental Sustainability Board held a special meeting on Thursday, March 6th, 2024, at 4:30 pm. in the Public Services Training Room located at 129 Legion Drive Waynesville, NC.

Members present:

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

Members Absent:

Staff Members Present:

Ricky Bourne, Public Services Director
Julie Grasty, Asset Services Manager

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman William Hite called the meeting to order at 4:34pm.

B. APPROVAL OF 2/6/2025 MEETING MINUTES

Board Member Wall requested that the last sentence of the minutes under Urban Ecology be removed.

A motion was made by Board Member Carlson, seconded by Board Member Sutton, to approve the minutes from the February 6th, 2025 meeting as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

C. C-LEAP TA UPDATE

Board Member Keshaviah reported that the Scope of Work has five tasks that comprise the scope of work: two involve technical analysis and three relate to community engagement and community resources. She said they are collecting data and moving forward. She said one deliverable will be ready by this summer, and the second one will be ready by fall.

D. COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP: EAC AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Board Member Wall reported that she and Board Members Sutton, and Hite met with Mountain Projects to discuss Energy Saver NC. She said Mountain Projects did not seem to know much about the program. She said the work has been contracted out from NCDEQ to EverBlue. Board Member Wall said in the meeting with Mountain Projects, they discussed how the ESB could help start the Energy Savers NC project and popularize it within the community. She said Mountain Projects shared they had massive budget cuts. Board Member Wall said the EAC sent out communication to the community regarding the C-LEAP grant and potential volunteer opportunities moving forward.

E. URBAN ECOLOGY UPDATES

Board Member Kirkman said she met with Board Member Henderson and Sarah Parsons, an advisor at WCU, and the project will be completed in May. She said if the Board would like to hear the findings of the project, they can present at the April meeting. She said they will be looking at a canopy change over a 10-year period and identifying parts of the Town that have possible planting opportunities. She said that there has been a huge spongy moth infestation in the Maggie Valley area, and there is a plan to do an aerial biocontrol treatment, but that is dependent on federal funding. She said the infestation could be devastating to forests. She encouraged ESB Members to write letters to the legislators in support of the aerial spraying. Board Member Dickson reported that the Cemetery Master Plan involves some horticulture work, and he recommended to Council that the ESB may like to assist. Ms. Grasty added that the plan did include establishing a tree inventory.

F. REPORT ON RHINO RENEWABLES ZOOM MEETING FOR TOW SOLAR ARRAYS AND EVSE

Chairman Hite reported that they are looking at installing solar at the Rec Center, so this meeting was about the logistics and impact of having solar energy in the town. Board Member Dickson said it was recommended that a new roof gets installed on the Rec Center before solar panels are installed, which would cost \$100,000. Chairman Hite discussed the possibility of installing more EV chargers at the Rec Center.

G. REPORT ON LAND OF SKY MEETING WITH IAN BAILLIE: IDENTIFYING OPPORTUNITIES

Chairman Hite said he met with Ian Baillie to identify funding opportunities for Waynesville. He said they are not going to fund solar because our population is too large. He said that Ian said

they are envisioning mobile solar, mobile battery storage, and mobile communications to be used in a disaster event.

H. CLEAN FUEL ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY (CFAT) PROJECT GRANT FOR TOW

Chairman Hite reported that the CFAT project is state funded, and they are looking for partners to apply to put out advanced level 3 DC charging. He said they are looking at placing four of those chargers in the Hazelwood Parking Lot, and it wouldn't cost the town anything. He said the parking lot is leased, which could be a hiccup. Board Member Dickson said the landlord does seem interested though. Chairman Hite said people would have to pay to use the chargers.

I. EVSE IN COUNTY PARKING DECK IN WAYNESVILLE--A HAYWOOD TDA CAPITAL FUND OPPORTUNITY

Board Member Dickson said the Haywood County TDA is offering grants for Capital Projects. He suggested EVSE in the courthouse parking garage.

J. ESB MISSION, VISION, GOALS UPDATE

Vice Chair Conway reported that he and Board Member Sutton put together a list of about 16 mission statements for the ESB to read through and pick their top three favorites. He will bring back the top three choices at a later meeting.

K. OTHER BUSINESS

Board Member Dickson asked the ESB if there's anything they want him to discuss with Council at their annual planning retreat. He said if there any asks from staff for new vehicles, they will be sure to look at electric options. Board Member Dickson said that Rob Hites is working on the job description for the staff member that will replace Julie Grasty. Board Member Henderson asked for an update on smart meter reading.

L. ADJOURN

A motion was made by Vice Chair Conway, seconded by Board Member Henderson, to adjourn the meeting at 5:39pm. The motion passed unanimously.

ATTEST:

William Hite, Board Chair

Candace Poolton, Town Clerk