



ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY BOARD

Regular Meeting- June 5th, 2025

The Waynesville Environmental Sustainability Board held a special meeting on Thursday, June 5th, 2025, 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
Aparna Keshaviah
Price Berryhill
Kay Kirkman
Buffy Queen
Kipp Sutton
Chuck Dickson
David Henderson

Members Absent:

Reid Conway (Vice Chair)
Betsy Wall
Mary Kayler

Staff Members Present:

Rob Hites, Town Manager
Candace Poolton, Town Clerk

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman William Hite called the meeting to order at 4:32pm.

B. PRESENTATION OF SUSTAINABILITY WEBPAGES-Kipp Sutton

Board Member Kipp Sutton presented the preview of the Sustainability webpage on the Town's website. The ESB agreed to make the website live next week after a couple of updates.

C. APPROVAL OF 5/8/2025 MEETING MINUTES

Board Member Keshaviah requested to strike from the minutes, "Board Member Keshaviah reported that the DOE Technical Assistance group will probably be terminated by September 30 due to personnel layoffs".

A motion was made by Board Member Henderson, seconded by Board Member Berryhill, to approve the minutes from the May 8th, 2025 meeting as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

D. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Hite reported that there is a greenway tour on June 6th at 10am. He also reported that an NREL consultant sent out an invitation for a webinar about grid resilience and planning for severe storms in the south and southeast for June 16th, 2-5pm.

E. C-LEAP TA UPDATE AND DOGWOOD COLLABORATION AND INNOVATION GRANT DISCUSSION AND SELECTION OF PROJECT

Board Member Keshaviah reported that they met with the technical consultant, and they have prepared some internal analysis. Mr. Hites explained that the new solar rider sits on top of any existing rate. Mr. Hites said there are five to seven years left on the life of the rec center roof, but they would like to replace the roof before placing solar on it. He said the loan for the roof and solar panels would be almost half a million dollars. Mr. Hites reminded the ESB that the public works building is ready to have solar installed this budget year. Board Member Keshaviah said the Dogwood Innovation grant could help pay for a solar installation on the rec center roof, solar panels and a battery backup, or just the battery. She suggested pitching the rec center as a resilience hub for the grant. She said it may be too premature to apply for the solar, so she suggested the battery. She said the application is simple, but the battery idea may not fit into one of their four categories. She said the application is due June 27th. Mr. Hites said that Board Member Dickson could discuss the grant application with Council at the next meeting. Mr. Hites identified the Haywood County EMS and Haywood Waterways as possible community partners.

A motion was made Board Member Henderson, seconded by Board Member Carlson to apply for a \$500,000 from Dogwood Health Trust for solar and batteries for a command center at the public works building. The motion passed unanimously.

F. COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP: C-LEAP SUBGRANT TO EAC UPDATE

Board Member Sutton reported that the Community Engagement Event is July 23rd. He added that the volunteer training program, as part of the grant with the EAC, is completed for Cohort 1 and they just started Cohort 2 this week. He said they will finish training in a few weeks. Board Member Sutton said that Brad Rouse with Energy Savers Network of Buncombe County will be presenting to the cohorts on the 12th.

Board Member Wall reported that she met with Hailey on March 18th to discuss what NREL can do to engage the public. She said Hailey recommended there be a community meeting with local organizations on April 24th for four hours. Board Member Wall said they would provide information on the technical award process and ask the organizations if Helene has shifted their goals.

G. SOUTHEASTERN SUSTAINABILITY DIRECTORS NETWORK

Board Member Sutton reported that the Southeastern Sustainability Directors Network is compiled of Sustainability Directors that work for municipal governments. He suggested that the new hire could join this professional network.

A motion was made Board Member Sutton, seconded by Board Member Henderson to recommend that the Town joins the Southeastern Sustainability Directors Network. The motion passed unanimously.

H. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Hites reported that the town made an offer for the Director of Sustainability position.

Board Member Carlson reminded the board to decide on their top favorite mission and values for the ESB so they can decide at the next meeting when Vice Chair Conway is present.

I. TEAM BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Board Members broke out into subgroups- Electric Transportation, Urban Ecology, and Energy.

J. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30pm.

ATTEST:

William Hite, Board Chair

Candace Poolton, Town Clerk