



## ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY BOARD

### Regular Meeting- July 3rd, 2025

The Waynesville Environmental Sustainability Board held a special meeting on Thursday, July 3rd, 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  
Kay Kirkman  
Chuck Dickson  
Reid Conway (Vice Chair)  
Betsy Wall  
Mary Kayler

#### Members Absent:

David Henderson  
Buffy Queen  
Price Berryhill  
Kipp Sutton

#### Staff Members Present:

Rob Hites, Town Manager

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

Chairman William Hite called the meeting to order at 4:35pm.

#### **B. APPROVAL OF 6/5/2025 MEETING MINUTES**

*A motion was made by Vice Chair Conway, seconded by Board Member Carlson, to approve the minutes from the June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025 meeting as presented. The motion passed unanimously.*

#### **C. MISSION, VISION, VALUES UPDATE**

Vice Chair Conway introduced Vision statements in handout form for the board to review, revise, and synthesize for the next meeting.

#### **D. OPPORTUNITIES: ESB TABLE FOR THE PIGEON RIVER FEST**

Board Member Wall suggested that the ESB might attend this event and staff a table with TOW ESB members to showcase our work to greater Haywood County. Discussion ensued, and concern was raised that a critical mass of ESB volunteers for the event could not be achieved. Councilman Dickson raised the possibility that the ESB could present at a Haywood County level council of government (COG) and perhaps also at the Southwest Commission COG. Town Manager Hites added that the Haywood COG had not met since Helene, but that it was likely to resume a regular schedule in the near future. Discussion closed with agreement that speaking to formal gatherings of elected officials would be beneficial.

#### **E. C-LEAP UPDATE**

Board Member Keshaviah reported that the NREL monthly meeting had been pushed to July 17 for the purpose of awaiting deliverables from the NREL technical team.

#### **F. DOGWOOD COLLABORATION AND INNOVATION GRANT SUBMISSION REPORT**

Board Member Keshaviah reported that the Dogwood grant had been submitted by deadline; she also summarized the grant application for the ESB, stating that the ESB had shifted its prioritization to photovoltaics (PV) plus battery storage at the Public Works Building. She described the proposed budget and answered questions from other board members about the project.

#### **G. COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP: C-LEAP SUBGRANT TO EAC UPDATE**

Board Member Wall updated the ESB about the second community engagement event to take place on July 23, 2025, with the town's NREL consultants. Posters, slides, and agenda for the event were discussed, as well as, those organizations in the community that were being invited. Board Member Wall also updated the ESB about Board Member Sutton's efforts to train volunteer cohorts to present to the greater community on topics such as climate change, and mitigation and adaptation opportunities through energy efficiency, renewable energy, and electric transportation.

#### **H. URBAN ECOLOGY UPDATE**

Board Member Kirkman brought to the ESB's attention an opportunity for the town to receive arborist training through the North Carolina Forest Service (NCFS). Town Manager Hites identified possible town employees who could benefit from such training. Board Member Kirkman then shared a draft for a tree ordinance, and discussion ensued about the creation of a tree board, specifically whether a tree board should be free standing and independent or whether it should be a subcommittee of the ESB. Councilman Dickson and Board Member Carlson expressed concerns about administrative burden to the town if the board were free standing. However, given that such a board would meet quarterly, concern was largely assuaged about administrative

burden. Board Member Kirkman is to meet with Town Manager Hites to discuss a tree ordinance and tree board further and report back to the ESB.

**I. OTHER BUSINESS**

Chairman Hite reported no update to the decision of awards for the Clean Fuel Alternative Technology (CFAT) grants from the NC Clean Energy Technology Center. The TOW's application is for 4 400kW DCFC EVSE at the Hazelwood business district parking lot.

Chairman Hite reported that he is donating approximately 20% of the cost of six 9.6kW Level 2 EV chargers at TOW's tennis courts. Project takeoffs and site assessment has been completed by Rhino Renewables and toured by members of the ESB and town staff previously. Chairman Hite and Councilman Dickson to meet with Town Manager Hites to discuss project timeline.

**J. ADJOURN**

*The meeting was adjourned at 6:20pm.*

ATTEST:

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William Hite, Board Chair

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Candace Poolton, Town Clerk