

**OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL  
ASSISTANCE AND  
PROTECTION**

**MINOR BARNETTE  
DIRECTOR**



**ENVIRONMENTAL  
ASSISTANCE AND  
PROTECTION ADVISORY  
BOARD**

**CHAIRMAN  
BRENT S. ROCKETT**

**VICE CHAIRMAN  
NICOLE CHILES**

**SUSAN E. APPT  
GAYLE S. GOLDSMITH  
REID W. HUTCHINS  
JOE MANNUZZA  
CHARLES E. WILSON**

**ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**

The Forsyth County Environmental Assistance and Protection Advisory Board met on January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. in the BER Meeting Room, 201 North Chestnut St. Winston-Salem, NC and via online meeting, through the Microsoft Teams platform.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Brent S. Rockett    Nicole Chiles    Gayle Goldsmith

Reid Hutchins    Joe Mannuzza    Charles Wilson

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Susan Appt

**FCOEAP PRESENT:** Minor Barnette    Steven Lyda    Valerie Shores    Dana Wade

**I. Call to Order**

Mr. Rockett called the meeting to order. Mr. Barnette announced a roll call to verify the attendance, virtually and in-person, of the Advisory Board members.

## **II. Approval of the October 18, 2023 Advisory Board Meeting Minutes:**

Mr. Barnette opened the discussion for a motion to approve the October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023 meeting minutes. Mr. Rockett made a motion to accept the meeting minutes. Mr. Hutchins seconded the motion. All members in attendance approved. The motion passed.

## **III. Director's Update**

Mr. Barnette informed the Advisory Board of the air quality permitting program permit fees increase. The increase is due to the board of commissioners directed that our permit fees need to always stay aligned with the state fees. Air permit fees increased by 5.4%.

Mr. Barnette updated the board on the staff changes, starting with the CAP group. One Specialist was promoted to Sr. Specialist. Which now leaves the Specialist position open. The CH team did have a Specialist resign back in December, however we have a good candidate for that position that Mr. Barnette has recommended to the HR department to receive an offer for employment. We still have a Data Specialist position open in the LASS team that we do hope to fill in the near future. Mr. Barnette, introduced Dana Wade to the Advisory Board as the new Sr. Office Assistant.

Mr. Barnette spoke of the Carolina Air Pollution Control Association annual fall meeting in October. Telling the board member about the topics of discussion was the imminent change to the Nation Ambient Air Quality Standards for particulate matter. Currently the annual standard for PM 2.5 is 12 micrograms per cubic meter. It is now recommending the standard be more protective in the range of 9-10 micrograms of fine particulate matter per cubic meter.

Mr. Barnette made known the request for qualification process to identify a qualified company to install the photovoltaic solar system is complete. The company's name is Renu Energy Solutions. This project's first phase will be limited to the funding approved in the 2022 Pay-Go capital project ordinance in the amount of \$100,000. Also mentioned was another project in the works, the engineering design for the first two electric vehicle charging infrastructure projects is 98% complete. One of the two being here at the Government Center parking deck and the second one being on the surface lot at the Health and Human Services campus on Highland Ave.

Mr. Barnette brought up something new that is being worked on: the first draft of a written plan titled Strategic Energy Management Plan. Primary focal points are clean energy, energy efficiency improvement, clean energy generation which will mostly be all solar, including transportation and landscape maintenance equipment. Mr. Barnette stated he has submitted written question to the Office of Budget and Policy Priorities to ask if electric lawn mowers would meet the definition of mobile machinery. He is currently waiting to hear back from her.

Mr. Barnette did inform the board that the Kernersville Convenience Center reopened November 07, with normal operating hours.

**IV. Other Business**

Mr. Barnette confirmed there was no other business.

**V. Next Tentative Quarterly Meeting:**

The next tentative meeting is scheduled for April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

**Location:** BER Meeting Room, 201 North Chestnut St. Winston-Salem, N.C. and via online Microsoft Teams platform.

**VI. Adjournment**

Mr. Rockett entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Rockett motioned to adjourn. Ms. Goldsmith seconded the motion. Mr. Rockett asked for a voice vote to signify all in favor to adjourn the meeting. All members agreed to the motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned.

**Dated:** 2/27/2024 *Minor Barnette* Minor Barnette, Director

**Approved:** *Brent S. Rockett* Brent S. Rockett, Chairman