

AGENDA

Orange County Commission for the Environment January 14th, 2019 7:30 p.m.

West Campus Office Building, Room 302, 131 West Margaret Lane, Hillsborough

- | <u>Time</u> | <u>Item</u> | <u>Title</u> |
|-------------|-------------|--|
| 7:30 | I. | Call to Order |
| 7:32 | II. | Additions or Changes to Agenda |
| 7:35 | III. | Approval of Draft Minutes – November 12th 2018
The CFE will consider approval of minutes from the last meeting. <u>Action needed</u> (Attachment 1) |
| 7:40 | IV. | CFE Officer Election
Members will elect Officers to serve until November 2019. |
| 7:55 | V. | BOCC Agenda Abstract Environmental Impact
Staff will lead a discussion concerning options to recommend to the BOCC for consideration of environmental impacts on agenda abstracts. |
| 8:25 | VI. | Committee Meetings
CFE Committees will meet to discuss issues and indicators for the 2019 State of the Environment report. |
| 8:55 | VII. | Updates and Information Items
Staff and/or CFE members will provide updates on the following items: <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Continuing Action Items from previous CFE meetings:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Divestment Resolution Update○ Idle Reduction Petition Update➤ Updates:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Calendar of 2019 Meetings (Attachment 2)○ Adopted Pollinator Resolution (Attachment 3)➤ <i>Any other new information from CFE members and staff</i> |
| 9:00 | VIII. | Adjournment <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Next Meeting: February 11th, Southern Human Services Center, 2501 Homestead Road, Chapel Hill</i> |

CFE Meeting Ground Rules (*Adopted 9/12/11*)

1. Keep to agenda topic under discussion
2. Share relevant information
3. One person speaks at a time after recognition by the Chair
4. Everyone is invited to participate in discussions/no one person should dominate discussions
5. Strive to reach consensus first before voting

Activities the CFE expects to carry out in 2018:

- Continue to plan for and prepare the 2019 State of the Environment report
- Continue to prepare articles on environmental issues of importance to Orange County, including climate change, energy conservation, and other important topics.
- Recommend ways to reduce the County's "carbon footprint" and ways to implement the County's Environmental Responsibility Goal (BOCC Priority #10)
- Participate in a County effort to identify and preserve important landscape corridors that connect significant natural areas and open space (BOCC Priority #1)
- Co-sponsor the annual DEAPR photography contest (*The Nature of Orange*).
- Participate in the County's annual Earth Evening event.

Concerns or emerging issues the CFE has identified for 2018:

- Water Supply – Strive to educate county residents about their source of water, especially those residents utilizing groundwater for their supply.
- Request the BOCC sign on to the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, which includes committing to completing a greenhouse gas inventory within a year. Upon signing, the committee will assist staff, as appropriate, with the associated Greenhouse Gas inventory update and climate action planning.
- The CFE will continue to learn about environmental justice matters and incorporate relevant information and considerations in the next State of the Environment report (2019) and its other activities.
- Develop plan for researching potential environmental impacts of the rural buffer.
- Develop methodology for monitoring changes in forest cover/land cover in Orange County and also tie into the "No Net Loss of Tree Canopy" petition.

Orange County Commission for the Environment

Draft Meeting Summary

November 12, 2018

Richard Whitted Building, 300 Tryon Street, Hillsborough

Present: Bradley Saul (Chair), Bill Ward, Jim Eichel, Jeremy Marzuola, Jody Eimers, Lynne Gronback, Matt Crook, Carrie Fletcher

Absent: Bill Kaiser (Vice Chair), Alan Parry, Kim Piracci, Laura Doherty, Will Stanley, Bill Newby

Staff: Brennan Bouma, Kim Livingston, David Stancil

- I. **Call to Order** – Saul called the meeting to order at 7:35.
- II. **Additions or Changes to Agenda** – None
- III. **Approval of Draft Minutes from October 8, 2018** – The minutes were approved unanimously following a motion to do so as offered by Eichel and seconded by Eimers.

IV. **CFE Annual Report and Related Items**

Staff led a discussion on the draft annual report and opportunities for CFE members to serve as liaisons with the Orange County Orange Unified Transportation Board (OUTBoard) and Intergovernmental Parks Work Group (IPWG) advisory boards, as well as the annual election of CFE officers in December.

Gronback expressed interest in serving as the IPWG liaison, which meets twice per year. Marzuola expressed interest in serving as one of the OUTBoard liaisons, which meets monthly, if there can be more than one representative who shares the responsibility. Livingston will report back in December on the rules for liaisons.

Marzuola asked how many terms the Chair and Vice Chair can serve. Livingston reported that the Chair and Vice Chair can serve three consecutive terms. Both the current Chair and Vice Chair could serve again if elected.

V. **BOCC Agenda Abstract Environmental Impact Consideration**

Staff led a discussion concerning the BOCC request for consideration of the possible environmental impacts of agenda items. Stancil gave an overview and explained that each agenda abstract contains a financial and social impact of the agenda item and now the BOCC is requesting each item be evaluated for its

potential environmental impact. Stancil stressed that the evaluation needs to be concise to fit within the two page agenda item abstract. Bouma reviewed attachment 5 and explained that the CFE needs to come up with a model example, a few sentences for BOCC abstracts, five or six environmental impact measures, and a short narrative explaining the measures. Bouma suggested that it should be in open response format, thematic or qualitative in nature, and usable for the layperson.

Crook suggested that there could be a liaison for each department who is trained in environmental impacts. This liaison could then serve as the support staff for each agenda abstract drafter in the corresponding department. The CFE could train the liaisons and serve as support for that staff person.

Stancil suggested that the template prompt could say “further the environmental goal by...” as to not create a list that could be cut and pasted to the agenda abstract, which BOCC has said they do not want.

Saul suggested that an item could have a negative impact. He further suggested that a checklist could be used as a first cut that follows with a more informative narrative. Gronback offered that she liked a decision tree approach. Eichel suggested that the agenda abstract could have referendum references with more information. Marzuola stated that he liked Attachment B of the agenda Attachment 5 because it provided the most useful information.

Bouma suggested the CFE review a draft of the environmental impacts at the December meeting. Bouma will run test with the draft environmental impacts with sample agenda items.

VI. SOE 2019 Update

Staff led a discussion concerning the updated SOE timeline, event planning and possible partners, and in-house graphics capabilities.

Gronback and Fletcher agreed to be on the SOE events committee. Livingston explained that the SOE rollout event could possibly be in collaboration with other entities such as Triangle Land Conservancy, Eno River Association, and the Eno-New Hope Conservation Collaborative. The event could go beyond the SOE and include such things as the Eno-New Hope Landscape Corridor Plan.

Livingston described the types of graphics Orange County could provide for the SOE report which includes a printed booklet, infographics, and brochure. Multiple CFE members expressed their interest in wanting the SOE to be an interactive webpage with imbedded links to more content rather than printed materials.

VII. Committee Meetings

CFE Committees met to discuss the 2019 State of the Environment report. Committees discussed their indicator issue selections and progress by the assigned committee members on the indicators related to these issues.

VIII. Updates and Information Items

Staff and CFE members provided updates on the following items:

Continued action items from pervious CFE meetings

- Orange County Legislative Message
- Rural Buffer Research/Community Viz
- Divestment Resolution
- Idle Reduction Petition

Updates:

- I-40 Widening Project Public Comment Period
- IGPCCC Report Executive Summary
- Draft OWASA Approach for Management of Forested Lands

IX. Adjournment – Saul adjourned the meeting at 9:12 following the unanimous approval of a motion to adjourn the meeting which was offered by Crook and seconded by Fletcher.

Orange County COMMISSION FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

(updated December 20, 2018)

NAME HOME ADDRESS	POS #	DATE OF APPOINTMENT COMMITTEE (Representation)	TERM ENDS	TELEPHONE E-MAIL	TOWNSHIP OF RESIDENCE
Jody Eimers 3120 Landeau Dr. Hillsborough NC 27	#1	02/06/18 Water Resources (At Large)	12/31/20	919-245-8442 Joleslie98@aol.com	Eno
Laura Doherty 612 Sugarberry Road Chapel Hill, NC 27514	#10	02/06/2018 Air & Energy Resources (At Large)	12/31/20	919-260-8808 ljdooherty@earthlink.net	Chapel Hill
Lynne Gronback 2420 Sunnyfield Court Hillsborough, NC 27278	#14	3/17/15, 12/15/15 & 12/18/18 Land Resources (At Large)	12/31/21	919-219-3219 Lgronback@gmail.com	Bingham
#5		(Water Resources)	12/31/21		
Jeremy Marzuola 705 W. Main Street, Unit D Carrboro, NC 27510	#11	12/13/16 & 12/4/17 Land Resources (At Large)	12/31/20	510-435-9685 jmarzuola@gmail.com	Chapel Hill
William Newby 2821 Becketts Ridge Road Hillsborough, NC 27278	#2	5/20/14 & 12/13/16 Air & Energy Resources (Air Quality)	12/31/19	919-541-5296 newby.william007@gmail.com	Hillsborough
Will Stanley 201 Alabama Avenue Carrboro, NC 27510	#7	10/3/2017 Water Resources (At Large)	12/31/19	919-714-9455 stanlwi@gmail.com	Chapel Hill
Kim Piracci 101 Flamingo Rd. Durham, NC 27705	#9	12/4/17 Air & Energy Resources (At Large)	12/31/20	919-260-3686 piraccik@gmail.com	Eno
Alan Parry 210 Oxford Hills Drive Chapel Hill, NC 27514	#6	12/13/16 Air & Energy Resources (At Large)	12/31/19	919-523-7521 aparry@ptwfirm.com	Chapel Hill
Bradley Saul (Chair) 1329 Beechwood Lane Chapel Hill, NC 27516	#15	10/3/2017 & 12/18/18 Land Resources (At Large)	12/31/21	707-360-8511 bradleysaul@gmail.com	Chapel Hill
Carrie Fletcher 6420 Sykes Glen Trail Mebane, NC 27302	#8	5/1/18 Land Resources (At Large)	12/31/19	919-304-0666 Carriefletcher1@yahoo.com	Bingham
#3		(Land Resources)	12/31/20		
Matt Crook 105 Barrington Hill Rd Chapel Hill, NC 27516	#13	3/7/17 & 12/18/18 Air & Energy Resources (At Large)	12/31/21	704-965-5406 crookm@gmail.com	Chapel Hill
James Eichel 621 Tinkerbelle Lane Chapel Hill, NC 27517	#12	5/1/18 & 12/18/18 Air & Energy Resources (Engineer)	12/31/21	919-818-7622 jimeichel@gmail.com	Chapel Hill
Bill Ward 107 Forest Ridge Drive Chapel Hill, NC 27514	#4	11/02/17 Air & Energy Resources (Biological Resources)	12/31/19	919-960-2587 sandbward@mindspring.com	Chapel Hill
David Stancil Tom Davis Brennan Bouma Kim Livingston	245-2522 245-2513 245-2626 245-2514	Director, Dept. of Environment, Agriculture, Parks & Rec. Water Resources Coordinator Sustainability Coordinator Land Resources Manager		dstancil@orangecountync.gov tdavis@orangecountync.gov bbouma@orangecountync.gov Klivingston@orangecountync.gov	

ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION

Adopt Best Management Practices for Roadsides and Utility Rights-of-Way that Benefit Pollinators and Native Plants in Orange County, NC

WHEREAS, in a 2012 resolution the BOCC committed “to the conservation of roadside wildflowers along the roadways of Orange County;” and

WHEREAS, the roadsides and utility rights-of-way of Orange County support numerous plant species that only occur in these open habitats such as the locally rare Indian paintbrush and yellow-fringed orchid; and

WHEREAS, the vegetation in roadsides and utility rights-of-way are an important resource for maintaining biodiversity in native pollinators such as wild bees; and

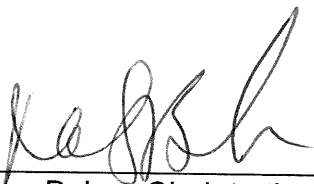
WHEREAS, many scientific studies support the conclusion that wild pollinator biodiversity enhances agricultural productivity; and

WHEREAS, improper vegetation management, such as poorly timed or indiscriminate use of herbicides may harm some rare plant species, reduce pollinator and wildlife habitat, and detract from the aesthetic value of our colorful and extraordinary roadsides; and

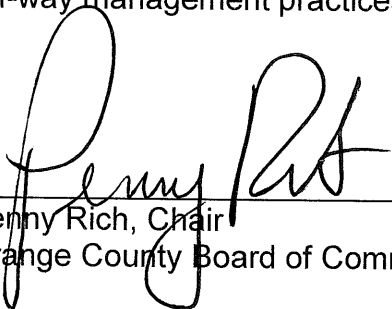
WHEREAS, best practices for maintaining habitat and safe roads are available such as the “Roadside Best Management Practices that Benefit Pollinators” publication by the Federal Highway Administration and Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Orange County Board of Commissioners recommend that all roadsides and rights-of-way be managed using best practices that benefit native pollinators and native wildflowers, such as minimizing the use of herbicides, and do hereby authorize the Commission for the Environment and County staff to work with the North Carolina Botanical Garden to encourage the NC Department of Transportation, utility companies, and property owners to plan, implement, and study such roadside and rights-of-way management practices.

This the 11th day of December, 2018.



Donna Baker, Clerk to the Board



Penny Rich, Chair
Orange County Board of Commissioners