

**OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL
ASSISTANCE AND
PROTECTION**

**MINOR BARNETTE
DIRECTOR**



**ENVIRONMENTAL
ASSISTANCE AND
PROTECTION BOARD**

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**FORSYTH COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL ASSISTANCE and PROTECTION
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**

The Forsyth County Environmental Assistance and Protection Advisory Board met on October 18, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. in the Board of Equalization and Review Room, Forsyth County Government Center, 201 North Chestnut Street, Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Peter DeVries Tommy Thompson
 Richard Sieg Beth Williams

MEMBERS ABSENT: Nathan Atkinson Jarrette Dineen
 Charles Wilson

FCOEAP PRESENT: Minor Barnette Bob Ragland
 Stephen Berry Michael Settle Valerie Shores

I. Call to Order:

Mr. DeVries called the meeting to order.

II. Approval of the Board Meeting Minutes:

Mr. DeVries opened the discussion to approve the July 19, 2016 meeting minutes. Mr. Thompson made a motion to accept. Mr. Sieg seconded the motion, all members of the Board in attendance approved.

III. Director's Update

Mr. Barnette discussed staffing changes and goals for the department. He introduced new employee, Stephen Berry.

Mr. Barnette informed the Advisory Board that the CO monitoring station at Peter's Creek Parkway has been closed. The equipment has been removed and the remaining building will be repurposed and relocated to the Hanes Mill Road Landfill.

Mr. Barnette discussed the challenges in preparing the Hanes Mill Road Landfill property for an on-site attendant who will work in the repurposed building. There are several permits pending for the \$18,000 in plumbing and waterline renovations which need to be made. A fire hydrant also has to be installed within 500 feet of the building that will house the attendant.

Mr. Barnette discussed the need to fulfill the grant requirements in order to receive the \$15,000 in funds for the compactor for comingled recyclables. This compactor will improve our overall operating costs. We want cost savings as well as quality improvements at the recycling centers. He estimated that we may have a 30-40% contamination level at the Hanes Mill Road recycling center from citizens depositing their household waste to recycling receptacles.

Mr. DeVries inquired about updates for Waste Industries and recycling in unincorporated areas in Forsyth County.

Mr. Barnette said the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners voted to adopt the proposed changes in the ordinance so that Forsyth County will no longer regulate curbside collection of recyclables in the unincorporated area, under the franchise ordinance. We also will not impede anyone from offering that service. We are eliminating the requirement for a franchise and we are rescinding the authority for the Board to control the rates that are charged for that service. And we are no longer going to assign or control service areas. We will return to the pre-2012 open market conditions that existed before the franchised voluntarily subscription service became available.

He said the main reason is because our participation rate is about 11% or less than 3,000 out of 22,000 households. The low participation is indicative of a lack of public interest in recycling collection service. There is diminished value in recyclable commodities and over 800 linear miles of roads to service in the unincorporated areas. The recycling trucks make 26 collections a year. It was an unsustainable business model for the current provider of recycling service in these areas. To be sustainable, recycling should be a universal service. This would benefit our county by extending the life of the landfill, conserving energy and preserving natural resources.

Mr. Barnette said we are deregulating recycling; Waste Industries will conclude service at the end of the 2016 calendar year. Then they will collect their carts. Citizens will still be able to utilize the 3 drop off centers in Forsyth County. We are considering locations for future drop off centers and other alternatives. We are hoping the tonnage of recyclables previously collected will shift to the drop off centers. It may be helpful to possibly add more recycling centers.

Mr. DeVries asked Mr. Barnette about revenue from recycling. Mr. Barnette explained the blended value per ton is less than \$80 and we get \$10 back per ton as commodity revenue rebate if it is over \$80 per ton. We get 30% that is in a contractual agreement. Operating costs are about \$140 per ton for what we are currently collecting at the recycling centers.

Compactors have the potential to save us a lot of money and costs per ton should go down significantly. Ms. Williams asked about the estimated timeframe to have the compactors on site. Mr. Barnette said we are hopeful we should see compaction of materials by January or February.

Mr. Barnette concluded the Director's update.

IV. Other Business

Mr. DeVries confirmed there was no other business.

V. Next Tentative Quarterly Meeting:

Date: January 17, 2017

Location: 201 North Chestnut St. Winston-Salem, N.C.

Board of Equalization and Review Room

VI. Peter DeVries adjourned the meeting.

Dated: Wm Barnette 1-17-2017 Minor Barnette, Director

Approved: Peter H. DeVries Peter H. DeVries, Chairman