

**OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL
ASSISTANCE AND
PROTECTION**

**MINOR BARNETTE
DIRECTOR**



**ENVIRONMENTAL
ASSISTANCE AND
PROTECTION BOARD**

**CHAIRMAN
RICHARD L. SIEG**

**VICE CHAIRMAN
BRENT ROCKETT**

**NATHAN ATKINSON
WILLIAM CROUSE
MARY BETH WILLIAMS
CHARLES E. WILSON
NICOLE MATHIS**

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

The Forsyth County Environmental Assistance and Protection Advisory Board met on July 21, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. in an online meeting through Google Meet.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

William Crouse
Brent Rockett
Mary Beth Williams

Charles E. Wilson
Richard Sieg
Nicole Mathis

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Nathan Atkinson

FEOEAP PRESENT:

Minor Barnette
Peter Lloyd
Michael Settle
Steven Lyda

Valerie Shores
Janice Hillanbrand
Amanda Severe

I. Call to Order

Richard Sieg called the meeting to order at 10:02 am.

II. Approval of the April 21, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes:

Mr. Sieg opened the discussion to approve the April 21, 2020 meeting minutes. Mr. Rockett

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made a motion to accept. Ms. Williams seconded the motion, all members of the Board in attendance approved.

III. New Member Introduction

Introductions were done for existing board members and new board member Nicole Mathis.

IV. Officer Elections

Mr. Rockett nominated Mr. Sieg for Chairman. Mr. Crouse made a motion to close nominations, seconded by Mr. Rockett. Mr. Sieg was elected as Chairman by unanimous present vote. Mr. Sieg nominated Mr. Rockett for Vice Chairman. Ms. Williams moved to close nominations, seconded by Ms. Mathis. Mr. Rockett was elected as Vice Chairman by unanimous present vote.

V. Director's Update

Due to continuing COVID-19 concerns almost all of the staff is working remotely full-time. The Environmental Specialist vacancy is still open in Community Hygiene, and one position has been reclassified and filled as a Data Specialist. This new position is responsible for building and maintaining databases, regulatory, and administrative data. With 23 people on staff, we average 2-6 physically present in the office on rotating schedules. We are maintaining social distancing and enhanced hygiene.

One facility inspection has been completed successfully via video call for a full compliance evaluation. For permitted and regulated facilities, record reviews are being done remotely and business as usual is proceeding with accommodation to current conditions. No regulatory responsibilities have been stopped, though daily pollen sample analysis has been discontinued. The ambient air pollution network is still being monitored and pollen reporting is done based upon other data available.

There are increased occurrences of open burning as more people are at home, including burning instances and also witnessing or reporting these occurrences. Presently the office has received two written notifications of intent to appeal enforcement action involving open burning at two different locations by separate parties. Appeals have been postponed at this time in hope of in-person meetings to be scheduled in the future. The appellants have been notified that their civil penalties will be held in abeyance until the hearings are scheduled.

VI. Next Tentative Quarterly Meeting:

Date: October 20, 2020

Location: Virtual online meeting via MS Teams.

VII. Mr. Sieg adjourned the meeting.

Dated: 9/25/2020

Minor Barnette Minor Barnette, Director

Approved: *Michael Sieg*, Chairman