

Orange County Commission for the Environment

Meeting Summary March 8, 2021; 7:30 pm *Virtual GoTo Meeting*

Present: Kim Piracci (Acting Chair), Jaya Nair, Elizabeth McWhorter, Frank Binkowski, Kim Livingston, Bill Ward, Carrie Fletcher, Bradley Saul, Alan Parry, James Eichel, Eric Scheier

Absent: Jeremy Marzuola(excused)

I. Call to Order

Piracci called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

II. Additions or Changes to Agenda

Kim Piracci motioned to approve previous meeting minutes before changes to Agenda moving forward; none opposed. Piracci also proposed changing the Agenda to move an item under **VII. Updates** to occur after item **V. Eno New Hope Landscape Conservation Plan**, and before **VI. Committee Breakouts**, due to suspected need for further conversation; none opposed.

III. Approval of Draft Minutes from February 8th, 2021

Motion by Saul; seconded by Livingston; all in favor, none opposed; motion passed.

IV. CFE Activities – 2021

B. Saul stated no update to the Rights of Way group although some progress being made. B. Saul also noted that the Forest Management Policy would be discussed in breakout session. B. Bouma provided a brief update regarding LEED certification.

V. Eno New Hope Landscape Conservation Plan

K. Livingston presented a summary of the Eno New Hope Landscape Conservation Plan. Noting 7 new CFE members whom were not present at last presentation at March 2020 meeting. Livingston then proposed the CFE draft and sign a Resolution of Support for the ENHLC Plan. She proposed the CFE support to educate the Orange County Planning Board and BOCC to the Plan and its implications and ultimately propose a Resolution of Support to the BOCC for the ENLHC Plan.

VI. SELC/Clean Air Carolina petition

B. Bouma presented information about a petition written by the Southern Environmental Law Center for Clean Air Carolina and the NC Coastal Federation. The petition asks the State Environmental Management Commission to support the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, also known as RGGI or Reggie, which is a cap and trade market based, CO2 emissions reduction program which targets electric power plants. Bill Ward commented

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and discussed support for the petition, and has drafted a resolution for future consideration of the CFE to send to the BOCC. K. Piracci commented that some research casts doubts on the effectiveness of the program. Further, there are concerns that the trading of CO₂ allows some electricity plants to actually increase their CO₂ output, which usually affects the most disadvantaged communities.

VII. Updates and Information Items

K. Livingston presented information on the Buckhorn Area Plan, a joint project between Orange County Planning, City of Mebane, and Piedmont Triad Regional Council group to explore opportunities for industrial/commercial growth and rezoning, and the possibility to annex the area to City of Mebane's planning jurisdiction.

VIII. Committee Breakouts

The CFE broke out into their individual subcommittees for discussions on previous goals and accomplishments and to set goals for the coming year. Land Resources Committee, Water Resources Committee, and Air/Energy Committee.

IX. Adjournment

Livingston motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:02 pm; seconded by Parry; none opposed; motion passed.