

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES

May 4, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

Members of the Environmental Advisory Commission met on the above date at 5:30 p.m. in the Public Works Department conference room, Dr. McKinnon, Chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed all those present. The following attended the meeting:

1. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS:

Jeff McKinnon
Yoshi Newman
Thomas Trevathan
Robert Shaw

OTHERS PRESENT:

Daryl Norris, City of Greenville
Wanda Martin, City of Greenville

GUEST:

Jeff Monico, Sierra Club

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. APPROVAL OF APRIL 6, 2023 MINUTES

Dr. McKinnon stated that “banded” needed to be changed to “banned”.

A motion was made by Dr. Shaw to approve the April 6, 2023 minutes with these amendments. The motion was seconded by Thomas Trevathan and passed unanimously.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS -None

5. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Jeff Monico spoke on the NC Farm Bill Act 2023. The NC Farm Bill is seeking to change the state’s definition of wetlands. It’s clear that reauthorizations of farm bills are very important for the environment. Modern farming, especially animal farming, is not fully understood by the public, and what is known about farm bills seems to be insufficient.

The list of links mentioned:

- [Link to the NC Farm Bill article](#)
- [Link to the actual Farm Bill, NC Senate Bill 582.](#)
- [Waters of the United States rules](#)

6. OLD BUSINESS

A. Dr. McKinnon, Dr. Shaw and Ms. Newman attended the GUC board meeting. Dr. McKinnon mentioned the GUC would be working with a consult on efforts to set new rates on residential solar.

A motion was made by Dr. McKinnon to send an email to GUC from the EAC. To recommend to GUC, while considering new rates on residential solar. They should consider: the environmental value, local development benefits, and a role for every stake holder and in the future, other stake holders outside GUC needs to be involved. The motion was seconded by Mr. Trevathan and passed unanimously.

Dr. McKinnon mentioned that he had received a list of people who were interested in solar and suggested sending updates to the list of people on the GUC solar, as well as an invite to the EAC meetings.

B. Ms. Newman will revise the previously mentioned Clean Energy Resolution. The revised Clean Energy Resolution will be put on the August EAC agenda.

C. Dr. McKinnon mentioned that Ms. Newman wanted to start preparing the Facebook posts.

A motion was made by Dr. McKinnon for Ms. Newman to prepare quarterly Facebook posts for the next year. And draft them to the EAC prior to June, September and December meetings. The motion was seconded by Thomas Trevathan and passed unanimously.

Ms. Newman gave some examples for future Facebook posts. (Laundry & Clothing, Lawn Chemicals, Fast Production) Ms. Newman's first Facebook Post draft will be presented in June meeting.

D. Dr. Shaw mentioned speaking to Ms. Wall about the position for the Greenville/Pitt County Fellow, which Ms. Wall applied for from the NC Fellows. Mr. Shaw was informed that there has not been a proposed budget for this position yet. Dr. Shaw also mentioned to Ms. Wall that the EAC would like a seat at the table during the interview process.

Mr. Norris mentioned the applications for Greenville/Pitt County Fellow were due in by May 1st. Mr. Norris read the job description for the Greenville/Pitt County Fellow from the NC Fellows website.

Dr. Shaw suggested to discuss things for the Greenville/Pitt County Fellow to be successful, at the EAC June meeting.

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. Thomas Trevathan suggested putting six Tesla EV charging stations at the umbrella market in Greenville. Tesla charges twenty-five thousand for six charging stations without installation. Mr. Trevathan stated there is possibly grants out there that the City of Greenville could look into to get them installed. Mr. Trevathan stated he would approach the downtown merchants on getting them on board. And then someone could speak to Ms. Wall on getting her on board.

Ms. Newman mentioned this would be a good project for the new NC. Fellow.

8. OTHER– FYI

None.

9. PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS

- A.** Tree Working Group Report
- B.** GUC Board Report
- C.** Budget/Sustainability Coordinator
- D.** Flood Program for Public Information
- E.** Facebook Post

10. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Ms. Newman to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Trevathan and passed unanimously.