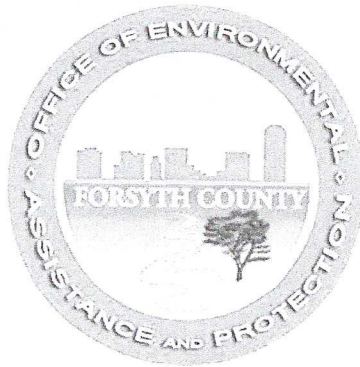


OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL  
ASSISTANCE AND  
PROTECTION

MINOR BARNETTE  
DIRECTOR



ENVIRONMENTAL  
ASSISTANCE AND  
PROTECTION BOARD

CHAIRMAN  
RICHARD L. SIEG

VICE CHAIRMAN  
BRENT S. ROCKETT

SUSAN E. APPT  
GAYLE S. GOLDSMITH  
REID W. HUTCHINS  
NICOLE MATHIS  
CHARLES E. WILSON

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

The Forsyth County Environmental Assistance and Protection Advisory Board met on July 20, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. via online meeting through the Microsoft Teams platform.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Susan E. Appt  
Gayle S. Goldsmith  
Reid W. Hutchins  
Nicole Mathis

Brent S. Rockett  
Richard L. Sieg  
Charles E. Wilson

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**FCOEAP PRESENT:**

Minor Barnette  
Amanda Bashor

Steve Lyda  
Valerie Shores

**I. Call to Order**

**II. New Member Introductions**

**III. Approval of the April 20, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes:**

Mr. Sieg opened the discussion to approve the April 20, 2021 meeting minutes. Mr. Rockett made a motion to accept. Ms. Mathis seconded the motion. The Board approved with six votes. Ms. Goldsmith abstained from voting.

#### **IV. Officer Elections**

Mr. Sieg started officer elections and opened the floor for nominations for Chairman. Mr. Rockett nominated Mr. Sieg to continue as Chairman, Ms. Mathis seconded the nomination. Mr. Sieg was voted as Chairman by unanimous vote. Mr. Sieg opened the floor for nominations to Vice Chairman. Mr. Sieg nominated Mr. Rockett to continue as Vice Chairman, Ms. Goldsmith seconded the nomination. Mr. Rockett was voted as Vice Chairman by unanimous vote.

#### **V. Director's Update**

Mr. Barnette began the Director's Update by addressing a question posed by Mr. Rockett regarding honoring service of past board members. Mr. Barnette agreed to create a recognition of service certificate for past members.

The Office of Environmental Assistance and Protection still currently holds two position vacancies, an environmental specialist and a senior environmental specialist to oversee strategic planning of the county clean energy initiatives. In past years, job postings have received between 50 and 150 applications. Recently an open position received only three qualified applications. The current recruitment process is encountering a substantial amount of "ghosting" behavior from applicants and loss of applicants to private sector positions. The environmental specialist position has been vacant for a year and a half, the senior environmental specialist is a new position that has been open for several months. Conversation ensued with board members about potential recruitment assistance in the form of shared online job postings and word of mouth dissemination to qualified industry professionals.

The Volkswagen Mitigation Plan Draft Phase II is in its public comment period. Once this plan is adopted, there will be a request for proposals around November or December to compete for funding to install county owned electric vehicle charging stations at county facilities. The first round would be workplace stations for electric county vehicles to be purchased in the next year, replacing current internal combustion vehicles.

There are currently no industrial facilities presenting issues. The Office is continuing to see the increase in open burning complaints that began around the beginning of the pandemic. The Community Hygiene division is averaging almost one complaint call per day. This is likely a combination of both increased activity and increased awareness related to a more home-bound citizen presence.

Two appeals are presently pending for parties subject to enforcement action. Notifications of intent to appeal these cases were received over a year ago and scheduling of the hearings remain postponed until Board meetings can resume safely in person. The Office is investing in new camera technology to facilitate the option for hybrid meetings in the future.

#### **VI. Other Business**

Board members held additional discussion regarding recruitment support strategies. Mr. Wilson inquired about an option for informational advertising to raise awareness regarding open burning and refuse regulations. At present, the Forsyth County Tax Department distributes informational brochures to all property owners in Forsyth County regarding collection services and burning regulations.

Ms. Goldsmith asked for clarification regarding the quantity of permitted facilities. Mr. Lyda and Mr. Barnette provided that currently there are eight Title V facilities, which has dropped from about 30 in prior years. Title V facilities are inventoried every year and emit 100

tons per year of criteria pollutants, 10 tons of a single hazardous pollutant, or 25 tons of aggregate hazardous pollutants. There are approximately 55 to 60 permitted facilities in other emissions categories and also registered facilities that do not meet emissions levels to require permitting. Recent exemption adoptions to regulatory statutes have changed some facilities' status and they are no longer required to be permitted or registered based on their emissions levels. Most facilities emissions are inventoried the year before their permit expiration, and there are on average 18-20 annually inventoried facilities.

**VII. Next Tentative Quarterly Meeting:**

**Date: October 19, 2021**

**Location:** 201 North Chestnut St. Winston-Salem, N.C. OR Digital Meeting on Microsoft Teams Platform, TBD

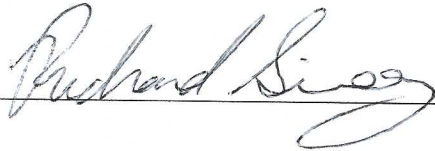
**VIII.** Mr. Sieg adjourned the meeting.

**Dated:** 10/11/2021



Minor Barnette, Director

**Approved:**



Richard L. Sieg, Chairman