



Final Minutes for BEAT 10-22-19 General Membership Meeting

A. Welcome and Introduction

- a) The fall membership meeting was held at BEMC on 10-22-19, and sixteen were in attendance. BEAT President Pete Key called the meeting to order at 6:45 pm and welcomed members.
- b) Pete asked members to pay attention to current environmental issues in Brunswick County including:
 1. Dredging Jinks Creek,
 2. The status of the CPI power plant's (that burns treated wood and tires) discharge permit,
 3. Southport's proposed waste water treatment plant to be located in a primary nursery area (PNA), and
 4. Superfund site work in Navassa.
- c) Pete noted that BEAT members using Facebook may see a request to like a new page and requested current emails to keep in touch. What is in our Future – Jennifer Swift
- d) Board member Dwight Willis summarized BEAT's accomplishments, stating that advocacy is a long term process, that change does not occur overnight, and that there have been some victories. He mentioned the following issues and urged members to be encouraged:
 1. Terminal groins - While the Ocean Isle Beach (OIB) request for a terminal groin has been approved, it led to reopening the discussion on a terminal groin for Holden Beach (HB). Dwight noted that all of the candidates running for the HB town council are currently opposed to terminal groins.
 2. Big Oil - BEAT continues to oppose offshore drilling and seismic blasting, and Dwight noted that the NC Governor also opposes these practices, showing how local elections matter.
 3. Summer camps - BEAT is looking into partnering with organizations who have summer camps to advance environmental education in Brunswick County.
 4. BEAT helped the county revise their policy on solar farms, showing that BEAT can be a resource for public officials.
 5. BEAT board members met with Chance Lambeth, Representative David Rouzer's legislative assistant to discuss environmental issues, including animal waste runoff into our water supply. Mr. Lambeth said they were concerned about this issue and trying to find solutions.
 6. BEAT was influential in getting the state to enact regulations for the methyl bromide fumigation projects not only in our region but throughout NC. He noted that this was also a victory for environmental justice.
- e) Board member Jennifer Swift described upcoming events;
 1. The Festival of Trees entry that BEAT's Waste Management Committee is creating. She and Spring Harkins provided some details:
 - a) The entry is to support the Museum of Coastal Carolina's fundraiser,



- b) There will be eleven decorated Christmas trees that will be displayed from 11/21/19 - 12/14/19 and auctioned,
- c) Tickets to bid on the trees are for sale (6 for \$5; 15 for \$10) and tickets to the gala on 11/ 19 are \$30.
- d) BEAT's tree is decorated with all natural materials
- 2. Jennifer solicited ideas for future programs and suggested speakers could include the Brunswick County planner and Keep Brunswick County Beautiful coordinator.
- 3. Jennifer also mentioned BEAT's future sponsoring of children to attend summer camp and ideas to celebrate the 50th Earth Day next April.
- f) Pete announced that BEAT needs a new Treasurer and that the current balance is about \$5,300.
 - 1. He announced he needs a volunteer before he can order checks.
 - 2. \$20 was collected from tee shirt sales during the meeting.

B. Guest Speaker - Kemp Burdette, Cape Fear Riverkeeper

- a) Kemp Burdette presented an excellent and informative PowerPoint program, reviewing the mission and scope of the Cape Fear River Watch and his role as the River Keeper.
 - 1. The mission and more information about this non-profit organization is available at:
 - 2. <https://www.capefearriverwatch.org/about-us/who-we-are>
- b) Kemp talked about advocacy and education giving examples and provided many facts about the Cape Fear watershed. He noted that the Cape Fear is the only river originating in NC that empties into the ocean.
 - 1. He described the unique biodiversity of this region showing photos of many of the plants and animals found in the Cape Fear watershed and river.
 - 2. He talked about global environmental issues giving local examples for each of these (climate change, toxic pollution, waste disposal, energy, water quality and quantity, habitat loss, agricultural impacts, endangered species).
- c) Kemp discussed in depth the environmental impact of factory farms on the river and included information about Smithfield, poultry waste, and contamination from use of pharmaceuticals. He showed aerial photos of animal waste from lagoons running into creeks and our rivers, and he talked about the challenges of regulating this waste.
- d) Kemp also discussed the PFOS and PFAS contamination of the area's water and air and provided information about the consent order signed by the NC Department of Environmental Quality, Chemours, and the Cape Fear River Watch.
- e) Following questions and discussion about real estate developers and reverse osmosis treatment, Kemp closed his presentation by noting that economic development and environmental protection are not mutually exclusive, but are actually mutually dependent.

C. Adjournment



Pete adjourned the meeting at 8:35 pm.