



Approved BEAT Board Minutes 9-7-20

Introduction

President Pete Key called the Zoom meeting to order at 6:10 pm with the following Board members in attendance: Dan George, Linda Eastman, Pete Key, Sybil Murray, and Marilyn Priddy. Dwight Willis joined about halfway through the meeting; Jennifer Swift and Ted Janes were absent.

1. The motion to approve the draft agenda following a second by Linda.
2. No changes were suggested to the draft minutes from the August board meeting and they were approved following a motion by Pete with a second by Dan.

Old Business

1. Pete read a confidential email to attendees from the Southern Environmental Law Center (SELC) regarding the CPI air permitting process for the Southport facility. The email referenced the CPI facility in Roxboro. Pete said BEAT and Cape Fear River Keeper plan to support the DEQ order.
2. Jinks Creek update - Ted was not present, and no additional information was shared.
3. Chemours update - Pete read Dwight's email about focusing on water quality in 2021 since Dwight had not yet joined the meeting.
4. Status of offshore seismic blasting - Pete noted that the NC Attorney General had joined the lawsuit against seismic blasting off the Atlantic coast.

New Business

1. Pete discussed plans for a 371-acre project by Bald Head Island Developers in Southport and used his screen to share a map showing the size of the proposed development. He mentioned storm surge could be an issue and noted that the city is strapped for cash due to the pandemic, which could lead to non-environmentally friendly decisions. Dan discussed ways to encourage the developer to build better and build greener, including saving trees, using porous concrete and other methods to preserve habitat. Pete and Dan talked about the history of the property to be developed, and Pete noted Fish and Wildlife restrictions in the county are sometimes piecemeal. He said that the development included senior living, medical offices, and townhouses, which will include some parking lots. Pete encouraged members to keep the development on the BEAT radar. He did not think it had been discussed at a city planning board meeting yet.



2. Planning for next year - Dwight suggested that BEAT primarily focus on water quality in 2021. He recommended BEAT meet with local representatives in January to ask them a variety of questions including
 - a) Why they have been so lenient on Chemours?
 - b) Why they have allowed Chemours to continue to pollute our water?
 - c) What legislation is needed to get Chemours and producers of hog waste to stop polluting?

Dwight said water quality is also an environmental justice issue and described the costs of buying drinking water for more than two years. He said we should promote the recently released study on mice and stress that children are being affected by the chemicals being dumped into the water supply. Pete said he was able to install an under-the-sink RO unit, but that many families could not afford to do so. Dan talked about the hundreds of millions NHC and BC are spending on water treatment plants due to Chemour's pollution and how the company has only been fined 12 million so far.

Attendees talked about partnering with Veronica Carter who serves on the Governor's environmental justice board and Emily Donovan with Clean Cape Fear to work on educational programs. Pete mentioned using a petition as a means of outreach and to add to the roster. Dwight suggested BEAT develop a water quality policy statement with help from professionals. He mentioned Dr. Hilderman in Sunset Beach, and Sybil suggested Dr. Larry Calhoun at UNCW. Attendees discussed other means to generate community interest and support including phone calls, press releases, ads, and Facebook posts.

Announcements & Adjournment

1. Superfund meeting - Dan said they are not currently meeting in person due to the Covid pandemic, but are trying to figure out what to do with the portion of the site that is not super contaminated. He described the Gullah Geechee corridor that runs from northern Florida to Wilmington.
2. Pete reviewed an announcement from BP that they will be moving toward solar energy.
3. Pete reminded members the next meeting would be held at 6 pm via Zoom on Monday October 5th.
4. Dan made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Marilyn seconded the motion, and Pete adjourned the meeting at 6:55 pm.