



Approved BEAT Board Minutes 10-5-20

Introduction

President Pete Key called the Zoom meeting to order at 6:06 pm with the following Board members in attendance: Dan George, Linda Eastman, Pete Key, Marilyn Priddy, and Dwight Willis. Jennifer Swift and Sybil Burgess Murray joined a few minutes after the meeting started. Ted Janes was absent.

1. Pete's motion to approve the draft agenda (with an addition suggested by Pete) passed following a second by Dan.
2. No changes were suggested to the draft minutes from the September board meeting, and they were approved following a motion by Dan with a second by Pete.

Old Business

1. Pete referenced a pending DEQ order regarding the CPI plant in Southport.
2. Jinks Creek update - Ted was not present, and no additional information was shared.
3. Chemours update - Pete said this issue would fall into to Dwight's suggestion to focus on water quality in 2021.
4. Status of offshore seismic blasting - Dan reported that NC was included in the offshore drilling moratorium. Dwight said it also includes blasting after the IHAs (Incidental Harassment Authorizations) expire on November 30th.

New Business

1. Pete invited members to discuss an invitation he had to participate in a Republican candidate forum on 10/17/20. He said he is a member of the Republican Liberty caucus and he was invited to provide some questions on environmental issues. Suggestions included questions about hog and chicken waste runoff and coal ash.
 - a) Dwight talked about working to restore a flooded church in the Ash area after hurricane Florence. He said a farmer at the work site talked about the lack of enforcement of regulations the limit the number of hogs allowed on his property. Dwight said the current system allows farmers to check on themselves and that the state laws and enforcement need to be strengthened. He said the farmers are afraid they will be forced out of the (Smithfield) program if the bring up any issues. Dwight also said farmers will open the waste reservoirs before a major flooding event.
 - b) Dan said we wanted to know why the state had not spent the money set aside after hurricane Floyd to move hog waste lagoons out of the flood plain. He also noted that the Cape Fear River Watch met a month or so ago and the state passed a law that reduces transparency. He provided a little bit of history on CAPO regulations and talked about Wendell Murphy who became a state legislator and was involved in



- c) decisions that resulted in Iowa, rather than NC, becoming the biggest hog producer in the US. Jennifer and Dan both noted the huge amount of money involved in this industry.
 - d) Pete said he would reach out the the Cape Fear River Keeper.
2. Sybil asked to talk about voting and provided information on a couple of non-partisan groups she has been working with to register voters. Stand Up America and Vote Forward. are using texting and letter writing campaigns respectively, and targeting battleground states. Their goal is to increase participation of the under-represented voters. Jennifer asked if Sybil wished information to be sent to BEAT members.
- a) At this point (6:31 pm), Marilyn lost her internet connection. The following notes (in italics) regarding the remainder of the meeting were provided by Pete:
 - b) *We voted to approve posting links to both of these to encourage our membership to get involved over the next couple of weeks before voter registration closes.*
3. *Planning for next year*
- a) *Water quality push - Dwight spoke for a moment to encourage us to continue to pressure the political leadership to take action. Jennifer mentioned an article in Consumer Reports that outlines in detail many of the ways we consume PFAS/PFOA. Linda asked about the net-zero claim of the Brunswick County RO system. We discussed the statement by the builder that reintroducing the waste stream from the R/O plant back into the Cape Fear doesn't add anymore PFAS to the river than was already there. "Several Hundred Yards downstream it will be remixed as to be indistinguishable from the intake water."*
 - b) *Speakers at 2021 Membership meeting - discussion was postponed until a later date.*
 - c) *Elections - Nominating Committee - We voted to add nominations for the 2021-22 Board to the website and FB. Members who'll forward nomination to Marilyn or Pete.*

Announcements & Adjournment

- 1. *Superfund meeting - Currently no action on this front.*
- 2. *Next Board meeting - Board voted to hold the next Meeting on December, 7th at 6pm.*
- 3. *Pete adjourned the meeting at 6:47 pm.*