



February 12, 2019

Meeting Minutes

Called to order at 1:12 PM at the Cape Fear Community College Board Room, Wilmington NC.

Board Members Present:

Dr. Marian Johnson-Thompson, Vice-Chair
William Barber, III
Veronica Carter
Jamie Cole
Angela Esteva
Dr. Danelle Lobdell
Marilynn Marsh-Robinson
Naeema Muhammad
Sarah Rice
Reverend Dr. Rodney Sadler Jr

Board Members Absent:

Dr. James Johnson, Chair
Jeff Anstead
Dr. Susan Jakes
Mercedes Hernández-Pelletier

Board Logistics:

A motion was requested about acknowledging public comment and ensuring that it will go to the correct subcommittee. Rev. Rodney added that it is important to establish procedure, so subcommittees know how to respond, and what the process is moving forward for consistent framework. Veronica Carter made a motion to acknowledge all requests made to the Board and to have requests passed along to subcommittees in a timely fashion. Additionally, a template should be made in for future responses. The motion was granted.

Veronica Carter suggested that Clean Air and Water committee will look at swine resolution. Once the committee agrees on it the resolution would be sent out to the entire Board and then finally sent back to the vice chair and chair. Ms. Carter stressed the time sensitivity of this process. Jamie Cole stated that things have evolved since original resolution, so a new proposal has been drafted that applauds DEQ and DWR on recent DEQ draft swine permit. Ms. Sarah Rice suggested that to fast track the process, the draft letter will be voted on by the Clean Air and Water subcommittee which was approved by the Vice Chair. Jamie Cole then read the draft statement.

William Barber III asked what resources would be available to the subcommittees to insure response can be prompt. It was confirmed that DEQ would be there for technical language and clarification needed. The Board members suggested that subcommittees should decide how often they should meet between the larger Board meeting. In addition, the Vice Chairman urged subcommittees to be proactive in responses.

The Vice Chair brought up the consideration for the Extreme Weather Resiliency subcommittee to use the language "climate change". Upon further discussion, it was decided that the committee should be renamed Climate Change and Weather Resiliency.

Hurricane Resiliency:

Chief Deputy Secretary John Nicholson spoke about three topics related to hurricane resiliency efforts in North Carolina:

1. John Nicholson discussed the historically underutilized business program (HUB).
The HUB program is managed by DOA and governed by general statute. An executive order issued in 2017 mandated that each agency provide a minimum of 10% HUB contracts. NCDEQ started at a 7% contract rate. DEQ currently has a 20% HUB utilization rate. Typically, HUB contracts for DEQ are around goods and services. Mr. Joey Owle Asked what the density of HUB's were around the state and where those are. Mr. Nicholson responded that DEQ will find out that information and let Mr. Owle and the Board know.
2. John Nicholson spoke about the debris cleanup process after a natural disaster.
Local governments are responsible for managing solid waste cleanup and is the applicant for any assistance going forward. DEQ allows DOT and local governments to establish temporary debris sites for six months after a storm that do not require permits. DEQ encourages communities to establish these sites in advance of potential storms. There are currently 670 sites in the state.
Veronica Carter voiced concerns for the ability of residents of Pender County to know how to dispose of storm debris after Hurricane Florence. It is county dependent for how effectively information on debris pick up is communicated. Veronica suggested that there could be an opportunity for counties to come together to document and discuss "lessons learned".
3. How to communicate with communities when a sanitary sewer overflow happens
Water infrastructure is a top 5 priority of the Department right now. There are \$26 billion in need for infrastructure. There are many waste water systems that are overwhelmed. A grant program needs to be developed for rural programs that are overwhelmed.
Naeema Muhammad would like to have DHHS or local health departments brought in to talk more about health impacts from hurricanes and exposures from flood waters and efforts to address those issues. Also concerns about Tap Fees for low income households. Reverend Dr. Rodney Sadler Jr. suggested to the Vice Chairman that a representative from DHHS should be present and available for questions in future meetings. The Division of Water Infrastructure was also mentioned as a good resource to have come in to talk to the board

Cumulative Impact:

Assistant Secretary Sheila Holman then spoke on cumulative impact. She referenced Karen Higgins presentation in the previous meeting and talked about the statutes and ordinances that regulate impact

assessment. Sheila Holman then when on to introduce the Department's development of a Community Tool. She demonstrated how the interactive tool would be used to easily access information on nearby sites and permits. The Department hopes the tool will be used internally, by local governments and agencies, and by community members. The beta tool will be released in April with continuing community feedback. The Vice Chairman asked that at future meetings DEQ provide a list of specific community engagement events that the Department has conducted. Board members encouraged that additional meetings for the mapping tool be planned.

Subcommittee Break Out Session

The Board then broke out into subcommittees for discussions.

Returning to the full board, Reverend Rodney Sadler asked to play a video from the Coal Ash Hearing, Belmont, NC (Duke Energy Allen Steam Station) January 29, 2019.

Call for Meeting to be Adjourned at 3:44 PM by Madame Vice-Chair. Rodney Sadler provided the motion, Naeema Muhammad seconded.

Public Comment Period Began after meeting adjournment. (See Public Comment Document)