



ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS BOARD MINUTES

January 13th, 2021
Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

Voting Members: Laura Marie Davis (chair), Robin Emmons (vice chair), Chi Vo (secretary), Donald Addu (ex officio), Wafa Khalil, Matthew Kopac, Juilee Malavade, Melanie Allen, Chastan Swain, Roberto Valle Kinloch, Wilson Salls, Ethan Case

Excused Absences: Jennifer Hill, Tyjuanna LaBennett

Ex Officio Members/Staff: DeDreana Freeman (City Council), Heidi Carter (County Commissioners), Paul Cameron (General Services), Tobin Freid (Durham County Sustainability), Scott Whiteman (City Planning), JV Loperfido (Water Quality), Summer Alston (Economic & Workforce Development), Michelle Woolfolk (Public Works), Sydney Miller (City Water Resources), Laura Smith (Stormwater and GIS Division, Watershed Planning and Implementation Group), Jonathan Baker (Stormwater Quality), Vicki Westbrook (City Water Management Department)

Attendees & Panelists Total: 26

I. Call to Order at 6:02 PM

II. Approval of Minutes: Approval (12-0)

III. Announcements

- a) Next EAB meeting is scheduled for February 3rd
- b) Engaged Durham: New website for community members to provide feedback for the comprehensive plan. <https://durham.mysocialpinpoint.com/comprehensiveplan>
- c) <https://files.nc.gov/ncdeq/climate-change/clean-energy-plan/2020-NERP-Final-Report.pdf>
- d) DPS Superintendent and DPS students are having conversations around vision and goals for sustainability, recycling, and waste reduction in schools.

IV. New Business and Continuing Business

a) Topic: City and County Renewable Energy Plans

Presenter(s): Paul Cameron (Durham City)

- GDS is continuing to hold weekly meetings with staff
- Evaluating Duke Energy Green Source Advantage Program
- Evaluating carbon credits from urban forestry program; the city is piloting a program for carbon credits for a year
- Reviewing best practices for water management and fleet management

Staff Contact: Paul Cameron, Sustainability and Energy Analyst
919.560.4197 x21244 ▪ Paul.Cameron@DurhamNC.gov

- Preliminary report on potential options and solutions under review by staff
- GDS would like to present the first draft on March 1st EAB meeting; receive comments from public and board members
- Final version of plan will be scheduled for mid-June

Presenter(s): Tobin Freid (Durham County)

- Working on greenhouse reduction goals
- Baseline measurements have been drafted

b) Topic: Proposed Cost-Share Program for Septic to Sewer Conversion

Presenter(s): Jonathan Baker

- Supports homeowners from septic systems to sanitary sewage systems
- Encourages homeowners to remove failing septic systems and connect to the city's sanitary sewer system
- Provide additional assistance in cases of financial hardship
- EAB will support in deciding how to assign financial hardship by April 2021

Questions:

- J. Elliot:** Are there any other major sources of fecal coliform in the Northeast Creek watershed that should be considered? Also, are the costs estimated on the residences that are close to the existing sewer lines (the summary said 40 homes are within 50 feet) or are the costs based on the average of the 128 homes within the county?
 - Working closely with Durham County Environmental Health to identify costs
- M. Kopac:** Is there a budget?
 - Maximum of \$100,000
- R. Valle:** Are there grants?
 - We have not explored grants yet.
 - There are 40 houses that are within 50 feet of the system.
 - We could think through a tiered cost-share depending on the assistance needed.
- M. Allen:** Do you have a ballpark of a reasonable number?
 - Reimbursement, waiving of city fees, etc.
 - We will set cost-share and provide additional cost-share.
 - \$2000 – 3000 is a ballpark but it has not been finalized.
- J. Malavade:** Are there other storefronts, businesses, industrial buildings that are contributing to the bacteria overgrowth?
 - Most data we have is residential.
 - We do have data on one commercial building. We have been trying to address this through our enforcement program.
 - Generally business only locates where water and sewer services are available.
- M. Kopac:** Are there plans to survey or assess need in others ways?
 - It would be beneficial to have more information.
- R. Valle:** Shared <https://www.epa.gov/cwsrf/learn-about-clean-water-state-revolving-fund-cwsrf#eligibilities>
- M. Allen:** Have we looked at other cities or counties who have used incentives to encourage the switch from septic to sewer?
 - Yes – others have used incentives; we can send that information to the committee.

9. **S. Alston:** The Office of Innovation could perhaps help layer census data on income at minimum.

Recommendation Committee: Robin, Melanie, Chi, Wilson

c) Topic: Evaluating Jordan Lake One Water (JLOW) Nutrient Management Strategy

Presenter(s): J.V. Loperfido

- Deliverables: EAB provide comments on JLOW recommendations and documents until Jan – Aug 2021
- Provide memoranda/comments during public comment periods (late 2021-22)
- There is too much nitrogen and phosphorus pollution going to Jordan Lake
- JLOW: watershed stakeholders developing recommendations to tackle this problem; comprised of members from Public Works, Water Management, Durham Council members
- NC Department of Environmental Quality (NC DEQ) will also affect the timeline and recommendations
- Requests of the EAB:
 - Deliverables: Memoranda/comments on non-technical Jordan Lake One Water recommendations and documents through the JLOW process (Jan – Aug 2021)
 - Provide memoranda/comments during public comment periods during the Jordan Lake rule-making process (late 2021-22)
- Proposed actions for EAB review of JLOW recommendations:
 - February: JLOW background info; review pre-read materials
 - March: Develop comments on pre-read materials
 - April: Develop draft comments Advisory Committee Recommendations
 - May/June: Finalize recommendation comments
 - Public Works will provide background information
 - Goal: Provide EAB comments non-technical JLOW products

Comments:

1. **D. Freeman:** We want to make sure that the economic development side of this is married into the recommendations; this could be an opportunity to create jobs and businesses. There is an opportunity here to create a model for the rest of the state. Now is the time to push hard on what economic justice might look like.
2. **M. Kopic:** On the survey, are the questions scored or weighted or are they more qualitative? How are these questions are going to be weighted? What's more, less important?
 - We are hoping to weight them equally but we have gone back and forth on the scoring scheme.

Committee: Juilee, Laura Marie, Wafa

3. Topic: Committee Report Outs

Presenter(s): Committee Chairs

- **Education & Outreach:** Marketing & communications strategy, meeting audits, DHA support
- **Green Infrastructure:** Omnibus changes to the UDO – small amendments to fix small problems that have arisen during the year. EAB members review and send feedback.
- **Circular Triangle:** Convening of developers and architects in providing feedback for the built environment.

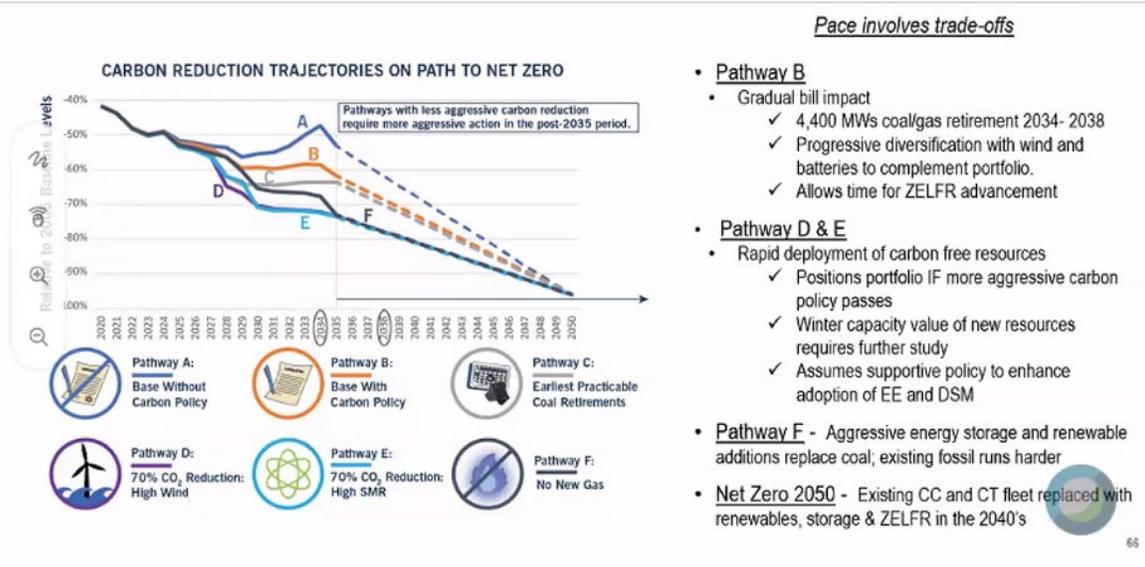
4. Topic: Integrated Resource Plan

Presenter(s): Tobin Freid

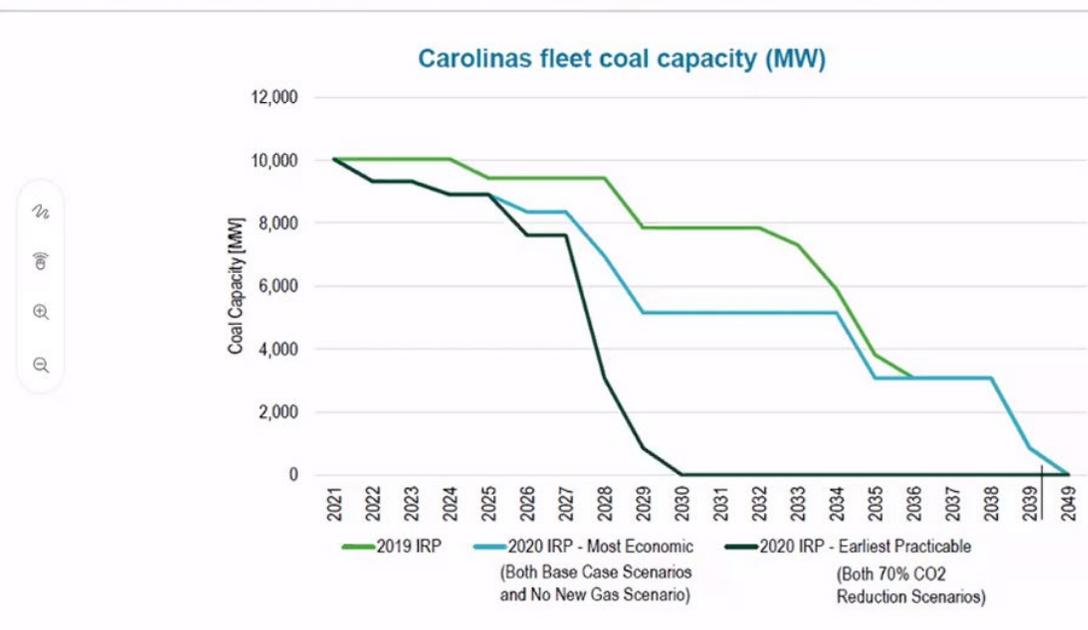
- IRP: “An integrated resource plan (IRP) outlines an electric utility's resource needs in order to meet expected electricity demand over a long-term planning horizon. Key IRP items include planned resource additions and retirements, as well as cost and performance assumptions.” Public utilities create to set their long-term vision for how they're going to have energy to sell to their customers. They redo them every two years. It is a plan for a 15-year period. They try to update it regularly because of the changing nature of the work.
- This is a public process and there is an opportunity for stakeholders to weigh in.
- For the first time ever, there is discussion on whether local governments should weigh in on it.
- Period of comments is extended until the end of February.
- The county is not currently planning on making a formal comment, but it might be happening. The city is still in discussion on submitting formal comments; they are planning on creating an informal comment. There is a group of local governments in NC that is planning on submitting formal comments.
- There is a draft letter that the city or county can decide to sign on to. The EAB can also make a recommendation for the city/county to sign on to this letter.
- Our recommendation can be to make comments that align with or support the existing clean energy plans at both the city and county level.
- Reference images below.

Committee: Wafa, Ethan, Melanie

Varying Retirement and Resource Pathways Provide Range of CO₂ Reduction Trajectories



2020 IRP Portfolios Reflect Faster Pace of Coal Retirements



Adjourn 8:00 PM