

**Orange County  
Commission for the Environment**

**Meeting Summary**

**January 13, 2014**

**Orange County Environment and Agricultural Center, Hillsborough**

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PRESENT: Jan Sassaman (Chair), Loren Hintz, Donna Lee Jones, David Neal, Steve Niezgoda, Jeanette O'Connor, Rebecca Ray, Gary Saunders, Lydia Wegman, David Welch

ABSENT: May Becker, Peter Cada

STAFF: Tom Davis

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- I. **Call to Order** – Sassaman called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.
- II. **Additions or Changes to Agenda** – There were no changes or additions.
- III. **Introduction of New CFE Members** – Sassaman welcomed new members, Wegman and Ray. Both introduced themselves and explained their interest in serving on the CFE.
- IV. **Approval of Minutes** – Sassaman asked for comments on the draft minutes for the December 9 meeting. Neal motioned to approve as written; O'Connor seconded. Approved unanimously.
- V. **CFE Committee Structure** – Sassaman introduced the idea of modifying the standing committees so that they might align better with the subject matter dealt with by the CFE. Rather than the current two committees, he proposed dividing into three: Air and Energy Resources, Land Resources, and Water Resources.  
  
CFE members discussed the proposal and identified pros and cons of making this change. After the discussion, Neal motioned to adopt the new committee structure; seconded by Saunders. Approved unanimously.
- VI. **CFE Liaison to the Intergovernmental Parks Work Group** – Sassaman asked if there were any CFE members interested in serving as the liaison to this intergovernmental work group. Wegman volunteered to serve as the CFE representative, and Jones volunteered to be the back-up representative.
- VII. **State of the Environment 2014** – Davis provided a status report on the progress made since the December meeting. He discussed changes to the Water Resources section that he made using input from committee members. Davis also noted there had been a few changes to the Land Resources section, however further review and edits was still needed for the Air and Energy Resources section.

Sassaman introduced the topic of the CFE holding an Environmental Summit in the spring or fall of 2014. The CFE formed a committee (O'Connor, Hintz, Wegman, and Ray) to explore the possible venues for holding the summit.

CFE members agreed to review the draft SOE report and provide further comments on the document by January 27, after which staff would incorporate the changes and provide a revised draft for CFE consideration so that members would have an opportunity to review prior to the February 10 meeting.

- VIII. **Updates and Information Items** – Information on the following subjects was included in the meeting materials and selected items were summarized by staff: a) proposed screening of an industrial hemp film, b) Orange County fair proposal, c) future recycling/waste reduction update, d) NC Conservation Tax Credit expiration, e) the completion of two recent Lands Legacy conservation projects, and f) a recent reduction in residential electrical use.
- IX. **Adjournment** – Neal motioned to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Wegman. Approved unanimously. Sassaman adjourned the meeting at 9:30 pm.

Summary by Rich Shaw, DEAPR Staff