

# Orange County Commission for the Environment

## Meeting Summary January 9, 2023; 7:00 pm *Hybrid Meeting*

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**Present:** Veronica Penn Beattie (via Zoom), Kristie Mather (via Zoom), Ian Morse (via Zoom), Geneva Gray, Mark Randall, Regina Baratta, Reade Oakley, Jessie Birkhead

**Absent:** Kim Piracci, Kim Livingston, Jane Harris, David N. Mcnelis

**Staff:** Wesley Poole, Chris Hirni, Amy Eckberg, Kalani Allen

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### **I. Call to Order**

Veronica Penn Beattie called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

### **II. Additions or Changes to Agenda**

None.

### **III. Approval of DRAFT Meeting Summary – December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

Motion to approve by Jessie Birkhead; seconded by Regina Baratta; all in favor; none opposed; motion passed.

### **IV. CFE Annual Report and Work Plan – Action Item**

Chris Hirni presented the final draft for this year's BOCC Report and Work Plan. The CFE discussed the document and made some minor edits. Motion to approve by Geneva Gray; seconded by Mark Randall; all in favor; none opposed; motion passed.

### **V. CFE New Member Application Review and Recruitment**

Veronica Penn Beattie led the review and discussion of new member applications and recruitment. The CFE agreed that they were looking for diversity in new members along with applicants that would be able to commit the necessary time. After looking at the six current applicants, the CFE agreed to recommend appointment by the BOCC for the following positions: Elizabeth Christenson to Position #5 (Water Resources), Andrea Zimmerman to Position #4 (Biological Resources), and Christopher Austin to Position #7 (At Large). Motion to approve by Mark Randall; seconded by Ian Morse; all in favor; none opposed; motion passed. Wesley Poole will draft the Appointment Recommendation Memo and send to Veronica Penn Beattie for signature.

### **VI. Sub-Committee Breakouts**

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The CFE broke out into committee assignments and discussed goals / projects for the year. Afterwards, subcommittees came back together and reported information discussed to the overall CFE (*see below*).

### **Sub-Committee Breakout Meeting Summaries**

#### ***Air & Energy Resources Subcommittee:***

*Present: Geneva Gray, Kristie Mather (via Zoom), Ian Morse (via Zoom), Reade Oakley, Veronica Penn Beattie (via Zoom)*

*Absent: David Mcnelis*

*Staff: Amy Eckberg*

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#### ***Water Resources Subcommittee:***

*Present: Mark Randall*

*Absent: Kim Piracci*

*Staff: Wesley Poole*

- *The group continued the discussion on emerging pollutants such as PFAS and PFOA's.*
- *Kim Piracci had found an interactive PFAS map produced by the EPA with a positive test in Hillsborough so the group will look further into it.*

#### ***Land Resources Subcommittee:***

*Present: Jessie Birckhead, Regina Baratta*

*Absent: Jane Harris, Kim Livingston*

*Staff: Chris Hirni*

- *The committee continued review of the draft forest management policy document regarding no net loss of tree canopy on county-owned lands.*
- *The committee intends to present a draft of the policy for review by the full CFE at the March meeting.*

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### **VII. Updates and Information Items**

- Amy Eckberg gave the CFE a status update on the Climate Action Plan. The company is continuing to obtain data and the team is fine tuning the community engagement plan. They will begin by tying in with the upcoming Agriculture Summit followed by other activities.
- Amy Eckberg gave the CFE an update on the Solarize the Triangle campaign. There were 1500 people that registered for a free assessment so the group is proceeding to carry through with that work. They are also working to secure funding to provide solar for Low to Moderate Income (LMI) families.
- Kalani Allen notified the CFE that 2023 is the Year of the Trail. The entire State of North Carolina is celebrating and DEAPR will be asking the BOCC to join the coalition.
- Jessie Birkhead notified the CFE that she and Veronica Penn Beattie have been working on a CFE Looking Ahead Calendar so that members would know what is expected of them throughout the year. They are also working on a CFE roster / biography document so that they will know each other's background. Lastly, they plan to attend an upcoming BOCC meeting and invited other members to come along.

### **VIII. Adjournment**

Regina Baratta motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 pm; seconded by Kristie Mather; all in favor; none opposed; motion passed.