

Wake County Board of Commissioners
Growth, Land Use, and Environmental Committee
October 10, 2016
10 a.m.
2800 Wake County Justice Center

Commissioners Present:

John Burns-Chair
Sig Hutchinson-Vice Chair
Matt Calabria

Wake County Staff Present:

Johnna Rogers, Deputy County Manager; Joseph Threadcraft, Environmental Services Director; Eric Staehle, Facilities Design and Construction Project Manager; Denise Hogan, Clerk to the Board; Yvonne Gilyard, Deputy Clerk to the Board; Denise Foreman, Assistant to the County Manager; Frank Cope, Community Services Director; Tim Maloney, Planning, Development and Inspections Director; David Ellis, Deputy County Manager; Michael Orbon, Water Quality Director; Ken Murphy, Assistant County Attorney; Dave Goodwin, General Services Director; and Mark Foresteri, Facilities Design and Construction Director.

Others Present:

John Miller, Citizens Energy Advisory Committee member; George Matthis, River Guardian Foundation.

Meeting Called to Order

Commissioner Burns called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

Commissioner Burns thanked Wake County Emergency Management personnel and all others for their response to Hurricane Matthew. He said staff responded quickly to citizens and the Board of Commissioners are thankful for their efforts.

Board Goals, Objectives, and Initiatives

Ms. Denise Foreman, Assistant to the County Manager, shared the Growth and Sustainability Board Goals.

Ms. Foreman said that there has been discussion about various objectives and which committees they should be assigned.

She shared the Board Goals and Objectives.

- Approved by the Board November 2015

- 9 Goal Areas to track and monitor progress of the Board Goals
- Plan to update and revise goals annually
- 2016 updating process to begin through work in committees
- Desired outcome: update 2017 goals in order for departments to consider as they develop FY2018 budget requests

She shared the Board Goals Committee Work.

- Focus on outcomes – what are we trying to achieve?
- Review progress on goals
- Determine if goal / objective/initiative:
 - Has been Achieved / “Done”?
 - If the goal still applicable?
 - Need to be continued / modified?
 - Revise goal wording?
 - Revise / add objectives and/or initiatives?

She shared the agenda for today’s meeting.

- Goal Core Team members review each objective and associated initiatives
- Review by objective
- Discuss desired outcomes
 - How will we know if we’ve been successful?
- Update objectives and initiatives

Mr. Eric Staehle, Facilities Design and Construction Project Manager, shared the Growth and Sustainability objectives.

Goal: Establish a deliberate and realistic approach to address growth while preserving our environment and individual communities.

He shared objective 1.1



Objective GS 1: Implement a comprehensive approach for developing Wake County's open space, parks and greenways to address gaps, leverage opportunities and resources, and enhance collaboration with municipal partners.

GS 1.1: County Open Space, Parks and Greenways Comprehensive Plan that evaluates current and future Wake County open space and parks' needs.

- Draft Greenway System Plan complete. Includes over 270 miles of proposed greenways throughout the county to create a regional greenway network.
- Draft Parks Master Plan complete. Includes expansion and improvements at all (8) existing county parks
- Open Space continues to be a priority. Recommendations of open space purchase from remaining funding is in process.

Commissioner Burns asked when the Parks Master Plan draft would be available. Mr. Frank Cope, Community Services Director, said that the 2016 Open Space RFP should appear before Board of Commissioners next month. He said that future work sessions will be used to allow commissioners to evaluate the plans that are put forward and that the draft plan will likely go before the board in January after the new board members have assumed their seats.

Mr. Staehle shared objective 1.2



Objective GS 1: Implement a comprehensive approach for developing Wake County's open space, parks and greenways to address gaps, leverage opportunities and resources, and enhance collaboration with municipal partners.

GS 1.2: Prepare for a new parks, open space, and greenway bond referendum that will provide for more recreational opportunities and environmental education, assist in the development of a countywide interconnected greenway system, and provide additional watershed protection.

- Pending approval of the Parks Master Plan and the Wake County Greenway Master Plan by the Board of Commissioners.

There was discussion over whether any objectives or goals should be changed. No changes were made.

Ms. Foreman asked for review of Objective 1.

Review GS1

- Focus on outcomes – what are we trying to achieve?
 - What will success look like?
 - Can we measure it?
- What objectives and initiatives will help us achieve the desired outcomes?
 - Determine if objective/initiative:
 - Has been Achieved / “Done”?
 - Is still applicable?
 - Needs to be continued / modified?
 - Is a new objective/initiative needed?

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Commissioner Burns said that the goals and objectives are excellent and that he is excited to see them presented to the community. Commissioner Hutchinson asked how communication with municipal partners has been in regards to park systems and citizens’ needs. Mr. Staehle said communication has been consistent and that use of school parks by municipalities has been on-going. He said that from a planning standpoint all municipalities were involved in the parks planning process.

Mr. Staehle shared objective 2.1



Objective GS 2: Promote sustainability efforts throughout the county.

GS 2.1: Review and expand on Wake County's 2011 Sustainability Report.

- An Energy Benchmarking survey was conducted with 22 questions and 14 responses from peer communities on issues related to sustainable design, energy management and best practices
- Raw survey results were shared with the Energy Commission for feedback

Commissioner Hutchinson asked for an update on the Citizens' Advisory Energy Committee. Mr. Dave Goodwin, General Services Director, said he is pleased with recent findings and that long-term approaches will be discussed at the next Growth and Land Use and Environmental Committee (GLUE) meeting. Mr. John Miller, Energy committee member, said that the survey of various communities who are implementing energy efficiency programs revealed that Wake County is in a position to lead the Southeast Region in energy efficiency in various sectors and that recommendations for improved energy efficiency practices will be submitted to the Board in order to further that leadership position.

Mr. Staehle shared Objective 2.2



Objective GS 2: Promote sustainability efforts throughout the county.
Promote sustainability efforts throughout the county.

GS 2.2: Evaluate oversight/ advisory structure to address Sustainability Initiatives; consider new advisory board or recast existing boards as needed.

- 3 new Commission members have been appointed to the Citizen's Energy Advisory Commission since December 2015.
- The Energy Advisory Commission held a flash retreat on June 28th to review the mission and direction of the commission.

He shared Objective 2.3



Objective GS 2: Promote sustainability efforts throughout the county.

GS 2.3: Review and update 2004 Energy Design Guidelines.

- Wake County Government has hosted three meetings with Wake Technical Community College and Wake County Public Schools to review and contribute to the update of the guidelines
- A Table of Contents and section descriptions have been drafted based on feedback from group meetings
- The Energy Advisory Commission has reviewed the Table of Contents and section descriptions and provided comments and direction

Ms. Foreman asked for review of Objective 2.

Commissioner Burns said the members of the GLUE committee would like to see solid waste addressed in these goals. He said solid waste falls under the goals for sustainability. Commissioner Hutchinson agreed and added that a broader goal of

doubling the life of the landfill should be included into the objectives. He said that increasing revenues should be sought, but protection of vulnerable citizens should be a priority in the objectives. He said the objectives created should model the current model for water management. Commissioner Burns said that waste collection in Wake County needs organizational improvement and that a review of the solid waste program is needed by staff or an outside agency.

Commissioner Calabria suggested that waste issues should be its own objective. He said that updating the solid waste plan should be considered for an initiative.


Commissioner Hutchinson suggested that solid waste be addressed by landfills and that anti-litter programs be initiated throughout the county.

Commissioner Calabria moved, seconded by Commissioner Burns, to add an objective including waste management and that language should be added in an initiative to:

- explore doubling landfill life
- updating/providing a comprehensive solid waste plan
- anti-litter programming

The motion was approved.

Mr. Staehle shared objective 3.1

 Objective GS 3: Maintain protection of watershed and stream buffers.	
GS 3.1: Study issues associated with oil and gas development (including hydraulic fracturing) to ensure the protection of not only the environment but also the residents of the region.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Researched local ordinances from other areas across the country• Conducted a conference call with Bradford County, PA, located in the Marcellus Shale region• Monitor legislation relative to oil and gas development

He shared Objective 3.2



Objective GS 3: Maintain protection of watershed and stream buffers.

GS 3.2: Encourage farmland preservation; revisit goals of Wake County Agricultural Economic Development Plan (WCAEDP).

- Economic boost of Federal and State funds to Wake County farmers for completion of conservation practices installation increased 136% above FY15.
- Hosted the 11th Annual Keeping the Farm Workshop to address issues and barriers impacting Wake County farm and forest landowners. (As recommended by the WCAEDP).
- Final Draft of REVISED Wake County Voluntary Agricultural District Program seeking comments from partners and stakeholders (As recommended by the WCAEDP).

Ms. Foreman asked for review of Objective 3.

Commissioner Burns suggested continued monitoring of state action regarding oil and gas exploration. There was discussion of the language of initiatives about monitoring of state activity. Commissioner Burns said that protection of watershed and stream buffers became a major objective last year because of legislation at the state level. He asked if the expectation was to continue monitoring of the issue moving forward. Ms. Foreman said it remains a legislative goal and will continue to be monitored by the governmental relations manager.

Mr. Staehle shared objective 4.1



Objective GS 4: Address quality and quantity issues associated with water resources.

GS 4.1: Review and revise water resource policies to reflect the most up to date scientific data and understanding, including groundwater use and potential septic impacts.

- Completed planning for a Water Partnership. The Board of Commissioners approved the plan and created the Partnership on May 16, 2016
- Collaborated with stakeholder groups and local governments to identify and invite representatives for the Partnership. All but one spot is filled
- A meeting is scheduled in October 2016 to assist in the selection process of the remaining applicant

There was discussion of the status of the Water Partnership. Commissioner Hutchinson said he and other board members are working to fill the remaining spot.

Mr. Staehle shared Objective 4.2



Objective GS 4: Address quality and quantity issues associated with water resources.

GS 4.2: Promote conservation measures on farms and forest lands in current and potential water supply watersheds in Wake County.


- 2,225 Forest and Farmland acres with new comprehensive Conservation Management Plans
- Increased Federal and State cost share funds, reserved for Wake County family farms, by 78%
- 5,694 tons of sediment prevented from reaching water courses in Wake County Watersheds – from conservation Best Management Practices installed on crop farms and private lands.

Commissioner Calabria asked if any feedback from farmers was received during the discussion of water resources. Mr. Staehle said he did not have that information available, but would follow up.

Ms. Foreman asked for review of objective 4.

Commissioner Hutchinson said he would like to change the initiative to include “Direct the water partnership to” at the beginning of objective GS4.

Mr. Staehle shared Objective 5.1

 Objective GS 5: Plan for issues associated with continued growth in Wake County.

GS 5.1: Determine the impact that projected population growth will have upon the demand for County services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The 10-year facilities masterplan for the Human Services Department has begun. This plan will describe the service delivery space needs of the department based upon future demand for services and optimization of workflow process.• Soil and Water Conservation Department received a \$50,000 grant for Urban Agricultural Specialist to address food deserts and local foods needs
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Ms. Foreman asked for review of Objective 5.

Commissioner Burns asked the feasibility of other departments undertaking a 10 year master plan related to growth. Ms. Foreman said there are projections that include 10 year goals, but plans are typically done because of their affect to capital planning. Ms. Johnna Rogers, Deputy County Manager, said there aren't many operations plans for 10-year goals, but for 3-4 year time frames. She said that if there are major capital projects needed within a department, a 10 year master planning designation is triggered.

Commissioner Hutchinson said that mobility plans require a comprehensive land use and transportation plan. He asked if mobility is included in the growth objectives mentioned in objective 5. Mr. Tim Maloney, Planning, Development, and Inspections Director, said that land use, transportation, and transit are all parts of growth and that those aims can be crafted into goals moving forward.

There was discussion of including an initiative to create a new land use plan.

Mr. Maloney said the goal is to create a comprehensive master plan that includes land use, transportation, and transit.

Commissioner Burns said that there needs to be careful consideration moving forward regarding future planning and outcomes related to growth.

Ms. Foreman said there needs to be consideration as to how mobility goals fit within each committee's objectives and initiatives.

Commissioner Calabria asked if housing affordability and land availability can be included in the board's thinking moving forward. He said that growth and land use are related to each of the concerns addressed by the committee.

There was discussion about how much the GLUE Committee can undertake given the "growth" label and the tasks of the other committees.

There was discussion about inclusion of housing affordability into the land use plan moving forward.

Ms. Rogers said the goal area is defined as growth and sustainability. She said some of the housing components can fit here, but most would be classified under socio-economic vitality goal areas.

Commissioner Burns suggested that the larger growth issues be discussed at a Board of Commissioners strategic planning session in the future.

Commissioner Hutchinson said that the stated goal for growth and sustainability should include approaches to promoting mobility and healthy communities. Commissioner Burns and Commissioner Calabria agreed that would be reasonable.

Adjourn

Commissioner Burns concluded the meeting at 11:13 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andy Kuhn
Executive Assistant to the Board of Commissioners