

Wake County Board of Commissioners
Growth and Sustainability Committee
June 10, 2019
9:00 a.m.
Wake County Justice Center, Room 2800

Commissioners Present:

Sig Hutchinson - Chair
Matt Calabria - Vice-Chair
Susan Evans- Arrived at 10:00 a.m.

Wake County Staff Present:

David Ellis, County Manager; Chris Dillon, Assistant County Manager; Derwick Paige, Chief Community Vitality Officer; Ben Canada, Assistant to the County Manager; Ken Murphy, Senior Assistant County Attorney; Tim Maloney, Planning, Development, and Inspections Director; Chris Snow, Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Director; Joseph Threadcraft, Environmental Services Director; Michael Orbon, Water Quality Director; Nancy Daly, Environmental Consultant; Nicole Kreiser, Assistant County Manager; and Yvonne Gilyard, Deputy Clerk

Others Present:

David Knight, Water Partnership; Heather Keefer, Water Partnership, Chair; Tom Earnhardt, Exploring NC TV; and Abby Boettcher, Intern

Meeting Called to Order:

Commissioner Hutchinson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. He welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Approval of the Minutes

Commissioner Hutchinson approved the minutes of May 20, 2019, seconded by Commissioner Calabria.

Wake County Water Partnership 2018 Annual Report

Commissioner Hutchinson said that he is excited about this meeting and announced that Mr. David Knight, current Chair of the Wake County Water Partnership, is running for an elected position. He announced that Ms. Heather Keefer is the incoming Chair for the Wake County Water Partnership.

Mr. Knight said that this is his last act as the Chair for the Water Partnership. He thanked the Commissioners for the establishment of the partnership. He said that the annual report is the second one. He introduced Ms. Heather Keefer as the new Chair of the Water Partnership.

He shared the 2018 accomplishments.

2018 Accomplishments

Collaborative Planning

Green Stormwater Infrastructure

Imagine a Day Without Water

WAKE COUNTY

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He shared the mission of the Water Partnership.

Mission

The mission of the Water Partnership shall be to facilitate collaboration to promote leadership in water management and sustainability and promote health by providing high quality water throughout Wake County.

WAKE COUNTY

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He shared the 2018 rules review.

2018 Rules Review

Private Drinking Water Wells
Submitted to Wake County Human Services for approval (now complete and implemented)

Offsite Septic Systems
Submitted to NC DHHS for review

Sediment and Erosion, Stormwater
Working on single lot permitting strategy in collaboration with homebuilders and state

WAKE COUNTY

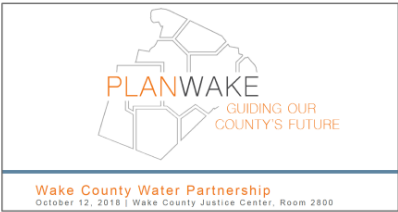
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He shared the collaboration. (2 slides)

Collaboration

USGS Groundwater Study

PlanWake



Wake County Water Partnership
October 12, 2018 | Wake County Justice Center, Room 2800

WAKE COUNTY

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Imagine a Day Without Water

Partners: WakeUP Wake County, City of Raleigh, Wake SWCD, Aqua, NC DEQ

Outreach: 130 visitors to NC State Fair booth

WAKE COUNTY

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Commissioner Hutchinson asked Mr. Knight to talk about the water bar. Mr. Knight said that the water bar is used to prevent erosion from getting into water streams. He said that the water varies in taste and that Wake County has a great water source.

Mr. Knight shared education and outreach.

Education and Outreach

Website and factsheet

Imagine a Day Without Water



WAKE COUNTY

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He shared the green stormwater infrastructure. (GSI)

Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI)

Wake County Public Schools

Maintenance Work Group

Stormwater Tour

GSI Presentations

Tree Canopy Work Group



WAKE COUNTY

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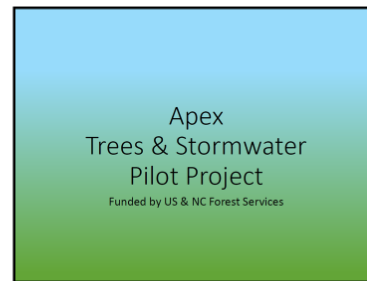
He shared the coordination report.

Coordination

Bimonthly Coordination Report

Regional Presentations

PlanWake



WAKE COUNTY

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He shared the comprehensive plan.

Comprehensive Planning

Outlined 50 Year Water Supply Plan

Scoped Phase 1 Groundwater Study



WAKE COUNTY

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He shared the One Water Summit information for 2018.

One Water Summit

27 NC Delegates

- 2 Water Partnership Members
- 3 Wake County Staff
- 1 Board of Commissioner

Focus areas

- Collaboration
- Equity
- Communication



WAKE COUNTY

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He shared the 2019 updates.

2019 Updates

Rules Update:

Human Services Board approved Private Drinking Water Wells Rules
February 28, 2019

Wake County Groundwater Study:

Board of Commissioners approved January 2019
Joint Funding Agreement signed March 2019
Development of groundwater monitoring network

WAKE COUNTY

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He shared what is on the horizon.

Horizon

Phase I Groundwater Study

Compilation of drought response plans

GSI/Outdoor Classroom pilot project with WCPSS

Grant collaboration

One Water Summit: September 18-20, 2019

Imagine a Day Without Water: October 23, 2019

WAKE COUNTY

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He shared take aways.

Take Aways

Wake County Water Partnership is providing leadership in water management and sustainability and promoting health by providing high quality water through:

- Educational outreach concerning the value of water.
- Collaborative planning for future water supplies.
- Green infrastructure projects and partnerships.

WAKE COUNTY

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Mr. Knight thanked staff for allowing him to serve as the chair of the Water County Water Partnership. He said that it has been a very good experience and that members are passionate about the work that is involved.

Mr. Michael Orbon, Water Quality Director, read a letter aloud thanking Mr. Knight for his service to the Wake County Water Partnership. He also presented Mr. Knight with a token of appreciation.

Mr. Knight presented the County Commissioners with a token of appreciation from the City of Raleigh for their efforts with the reallocation of water supply. (Located in the County Commissioners suite)

Commissioner Hutchinson thanked Mr. Knight and the City of Raleigh. He shared the story of attending NACo and meeting President Trump. He shared that the president was interested in what the county was doing with efforts in the water supply. He said that he networked with dignitaries at the White House and it was a positive experience.

Commissioner Calabria echoed Commissioner Hutchinson's comments and thanked Mr. Knight for his service. He asked Mr. Knight about thoughts for the partnership moving forward.

Mr. Knight said that the forward-thinking approach has worked. He said that stakeholders need to be at the table. He asked the commissioners to listen to the stakeholders and their ideas.

Commissioner Calabria said that he has received a lot of feedback from citizens on the quality of water. He said that he is uncertain if the partnership hears the concerns or do the concerns go directly to the agency. He shared Aqua's responsibilities.

Mr. Knight said that standards are important and that the commission needs to pay attention to the high standards and the public water approach.

Mr. Orbon said that Wake County supplies water through voluntary citizen wells. He said that Aqua's regulations are under the state and regulated by the water supply section. He said that county staff have had communications with Aqua staff. He said that Aqua is part of the partnership and has a personal interest in serving.

Commissioner Hutchinson asked if the water is getting better. Mr. Orbon said that there is a report from Aqua. (ask Michael for the report) He said that residents are comfortable with the drinking water. Commissioner Hutchinson and Commissioner Calabria asked that a representative from Aqua bring a report to the next Growth and Sustainability Committee. Mr. Orbon said that he will work with the regional office of Aqua and get more information.

Commissioner Hutchinson asked Ms. Keefer to share her thoughts. Ms. Keefer thanked Mr. Knight for his service and said that she is excited to be a part of the partnership.

Dr. Joseph Threadcraft, Environmental Services Director, said it is a pleasure to be on a committee that has visionaries. He said that the county will be sustainable long term. He said that this is a great partnership.

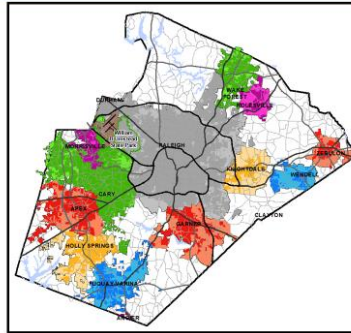
Mr. Michael Orbon shared the Wake County One Water Update.

He shared the Growth and Sustainability Goals.

Growth and Sustainability Goals

Objective GS3: Address quality and quantity issues associated with water resources.

- Create a One Water “50 year Supply Plan” for Wake County
- Plan for sustainable and resilient supply of clean drinking water for all residents

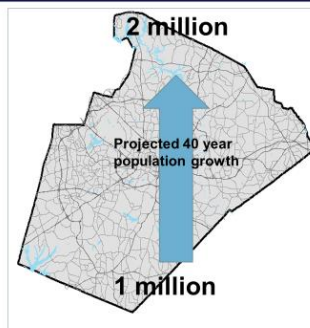


WAKE COUNTY

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He shared Wake County growth projections.

Wake County Growth Projections



WAKE COUNTY

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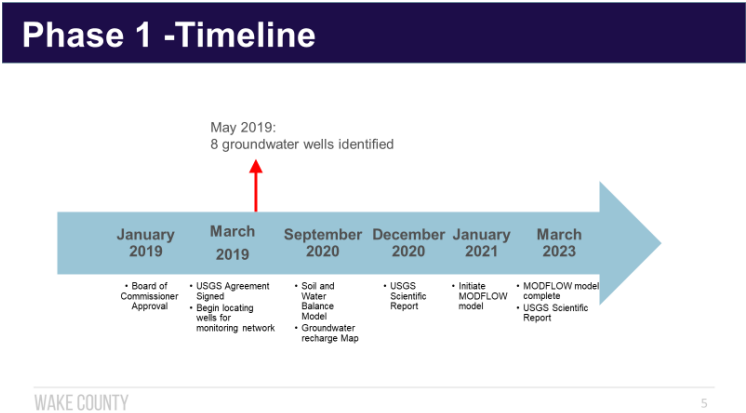
He shared the One Water study overview.

One Water Study Overview	
Phase 1- Groundwater Study	Phase 2-Integrate Surface Water & Groundwater
United States Geological Survey (USGS)	Independent consultant
Establish groundwater monitoring network	Combine local water supply and groundwater supply data
Develop groundwater model	Develop 50-Year Water Supply Plan
Years 1-5	Years 5-8

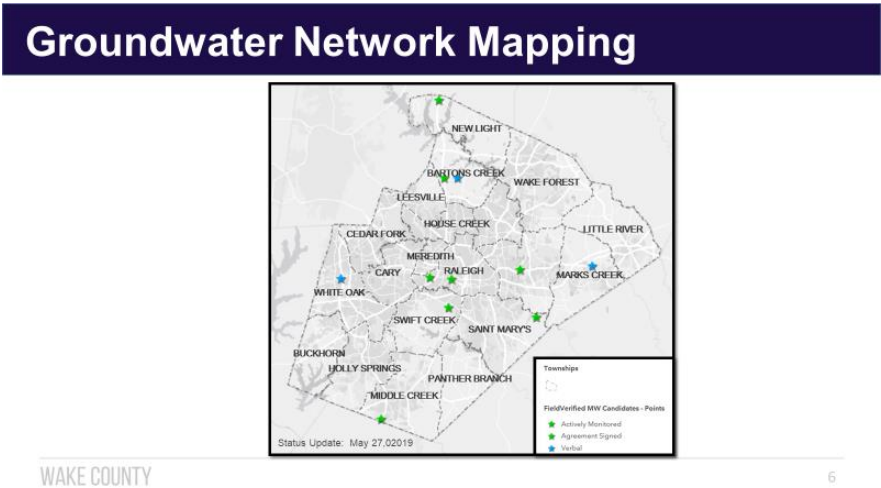
WAKE COUNTY

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He shared the phase 1 timeline.



He shared the groundwater network mapping.



He shared the inter-department collaboration.

Inter-department Collaboration

Parks, Recreation and Open Space

- Groundwater monitoring network
- Southeast Park Planning

PlanWake

- Water quality priorities
- Water Partnership survey

Wake County Public School System

- Green Schools Symposium
- Green stormwater infrastructure
- Groundwater monitoring network

Human Services







- Green stormwater infrastructure
- Green infrastructure and health linkages

WAKE COUNTY

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He shared the external collaboration.

External Collaboration



WAKE COUNTY


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He shared the Falls Lake reallocation.

Falls Lake Reallocation

Reallocation of water supply to meet City of Raleigh drinking water demands through 2047

Wake County recognized by Raleigh City Council, March 2019



WAKE COUNTY

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He shared the Green Schools partnership. He said that this is an actual outdoor classroom.

Green Schools Partnership

WCPSS coordination on sustainability
Environmental literacy linkages
Pilot project opportunities



WAKE COUNTY

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He shared the urban tree canopy collaboration.

Urban Tree Canopy Collaboration

City of Raleigh	Town of Chapel Hill
Town of Cary	City of Durham
Triangle J Council of Governments	Wake County
Conservation Trust of NC	WakeUP Wake County
NC Dept. of Environmental Quality	

WAKE COUNTY

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He shared the urban tree canopy benefits.

Urban Tree Canopy Benefits

Stormwater management
Nutrient infiltration
Thermal regulation
Air quality
Carbon sequestration
Quality of life



WAKE COUNTY

He shared take aways.

Take Aways

Wake County Water Partnership is advancing a **One Water** approach to water resources in Wake County through:

Collaborative planning for the future of water supplys

Information sharing on innovative approaches to water resource planning

Establishing partnerships to implement green stormwater infrastructure

WAKE COUNTY

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Commissioner Evans arrived at 10:00 a.m.

Mr. David Knight asked that this report be shared with the full board as a full report.

Mr. David Ellis said that this report can be shared at a future work session.

Commissioner Hutchinson thanked Mr. Orbon for the report.

Commissioner Calabria said that slides from One Water is important and that he would like those slides to be included in the presentation to the full board. He said that it affords commissioners an opportunity to ask questions.

Native Plants Discussion

Commissioner Hutchinson said that this is a follow up from last year's native plants and next steps discussion. He introduced Mr. Tom Earnhardt, Executive Producer, Exploring NC.

Mr. Earnhardt explained why citizens should care about native plants. He shared that he had many types of the native plants in his neighborhood and because houses are being built, many of the tress have been cut down and new ones of different species are growing. He said that he has spoken with Mr. Steve Troxler, N.C. Agriculture Commissioner, about native plants.

Mr. Earnhardt said that there are 6.6 million acres of growth out of 34 million acres of land. He shared about his tour of NC in the last week and the various plants that he saw. He shared stories on the types of plants that he has seen and how we have lost landscapes. He said that citizens should plant native plants so that bees, birds and bats will return. He said that citizens

have lost their way as it relates to native plants. He said that Commissioner Hutchinson pitched an idea to support efforts of native plants. Commissioner Hutchinson said that he would like to bring in partners to obtain private funding to support native plants. He recommended starting with a seed fund of \$10,000 from the City of Raleigh and private partners to get started in the fall. He said that the funds would allow residents to cut down certain trees and in return, Wake County will contract with a nursery and provide a native plant to replace the tree that was disposed of.

Mr. Earnhardt said that the process allows neighborhoods consider native plants and not monocultures. Monocultures allows the production and growth of a single plant. He shared several examples of plants and how they pollinate and the insects that feed off trees. He said that the concept is to get diversity in neighborhoods.

Commissioner Calabria said that citizens should be able make individual decisions and builders should not make decisions about what plant to purchase for a property without input. He asked how should staff approach builders to share the idea and to get their buy in. Mr. Earnhardt suggested adding incentives for developers. He said that information should be shared with existing homeowners. He said that highway commissions and state entities should be involved in the process.

Commissioner Evans said that she agrees with all the conversations to get more native plants and she is interested in being a part of the process. She suggested that the county can work with municipal partners. She said that maybe the county could offer a discount on seeds. She asked about the Bradford pear trees and the danger of them. Mr. Earnhardt shared his thoughts on the Bradford pear trees and their danger, if any.

Mr. Ellis said that the county does include the municipalities in many discussions and that this would be included.

Commissioner Calabria said that next steps should be to hold collaborative conversations with municipalities. He said that the county needs to be cautious and mindful in communications with partners and citizens.

Mr. Earnhardt shared his thoughts on engaging partners.

Commissioner Calabria said that there is no policy in place with the school system, but there is an ordinance.

Commissioner Hutchinson said that Ms. Betty Parker, WCPSS, speaks about native plants in her presentations and the site plan.

Mr. Ellis asked that the Commissioners allow staff time to gather information for the process. Commissioner Hutchinson suggested that the item be placed on the August agenda.

Mr. Ken Murphy, Senior Assistant County Attorney, said to think about spending money to help another individual is something that commissioners should consider as it relates to legal issues. He said consideration should be made for the health and welfare of individuals.

Commissioner Calabria suggested having conversations with schools about a plan or process for engaging municipalities and review their ordinances to see if they align with what the county would like to do. He said that he would like to get feedback from builders. He said that he is concerned with the image of the county using county funds. He asked if there are any matching funds.

Mr. Earnhardt said that there are private individuals who have given money to support these efforts. He said that there are banks and corporations that would be willing to offer seed funding. He said that it is a metaphor for replacing trees and not chopping them down.

Mr. Ellis said that he agrees with having a conversation with schools. He said that the county should temper how to proceed with the presentation for soliciting funds from partners.

Commissioner Hutchinson said that as it relates to certifications, staff can talk to the Home Builders Association about leading this initiative.

Commissioner Evans said to add developers and not just builders in the process.

Commissioner Hutchinson shared the Future Meeting Topics

He shared the 2019 Growth & Sustainability Planning Calendar

Month	Date	Time	Meeting Type	Potential Topics
June	10	9:00	Committee	ADDITIONAL MEETING
				Water Partnership (including David Knight)
				One Water
				Native Plants Discussion (Bradford Pear Trees)
June	10	2:00	Board Work Session	
August	12	9:00	Committee	Mobility / CRT / BRT
August	12	2:00	Board Work Session	
September	23	2:00	Committee	
October	14	2:00	Board Work Session	
November	25	2:00	Committee	Transit Fare Strategy
December	9	2:00	Work Session	

Potential Topics Listing:

Energy Initiatives

Land Use Plan Updates as necessary

Vision Zero - Going to Municipal Manager's in the summer, then to BOC

Meeting Adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Yvonne C. Gilyard, NCCCC