

Roane County Environmental Review Board

Meeting Date: October 9, 2014

Attendees:

Carolyn C. Granger

Scott Gregory

John Hixon

Mary Anne Koltowich

David Martin

R. L. Pope

Scott Stout

Allen Townsend

Ron Woody (partial meeting)

Minutes

- Nomination of Officers The Committee nominated and voted on officers for 2014 – 2015. Dave Martin was elected Committee Chair (interim). Mary Anne Koltowich was elected Committee Co-Chair. Scott Gregory was elected Committee Recorder.
- ORRCA Meeting The September 9th ORR Community Alliance (ORRCA) meeting was briefly discussed. An important highlight is that the alliance will be bringing on an independent technical consulting firm to take an independent look at the proposed DOE landfill. The consultants are hearing a lot about water issues, including karst terrain (e.g., sink hole) concerns. It is expected that there will be a community meeting in the first part of November and the consultants expect to have a preliminary report issued by the first part of January. It was the general consensus of Committee members that Roane County would be best served if DOE would make efforts to compact waste and/or divert some waste from the new landfill where possible, thereby extending the lifespan of the new disposal facility.
- K-31 D&D Reportedly there will be a push to get K-31 at the ETPP demolished. There was a suggestion that our group review any related report, and put forth recommendations and endorsements, or voice concerns.
- External Communications An opinion was expressed that DOE's Dave Adler had done a good job at keeping the Committee in the loop regarding DOE activities relevant to the Committee. It was suggested that Chris Thompson, the new DOE Oversight Office Director, be invited to one of our meetings so that we could all meet each other.

- Discussion with Ron Woody County Executive Ron Woody stopped by and discussed environmental related topics with the Committee. He has had recent meetings with TDEC and DOE. Regarding the DOE offsite groundwater sampling, there is an upcoming newspaper release and letters will go out to selected well owners in about a week requesting permission to sample wells. There is one certified water quality well on the list of wells that could be sampled and it is on the site of the Roane Regional Business and Technology Park. It is just across the Clinch River from ORNL, but the landowner may not be amenable to having it in the sampling program because of implications concerning future property resale value should sample results raise contamination concerns. Mr. Woody reported on having a recent conversation with the Anderson County Mayor regarding the proposed new DOE landfill. A question was raised about whether county legislation currently allows, or if not, would a legislative change be appropriate to allow a “tipping fee” (for lack of a better term) per ton of waste disposed at the DOE landfill. Mr. Woody discussed with the Committee about how much the EPA’s proposed Clean Power Plan might affect the Kinston fossil plant. This plant is one of the more modern of TVA’s plants, so it is believed to be ahead of the curve for compliance with the potential law.
- ORR Environmental Stewardship Program meeting An ORR Environmental Stewardship Program meeting was held on September 22, 2014. No Committee members attended.
- Emory River and Watts Bar Lake Watershed meeting An Emory River and Watts Bar Lake Watershed meeting was held at Roane County Park on September 22, 2014. Two Committee members (Mary Anne and RL) attended. It seemed that there were more presenters present than attendees. Included among the presenters were TDEC, TWRA, Corps of Engineers, watershed interest groups, other environmental groups, etc. Attending Committee members picked up some literature and will share with other members if interested.
- Light Pollution Exterior lighting/light pollution at the Midtown Dollar General was discussed. The lights on the building have been lowered but no changes have been made to the pole lights. The changes have resulted in improvements but it is still very bright and glare is especially an issue during rain. It was suggested that reduction in the wattage/lumen output of the bulbs that are in use would be helpful. Two Committee members will have a discussion with the contact for codes (Glenn) at the county to determine if there are applicable lighting codes that can be enforced. In a related note, a Committee member suggested that exterior lighting be discussed with developers of the new Midtown Weigels before lighting is installed.
- Criminal Littering The relatively recent aggravated criminal littering case was discussed. The Committee Chair asked whether the draft newspaper article should be sent to the Roane County News as it was last distributed. Not everyone remembered having reviewed it or details about it. It may be distributed one more time for comments.
- Wampler’s Tour David M. and Mary Anne attended a tour of the Wampler’s sausage plant on June 18th. Dave had previously written a summary of the tour which was distributed with the agenda for the October 9th meeting. He gave a recap of the tour at this meeting and an interesting discussion ensued. The summary distributed with the meeting agenda is very detailed and well written, so the portion of the discussion that is covered in the tour write up will not be repeated in these minutes. The motivation of the Wampler’s company for investing

in green energy sources was discussed. It was reported that they do it both for economic reasons and to be a good citizen of the community. Also related to renewal sources of energy, it was mentioned that there is a plant going in in Rockwood that will make diesel fuel from saw dust.

- Development of the 47 acre forested track off of I-40 Exit 352 interchange Some are concerned that there will be issues associated with stormwater runoff from the developed parcel. A question was raised about whether the City of Kingston has a stormwater ordinance that requires that the maximum rate of stormwater runoff post-development be no greater than the pre-development maximum rate (which typically requires a permanent stormwater detention pond). No one on the Committee knew the answer to the question.
- Document Reviews The permit for the Proposed Class II Disposal Facility Major Modification, TVA Peninsula Industrial Landfill (IDL 73-0211) was previously not posted on TDEC's website but now is posted. It was requested that as many Committee members as possible review the proposal. One Committee member suggested that the permit variances should be reviewed with the most interest, though they appear to be minor and covered well in the draft permit. Comments are due October 27th. It was pointed out that there would be no wet disposal in this new landfill. A concern was expressed regarding dust control and who would be responsible for policing that; it is not believed that the State typically sets up air monitoring stations for that purpose. Dave Martin reviewed TDEC's draft 2014 303(d) list of impaired waters and went to the public meeting held by TDEC in Knoxville. He followed up with a call to TDEC's Greg Denton to suggest potential improvements in the maps of watersheds included with the report and to suggest that streams to be sampled be prioritized in the report. His suggestions were met with little enthusiasm.
- Technicium-99 from ETP The issue concerning the technicium-99 presence in the City of Oak Ridge's wastewater treatment plant at Rarity Ridge was briefly discussed. At first there was no indication from DOE that the Clinch River would be monitored for Tc-99, but it now appears that the river will be sampled.
- Next Meeting The proposed date for the next meeting is November 13th.