

# Roane County Environmental Review Board Meeting Minutes from February 05, 2015

## Attendees:

Tom Brown, Guest Citizen  
Carolyn Granger, Representative from County Commission  
Scott Gregory, RCERB Member  
Mary Anne Koltowich, RCERB Member  
David Martin, Interim Chair, RCERB  
Colton Rue, Guest Citizen  
Scott Stout, Representative from County Executive's Office  
Allen Townsend, RCERB Member  
Caelan Townsend, Guest Citizen  
Ron Woody, County Executive, Ex-officio Member

## RCERB Members Not Present:

R. L. Pope  
David Reichle

## Proceedings

- 1) Call to Order and Opening Business – David Martin The meeting agenda was approved without changes. The Interim Chairperson announced a public comment period; no comments were offered. A motion was made to approve the January meeting minutes. A committee member remarked that some comments had been submitted by e-mail prior to the meeting; therefore, no vote for approval was conducted.
  
- 2) Discussion with County Executive Ron Woody regarding upcoming issues which may involve the RCERB – Ron Woody
  - a. **Issues that come before the ORRCA:** Mr. Woody gave an overview of how the Oak Ridge Reservation Communities Alliance (ORRCA) is funded (funds originate with DOE and flow through the State to the Alliance). He explained that the ORRCA was established in 2012 and replaced the former Local Oversight Committee. There is a possibility that he may ask for Board involvement in issues that come before the ORRCA. For example, he explained that ORRCA has contracted with Ferguson Group to evaluate the proposed expansion of the radioactive waste landfill at Y-12 [presently called the Environmental Management Waste Management Facility (EMWMF) and proposed to be called the Environmental Management Disposal Facility (EMDF)]. It is located in Anderson County but has the potential to affect water resources in Roane County. The Ferguson study will largely be focused on social/cultural issues, but will touch on

environmental issues as well. The Board may be asked to review drafts of the report (to be finalized sometime in 2016).

- b. **Recycling:** Mr. Woody would like for the Board to continue to occasionally invite Ralph Stewart, Director of Solid Waste/Recycling, to meetings and to continue to support the County's recycling program. Several RCERB members are also members of the Solid Waste Advisory Board (SWAB) and the SWAB will need to meet soon, probably in March, to approve the annual report. An update on the recycling center's new sorter – it's on order and should be received in approximately 6 months. The sorter will enable the recycling program to handle a greater volume, which is expected when the recycle collecting trailers are deployed to the cities. Some discussion ensued around awareness/promotion of recycling in schools. It was pointed out that schools have collection dumpsters for recyclable material, which generates funds for the schools (schools get \$100 back for each transfer) and helps generate recycling awareness.
- c. **Tiger Haven:** The County Commission has been dealing with concerns by some members of the community over Tiger Haven. One potential issue that the RCERB may (or may not) be asked to look into is handling and disposal of animal wastes. Presently waste materials are being disposed of at a facility in Knoxville near the University of Tennessee.
- d. **TVA Kingston Fossil Plant:** The RCERB will continue to be asked to look into environmental issues associated with the Kingston Fossil Plant, such as continued involvement in the expansion of the gypsum landfill to accept coal combustion residuals.
- e. **Clinch River Breeder Reactor Site/Small Modular Reactors:** The Board may be asked to consider environmental aspects involving the potential construction of a small modular reactor (SMR) on the site where the Clinch River Breeder Reactor was once to be constructed. The project has been estimated to have a price tag of \$250M. One issue may be the size of the emergency management zone established for the reactor.
- f. **Startup of Unit 2 at Watts Bar Nuclear Power Plant:** Unit no. 2 at Watts Bar Nuclear is scheduled to start fueling in late spring/early summer and to begin producing power by November to December of this year. Potentially issues associated with this startup could arise which would have an environmental aspect.
- g. **DOE Off-Reservation Groundwater Monitoring:** DOE will be expanding the monitoring of groundwater resources outside of/adjacent to the DOE Oak Ridge Reservation (from Gallaher Road east to Jones Road). Fifty locations will be sampled twice to establish a baseline. The Board will be asked to have involvement in this issue. A DOE representative will be coming to the March board meeting to discuss this topic.
- h. **Potential Revision of the Lower Watts Bar Record of Decision (ROD):** The initial Lower Watts Bar ROD resulted in the establishment of the Black Oak Ridge Greenway as restitution to affected communities, which has limited benefit for Roane County communities which are further downstream. TDEC is aware of this shortcoming of the first ROD and a new ROD may be issued. There may be future opportunities for environmental improvement projects in Roane County as a result. The Board may have an opportunity to suggest or evaluate potential

projects. An example of such projects would be shoreline stabilization in the Watts Bar Reservoir.

- i. **County Recreation Assets:** There is going to be a study of recreation assets in the County. There may be a crossover with some things that the RCERB typically does.
  - j. **Lighting Ordinance:** Mr. Woody presented interesting background information concerning the evolution of State regulations concerning the authority that city and county governments have to establish regulations and ordinances. For example, an act was passed by state government in 2003 that extended to Counties powers that cities already held, such as passing nuisance ordinances. In the past, the RCERB has been asked to look into citizen complaints concerning business exterior lighting (i.e., the Rockwood Dollar General); it is possible that a lighting ordinance will be proposed for Roane County in the near future, and the RCERB may be asked to provide input.
  - k. **Motions Coming Before the County Commission:** A motion should come before the County Commission soon for the establishment of a unified building code throughout the County, with building codes enforcement proposed to be transitioned from the cities to the County; another motion will be made soon for the County to be allowed to perform road patching work for the cities (with the cities compensating the county for costs); a third motion may be made in the near future for the County to form a County Planning Department, allowing all planning within the county to be conducted under a common umbrella.
  - l. **Tc-99 and Other Storm Drain Issues at the ETP:** Ms. Koltowich suggested that another environmental issue that the Board should continue to watch is the storm drains coming from the ETP campus where Tc-99 contaminated groundwater formerly infiltrated sanitary sewer pipes leading to the City of Oak Ridge's treatment plant at Rarity Ridge. The sanitary system pipes have been grouted, but are there storm drain pipes that also need attention, and is sampling of the Clinch River being considered?
  - m. **Other items of discussion:** Mr. Woody was asked by Mr. Martin whether the Board was handling recommendations appropriately, such as the recent letter from the Board to TDEC concerning comments on the Kingston Fossil Plant's landfill expansion. An affirmative response was given – the process of submitting comments was done appropriately. Some discussion was also held about the proper protocol for issuing the RCERB meeting minutes. The Board Secretary's draft, once approved by the Board Chairperson, should be sent to the County Executive's Office for subsequent forwarding to the County Commission with a deadline of 12 days prior to the second Monday of the following month. Corrections to the minutes that are identified subsequent to that should be a component of the minutes for the next meeting.
- 3) Discussion of the January 30<sup>th</sup> Tour at the TVA Kingston Fossil Plant – David Martin Some members of the Board toured the Kingston Fossil Plant on January 30<sup>th</sup>, including the existing gypsum landfill that is being expanded to begin accepting coal combustion residuals. Mr. Martin asked if anyone that attended had additional thoughts on the comments that were sent to TDEC or thought that changes were in order. It was agreed that no modifications are needed.

- 4) Discussion on reindustrialization of DOE lands at ETPP known as Zone 1 – David Martin This topic was included on the agenda and was introduced but received little discussion.

Roundtable Discussion:

- 1) **RCERB membership:** The Board voted to accept Tom Brown as a new member of the board; the vote was unanimous. Mr. Woody will make the recommendation for appointment as part of the next packet sent from his office to the County Commission.
- 2) **RCERB Bylaws:** Some additional discussion was held about the composition of the Board and the number of members established for the Board in the bylaws. Something that needs to be resolved is whether the County Commission's representative on the Board also counts as one of the 5 to 7 general members. The bylaws that were distributed by e-mail had not been reviewed by all members present so further discussion was postponed until a future meeting.
- 3) **Update on Sludge Dumping Incident:** The sludge dumped off of Peachtree Lane in January by an Oak Ridge Utility District subcontractor still has not been cleaned up. The sludge appears to have been generated when the contractor was drilling under a roadway; the makeup of the sludge was not known to anyone in attendance.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:28 PM.