



Planning, Development & Inspections

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A Division of Community Services
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MINUTES OF REGULAR PLANNING BOARD – January 4, 2023

LOCATION: Virtual Meeting, WebEx

MEMBERS PRESENT:

1. Mr. Asa Fleming (Chair)
2. Mr. Thomas Wells (Vice Chair)
3. Mr. David Adams
4. Ms. Brenna Booker-Rouse
5. Mr. Amos Clark
6. Mr. Bill Jenkins
7. Mr. Daniel Kadis
8. Dr. Kamal Kolappa
9. Mr. Ted Van Dyk

MEMBERS ABSENT:

1. Mr. Jason Barron

COUNTY STAFF:

1. Mr. Steven Finn
2. Mr. Tim Gardiner
3. Mr. Tim Maloney
4. Mr. Josh McClellan
5. Mr. David Parks
6. Ms. Sharon Peterson
7. Ms. Beth Simmons

COUNTY ATTORNEY:

1. Mr. Kenneth Murphy, Deputy County Attorney

GUESTS:

1. Ms. Nancy Daly, Water Resources Program Manager
2. Ms. Anita Davis-Holloway, Health and Human Services Medicaid Transportation Manager
3. Ms. Annemarie Maiorano, Health and Human Services Deputy Director of Operations
4. Ms. Amber Scott, Health and Human Services Data Analyst

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1. **Meeting Called to Order:** Mr. Fleming called the Planning Board meeting to order at 1:32 pm.
 2. **Petitions and Amendments:** None.

3. **Approval December 7, 2022, Minutes:** Motion to approve the minutes from December 7th, 2022, was made by Mr. Jenkins and seconded by Mr. Wells. The minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

4. **One Water Plan**

Mr. Maloney introduced Nancy Daly, a Senior Consultant in Wake County Environmental Services, who leads the plan to develop a One Water Plan, an off shoot of PLANWake.

Presentation by staff: Ms. Nancy Daly, Water Resources Program Manager

Ms. Daly began her presentation by explaining that the One Water Plan was designed to work across departments and jurisdictions to develop a comprehensive plan for the county that would be equitable, support growth, and preserve natural resources while building on existing stakeholder strengths and initiatives. She indicated that increased growth in Wake County ensured that planning for water resource needs for developers, agricultural community residents, and protection of natural resources were a priority moving forward. Ms. Daly identified the One Water Plan as a 50-year water supply plan that is tied not merely to quantity, but to integrate with development and transportation planning to support all aspects of a growing population.

Ms. Daly explained that Phase One of the plan began in 2019 with the Groundwater Study, and that Wake County's regulation of private wells was considered important in understanding the groundwater supply. The Groundwater Study was initiated in conjunction with the United States Geographical Survey and Ms. Daly noted that the study is in its fifth and final year. Phase two (the One Water Plan) began in September of 2022 with the intent to pull all components together (groundwater, stormwater, and wastewater) to connect to community growth and is slated to be completed in 2024.

The plan is divided into three task phases: Visioning began in December with representatives from 10 of the 12 municipalities invited, along with members agricultural and educational communities. The visioning process was designed as a brainstorming session to consider water and water solutions and additional sessions will be held with local industry leaders, nonprofit organizations, and environmental groups. In February and March, Ms. Daly noted, a community wide survey will expand the range of the visioning task, leading the One Water Plan into their next phase.

The second task identified by Ms. Daly was assessment in conjunction with Tetra Tech, focused on stormwater analysis, groundwater evaluation, climate and land use analysis, project prioritization, and regulatory impact to ensure water resources are available to support a 50-year plan. Ms. Daly identified key strategies to assist in this project included are multifunctional and decentralized planning, with an emphasis on seeking out water at the source. She noted that an integrated strategy was necessary, as well as a systemic approach across all water resources, not limiting watershed management strictly to jurisdictional boundaries. Restorative strategies, she noted, should focus on reuse activities along with increases in conservation.

End goals of the One Water Plan should look at short-, medium-, and long-term solutions. Ms. Daly identified increased resilience, protecting resources, water supply & management, and improved planning & design. Environmental Services planned to work county-wide with planning, parks, and open space to maximize collaboration.

Ms. Daly provided a timeline of the One Water Plan over the next two years, ending in August of 2024, with assessment and plan development taking place in FY24 and into FY25. Ms. Daly closed her presentation by identifying the One Water Plan website and providing her contact information. She offered to answer any questions the Board had based on the goals outlined.

Dr. Kolappa asked about the percentage of at-risk critical areas in the county, and Ms. Daly responded that through the planning process, they hoped to have a better idea from modeling with RTI. She indicated that a watershed analysis to identify hotspots where flooding was a priority, in addition they expected to gain a better understanding of water access through community engagement in the spring.

Mr. Jenkins expressed curiosity towards eventual identification of impaired waterways or the potential of increased buffer rules and mitigation, specifically related to runoff. Ms. Daly said that the State compiles a list of impaired waterways that staff can use to inform strategies regarding restorative measures. Finding ways to mitigate pollutants reaching impaired waterways, be it increased buffers or stormwater management, would be an end goal of the One Water Plan.

Mr. Kadis expressed his appreciation of the One Water Plan's project and asked how groundwater and gray water would be assessed as a resource. Ms. Daly replied that that the Board of Commissioners had prioritized the One Water Plan to address how the County could address stormwater management moving forward. She noted that the modeling project in conjunction with RTI included a component to study stormwater flow and what innovative solutions could be implemented.

Mr. Maloney addressed an additional question from Mr. Kadis regarding a potential reservoir in Little River, noting that each municipality in Wake county has plans in place anywhere from thirty to forty years out regarding water sources. The City of Raleigh has identified a need for a new water source in 2040 or 2050 and the likelihood was high that Little River would be that source. Mr. Maloney noted that permitting questions remained, but that Raleigh has taken into consideration where to draw water from in the future. Little River remains in Wake County's jurisdiction, but Mr. Maloney indicated that zoning and land use planning was currently operating under the expectation it would be a future reservoir.

Mr. Wells asked if domestic water supply was also part of the One Water Plan, and Ms. Daly responded that municipalities and local utilities were required to develop their own 50-year water supply plan. As the One Water Plan conducts their groundwater supply plan, consultants will gather data from the municipal local water plans and compile the results. Mr. Wells referenced the County's decision to contract private firms to supply well water to smaller communities and asked if there was any consideration for the County to take over domestic water supply in the future. Mr. Maloney responded that he did not currently see a model where Wake would provide service to unincorporated areas of Wake County. Mr. Wells asked if their services were being incorporated into the study and Ms. Daly replied that to the extent that a private company would be willing to share data with the One Water Plan, they hope to collaborate and use the information provided.

Mr. Fleming thanked Ms. Daly for her presentation and Mr. Maloney noted that there would be more One Water Plan updates as the study continued. He noted that as future surveys take place, Environmental Services would reach out to Board members to see if they would like to participate in stakeholder meetings.

5. Northeast Wake Microtransit Plan Update, Presentation by Anita Davis-Holloway

Ms. Peterson introduced Ms. Davis-Holloway as the program manager for the Wake County Health and Human Services Go Wake Access Transportation Advisory Board who was appearing before the Planning Board to discuss the pilot program in its final quarter of funding.

Ms. Davis-Holloway began her presentation by introducing Amber Scott, the transit data analyst for the Northeast Wake Microtransit Plan, along with Annemarie Maiorano, the Deputy Director of Health and Human Services who would assist with any questions from Board members. She provided background for Go Wake Access, a program designed to provide public transportation in the County, including rural services (door to door client transportation). Go Wake also provides the EDTA (elderly, disable transportation assistance) and employment transportation for citizens who need assistance with travel pertaining to work. She noted that services were available Monday through Saturday from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. and was free for individuals with Medicaid (the fee for the public was \$2-\$4 each way, depending on point of origin and destination). Prior to COVID, ride estimates were around 200,000 per year, and currently are closer to 160,000 annually.

She proceeded to detail the Go Wake Smart Ride Northeast project, which was awarded an FTA Integrated Mobility Innovation Grant in 2019 to study different transportation models for innovation. The service was designed to improve access to jobs, school, healthcare, and other services for northeast county residents with the objective of launching microtransit services that provided first 5-mile, last 5-mile for rural residents. Ms. Davis-Holloway explained that Northeast Wake County was chosen because of its high concentration of low-income population (3,800+), a senior population (classified as 65 years and older) (7,400), minority population (23,000+), a youth population (12,000+) and single or no vehicle households.

These demographics proved ideal for the study of types of transportation that could be provided in rural areas. Go Wake Smart Ride contracted with Uber to provide software usage to facilitate the service. Ms. Davis-Holloway defined microtransit services as operating small-scale, on demand public transportation that offers fixed route and flexible schedules.

Ms. Davis-Holloway introduced Ms. Scott, who provided an interactive map to inform the Board members on statistical data collected during the pilot program's first year. Ms. Scott presented preliminary results through November 2022: 6,777 total riders with an average mileage of 20.99 miles. The average wait time was 19 minutes with an average trip time of 14 and a half minutes. Ms. Scott noted that that breakdown of request through the app compared to calls were 52.52% to 44.54%. She also identified 48.84% of all trips are match trips, meaning that they were shared rides throughout. Zebulon accounted for the highest number of one-way trips, followed by Wendell and Rolesville. Rides were consistently identified as one-way to destination and one-way to origin.

Ms. Peterson interjected to mention that behind Zebulon in the number of total rides were the unincorporated areas between the municipalities listed. Ms. Davis-Holloway noted popular destinations in Zebulon as Wal-Mart and the East Wake High School.

Mr. Van Dyk commented that East Wake High School posed a challenged because of its relative lack of vicinity to any of the municipal service areas. He noted a desire to bring representation from the Wake County School Board to a future Planning Board meeting to discuss better ways to address that disconnect. Mr. Maloney responded that he would attempt to facilitate that in a future meeting.

Ms. Davis-Holloway explained that any future version of the microtransit program would operate on a smaller scale than the current 90 square mile area. Reducing service to Rolesville area was an option, as she noted that Wendell, Zebulon, and the unincorporated areas show the most demand. The pilot program only operated with three vehicles and expanding may not be within a realistic cost structure, particularly if they expand hours or add weekend transportation.

Mr. Wells asked if a parameter had been set to determine the cost per mile / ride / person and if discussions had already taken place about what fee schedule might exist should the program no longer be free. He also noted that with such a heavy percentage of trips travelling to Wal-Mart, it may be worth considering seeking out sponsorship. Ms. Davis-Holloway responded that operational costs were currently based on revenue hour and that based on the present data the pilot program operated roughly 5000 annual service hours at an operating cost around \$212,650 and that funding discussions with the municipalities were ongoing. Ms. Davis-Holloway indicated that the pilot is scheduled to run through March of 2023 but there was sufficient funding in place to maintain the program through the end for FY23.

Mr. Adams asked about support within the microtransit program for populations with developmental or intellectual disabilities, and Ms. Davis-Holloway responded that there is funding space for that group that has been awarded by NCDOT and that they met with disability advocates to explain the purpose of the pilot program during the survey period. She noted all vehicles come with wheelchair lifts and the app meets guidelines for visually impaired citizens as well.

Ms. Davis-Holloway closed her presentation, noting that she looked forward to returning to the Board with more information after full analysis of the pilot program's first year was complete. Mr. Fleming thanked her for her presentation.

6. Committee Reports

Transportation Committee:

Mr. Van Dyk informed the Board that efforts are ongoing to schedule a visit from the Department of Transportation for the February or March meeting.

Planning, Development, and Inspections Report

Ms. Peterson updated the Board on the Middle Creek Area Plan that preliminary work with the municipalities and Soil and Water was completed, and they are scheduling a meeting in February with agribusinesses in the area. She also noted that discussions were underway with the community service providers in Juniper Level to initiate community engagement for citizens not normally involved in the land use planning process. Ms. Peterson also informed the Board that the Neuse Basin Area Plan would begin preliminary work in March, divided into northern and southern portions.

Mr. Finn provided the Board with an update on information requests, which remain above average. The last quarter of customer service reports have been positive overall. The first six months of FY23 indicate development applications are split 50/50 between zoning and subdivision reviews. Mr. Finn did note an uptick in specific inquiries in pre-submittals and preliminary subdivision and in the last three technical review committee meetings a total of 225 lots were involved in the application process.

Mr. Maloney referenced the proposed ordinance amendments discussed at the last Code & Operations meeting, noting that his original plan was to bring it before the Board in January. It was determined that input from the homebuilder's association would be sought prior to final recommendation but that he anticipated bringing the amendments to February's agenda. He noted Mr. Fleming's presence would be required at the January 17th Board of Commissioners meeting when

they hear the rezoning case from December (PLG-RZ-003946-2022). Mr. Maloney expected a full, in-person, Land Use Committee meeting in February with a regular meeting to follow.

Chairman's Report

Mr. Fleming noted that he and Mr. Wells met with Commissioner Calabria to discuss the text amendment regarding Open Space in subdivisions. At the meeting it they discussed the Homebuilders Association's concerns regarding limitations on the space to build lots. The Commissioner shared the Board of Commissioners is aware of these concerns and will provide careful consideration when making their decision.

7. Adjournment


The meeting was adjourned at 3:12 p.m.

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REGULAR MEETING
WAKE COUNTY PLANNING BOARD
January 4, 2022

Chair Asa Fleming declared the regular meeting
of the Wake County Planning Board for
Wednesday, January 4, 2022, adjourned at 3:12 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Asa Fleming
vice chair

Asa Fleming
Wake County Planning Board

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