

**Wake County Health and Human Services Board
Meeting Minutes
April 24th, 2025**

Board Members Present:

Wanda Hunter
Christine Kushner
Lily Chen
Dr. Ojinga Harrison
Trey McBrayer
Dr. Tonya Minggia
Ann Rollins
Dr. Anita Sawhney
Commissioner Cheryl Stallings
Tanyetta Sutton
Dr. Kelcy Walker Pope
Tamara Wilson

Guests Present:

Ashley Manstedt
Michael Burger
Deidre McCullers

Staff Members Present:

Commissioner Vickie Adamson
Jennifer Brown
Sheila Donaldson
Odile Fredericks
Ann Godwin
Petra Hager
Anika Hamilton
Kevin Harrell
Richie Hayner
Brittany Hunt
Evan Kane
Rebecca Kaufman
Dr. Joel Lutterman
Annemarie Maiorano
Jenelle Mayer
Rachael McCaully
Ken Murphy
Shanta Nowell
Tina Payton
Toni Pedroza
Melissa Pullen
Mike Ranck
Yolanda Thacker
Lechelle Wardell
Dana Webb-Randall
Stantavia Wright
Ross Yeager

Call to Order

Chair Ms. Ann Rollins called the meeting to order at 7:38 a.m.

Next Board Meeting – May 22, 2025

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Ann Rollins asked for a motion to approve the March 27, 2025, Board meeting minutes. There was a motion by Ms. Christine Kushner and Dr. Anita Sawhney seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report

In the absence of Mr. Terry McTernan, Treasurer, the treasurer's report will be updated at the next meeting.

Mr. Ken Murphy asked for a moment to discuss a dangerous dog appeal that was recently submitted to the county. There will be a hearing on May 20th at 9:00am, lasting no later than 12:00pm. The review will be at Somerset in the normal Board meeting location. There must be three Board members on the hearing panel and Ms. Maty Ferrer Hoppmann and Dr. Jananne O'Connell have already volunteered. There needs to be one more member, and Mr. Murphy asked for a volunteer to serve on the appeal panel and to let Ms. Brittany Hunt and himself know.

Chair Ann Rollins took a moment to welcome back Commissioner Vickie Adamson to the meetings, and then congratulated Ms. Rebeca Kaufman and Ms. Antonia Pedroza on their new Department Head positions.

Health and Human Services Director's Update

(Presented by Ms. Toni Pedroza, and Ms. Rebecca Kaufman)

Ms. Rebecca Kaufman (Health Director) introduced Mr. John DeHaro to present the status of the construction of the new Public Health building as well as other projects on the master plan.

- Mr. DeHaro reviewed the master plan timeline to show the progression of the various construction and renovation projects, including the new Public Health building and upcoming renovation of the Swinburn building. He then spoke about the parking deck at the new Public Health building and noted this is currently one of the largest projects in the county. Next phase of the building will be procuring furniture and equipment for the facility. We're looking at completion of the building at the end of October. There is a lot of transition that happens between putting furniture and equipment in and making the space ready for staff to move in and transition from Sunnybrook. Most likely, we anticipate moving into that building in the January - February time frame of 2026. Mr. DeHaro then showed an artist's rendering of the public art that will be installed on the parking deck. There was a type of competition for artists and 80 submissions were received. There was a selection committee comprised of many different organizations within Wake County, and the artist Mr. Benjamin Ball, with the Ball-Nogues group, was selected out of California. With the challenge of art, sometimes, can it really meet the scale of your goal? This artist just put a project up in the Charlotte airport and he's very well known for this type of media. We are hoping the artwork will be fully installed before the building opening. Mr. DeHaro then went on to give an update on the Western Regional Center. He noted it is a great location that captures the Western quadrant of the county, which is the missing one. And what's nice about it, we have great partners there, Dorcas ministries, so leveraging that relationship kind of building this energy, making sure we have the right programs to complement each other and serve our clients. The Western Regional Center will be a different building than your typical Regional Center. Most of your regional centers are single story. We don't have the luxury of the site here, so we had to go two story. This will be a very walkable area with Dorcus Ministries nearby and between the two sites, there is a bus stop on high house Road, which is important. There will be sidewalks all the way to High House Rd. so they can come to our front door. Chair Ann Rollins asked if the county installs bollards at their buildings and Mr. DeHaro stated that the county does install bollards and there will be some at this building. There will also be a security screening station, and all staff and clients will enter through there. Mr. DeHaro reviewed the upcoming renovation of the Swinburne building. The building would be under construction by now, but unfortunately, the project will need to be rezoned, so we are looking to get approval to rezone the project and move forward. Once rezoned we will get the site plan approval. We are looking at project completion in December of 2026 at this moment.

He then spoke about the Southern Regional Center, the first one of the regional center expansions. Regional Centers have been great facilities. They've really worked well for the county. But the county is growing, each regional center is sited on the land so they could have an expansion, and that expansion is about 5000 square feet, which is what was anticipated for the Southern Regional Center being the first one. One of the Board members asked about the process and outreach of bidding requests for the artwork on the new Public Health Building parking deck. They noted that North Carolina has a rich artistry history here, especially in Asheville, with a lot here in Raleigh. What did that outreach look like? Mr. DeHaro noted that the artist community is totally different, and their outreach is not the same as what happens in government. For artists, you have to go to what they call the art list, and it's a public program that kind of bandwidths throughout the country, and artists respond. The request goes out as a blanket request on the websites to all the artists in the country. I asked myself the same thing about North Carolina artists, and it was interesting, some of the challenges for projects of this size. Some artists cannot tackle that kind of volume. And I only know about two or three artists within North Carolina, one of them being Durham, one of the Asheville that could do a project of this size, but part of the challenge is if they have another project currently so finding those alignments with artists sometimes is a challenge. And yes, we'd like to go to North Carolina first but sometimes those are the challenges that they have, the scope of work, or they're already busy with a project, and that's why we weigh the decision with a selection committee. We have to make sure that we are being intentional about economic sustainers, not just for one company, but spreading that around because of the political climate that we're in right now. And that's why we do what we call the request for qualification process. It's called the weighted matrix. And what we do is being very transparent. We put out the request for quote (RFQ) that sustains the project, and they respond to it. How are they qualified to do this project? And we receive about five or six submissions. And again, a lot of people are busy right now. There's a lot of construction going on, so companies are careful about what they pursue, and then we weigh in.

Commissioner Vicky Adamson noted the situation where sometimes we have to place foster kids in office buildings until, they get placed. She had the opportunity last week to tour the space where they stay. The children were out for the day, so she did not interact with children, but was able to walk through the space. The Commissioner said that she was personally aghast at the building, the fact that there's one shower for them and there was no shower curtain. The commissioner noted that she had gotten volunteers lined up to try to spiff the space up. She said that almost everything they wanted to do she was told that GSA wouldn't allow it. She asked if there is any way to get a list of things we can do that would be GSA approved for that space so that it could be improved. Ms. Annemarie Maiorano noted that Mr. DeHaro is not with GSA, that it is a separate county department. Mr. DeHaro noted that he would follow-up on this. The Commissioner noted that she would look into this more with the responsible department.

In closing, Ms. Kaufman noted that she will work with Mr. DeHaro and Ms. Brittany Hunt to set up a tour for the Board members.

Ms. Toni Pedroza (Senior Deputy Director of Health & Human Services) had one update, noting that the Food and Nutrition services reported a 97.7 timeliness rating for this week.

2025 Mayor Frank Eagles Excellence in Community Service Award

(Presented by Mr. Ross Yeager)

Mr. Ross Yeager explained that Mayor Frank Eagles led a life dedicated to service. A retired State of NC employee, he served as Mayor of Rolesville for 12 years. He was also a longtime member of the Health and Human Services Board. Frank had a passion for ensuring people had access to the resources and

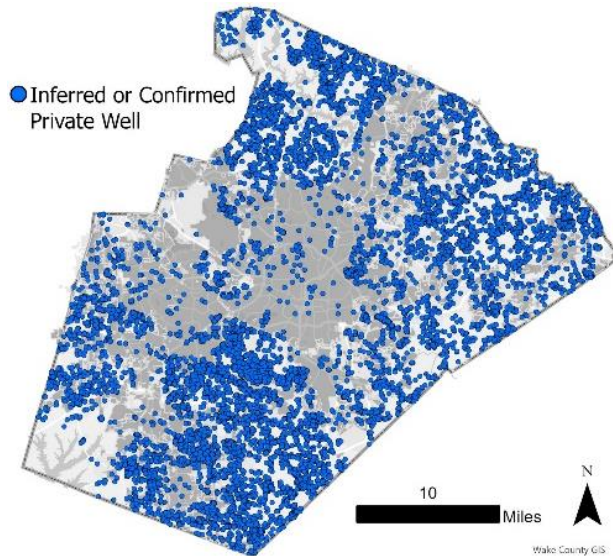
services they needed. He was resolute in his efforts and often became directly involved in helping others. Since his passing in 2021, the Board has recognized outstanding individuals who give their time and talents to helping others. They present one candidate with the Frank Eagles Excellence in Community Service Award. This year's review committee (Commissioners Stallings, Petra Hager, John Myhre, and Cathy Eagles) selected Michael Burger with TriArea Food Ministry as the winner. Mr. Burger was recognized for his outstanding contributions to Food Security over the past 8 years. As a result of his efforts, this once small local food pantry has grown to serve 2,000 families monthly, providing each with 100lbs of food. This includes donations from local supermarkets as well as fresh produce from local community gardens. Mr. Yeager then noted that also in attendance was nominee Ashley Manstedt, who was recognized for her work with seniors experiencing food insecurity as well as local families in need of household good and furniture. Mr. Burger was then presented with the award, the Board congratulated him, and a photo was taken.

One of the Board members mentioned to Chair Rollins that there needs to be a discussion about the communications plan and going forward with this award. We need to give some more optics to this and have more people come out for the award. We need to have a discussion on how communications go out, how it's pushed out to the community. She mentioned that to her knowledge all the award nominees have come from the Wake Forest area. Chair Rollins said that this topic could be put on a future agenda to discuss the concerns.

Groundwater Program Update

(Presented by Ms. Rachael McCaully)

Ms. Rachael McCaully introduced herself and explained her role as a Hydrogeologist with the Onsite Water Protection Division. She is presenting on the groundwater and private well program. She began talking about private wells and the challenges of being a private well owner. In wake county about 90% of the population receives their water from a public water supply, which includes municipalities such as the City of Raleigh water, and other private utilities like Aqua that runs some community wells. These systems are regulated and covered by the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ), and they receive regular testing and monitoring by certified operators to ensure water safety. The remaining 10% receive their water from a private drinking water well. In contrast to the public system, these are permitted by Wake County and there are some initial testing requirements and constructions requirements that must be done before the well can be put into use. After the initial permitting process no one is testing or monitoring that well other than the homeowner. The Onsite Water Protection Division can assist with water testing, but in the case of private wells the homeowner is their own water system operator. About 100,000 residents are served by 40,000 +/- wells, and there are approximately 300 new wells drilled each year. About one third of these wells are shown as blue dots on the below map.



Wells are in very diverse settings, in rural and agricultural areas, older established neighborhoods, new neighborhoods further out in the county, and some in the city limits. There are about 2,300 known releases of contaminants such as petroleum, drycleaning solvent, pre-regulatory landfills and industrial contamination sites. Other known man-made contaminants could be human and animal waste, over-fertilizing, pesticide application and PFAS. In addition, there are natural sources of contamination such as uranium, radon, iron, and manganese. The homeowner is largely responsible for their own water supply; however, the Onsite Water Protection Division has a Well program with requirements for new wells:

- Site evaluation
- Grout & wellhead inspections
- Initial testing for:
 - Bacteria, metals, nitrate on all wells
 - Man-made chemicals on some wells
 - Uranium in eastern Wake
- Certificate of Occupancy depends on a clean well test

Wake County is one of the first counties to have a well water protection program, which was started in 1987. Since around 2004 requirements for new wells have included a site evaluation and review to ensure compliance with rules. Once the well has been completed some initial water testing for bacterial and inorganic contaminants such as heavy metals and nitrates is completed. In 2008 state law adopted these requirements and used our program as a model for their own permitting and inspection program. Since then, we have added on additional requirements to our permitting. We added location-based testing for manmade chemicals in some wells, and some testing for radionuclides in some wells. A certificate of occupancy depends on clean tests and a closed out well permit by meeting all the requirements. All Permit applications for new wells or building projects hooking onto existing wells undergo a groundwater contamination review, to identify possible sources of contamination that may threaten a well in any given location. During this review, we identify any known contamination incidents within 1500ft of the property where the well is to be drilled. We also use historical aerial imagery to assess past land uses of the property, and we evaluate the local geology to infer the likelihood of naturally occurring contamination in the groundwater. The inspection team uses tools to identify wells in certain areas that may need to be tested for additional contaminants based on a map of known releases or known natural contaminants. Our program also works extensively with state agencies. NCDEQ manages contamination

site releases and directs responsible parties to assess and mitigate environmental impacts, including effects on private wells. We catalog and map data from NCDEQ on these sites and refer contaminated wells to DEQ for follow-up. We also receive a lot of technical assistance from NC DHHS, particularly regarding health-based risks from both man-made and naturally occurring contaminants. For well users who are not obtaining a permit of any kind but want to have their well water tested, our program offers water testing as a paid service, where water samples are either delivered to our lab by the customer or our staff will visit the home and collect the samples. We analyze those water samples and then communicate the results back to the customer. To encourage well water testing, we are continuously working to identify and remove barriers for well users. Barriers can be anything that can increase the difficulty of the testing process, including but not limited to access to information, financial limitations, lack of internet access or transportation. We've created different test packages to encourage comprehensive testing and keep residents from having to sift through individual options. We have income based discounted testing options, as well as financial assistance options for well repair. We are continuously working in conjunction with other Wake County departments like Housing Affordability and Community Revitalization to identify opportunities for collaboration.

As of 2025, our program has teamed up with some of the regional centers to help make our paper application process for discounted water testing more accessible to the community. The program also offers well training for private sector professionals – mostly for realtors and builders, but also for health professionals, community leaders, and really whoever is interested. Well users are engaged through a range of methods. We attend community meetings and events, and well users also receive one-on-one support when they order well testing. Our field staff are great at troubleshooting and helping customers diagnose issues with their wells and identify what kind of testing they might need. After the testing and analysis, we follow up to explain their test results, provide clarification on any questions they may have, and discuss any recommended actions. We engage with students pretty frequently as well. Earlier this month, I participated in an alumni career panel at a symposium for one of the science departments at NC State. Last year, I had the privilege of designing and leading a field trip for geology undergraduates, where we took them to the same facility where we train our new employees and taught them about wells and septic systems.

Ms. McCauly went on to discuss Radionuclide contamination and response. This issue of radionuclide contamination picked up momentum as a public health concern for Wake County well users in 2018, when, as part of an effort to prioritize contamination sites for targeted outreach efforts, the data revealed that radiological contaminants were exceeding health-based standards far more frequently than other types of contaminants. Where pesticides, nitrate, and bacteria exceeded health standards about 1% of the time, radionuclide levels exceeded standards 11% and 19% of the time. Radionuclides are elements that occur naturally in the underground rock, and over time, accumulate in groundwater as well water, which is of particular concern to well users. Comparing locations of contamination against the rock type that are present where they are located shows us that the radionuclides are associated with a specific type of granite that underlies almost the entire eastern half of the county. On the basis of the available radiological testing results at the time, as well as background research, we established an area in Wake County where the risk of finding radionuclides in well water is greatest, and a recommendation that every well user in this area, essentially the eastern half of the county, get their water tested for radionuclides. This includes testing for uranium, gross alpha and beta, radon in water, and radon in air. Fortunately, each of these contaminants can be removed from drinking water with the right type and level of treatment. Remediation costs vary depending on the specific cocktail of contaminants present and at what levels they are present, as well as personal decisions made by the homeowner. Some of the different types of treatment include Reverse Osmosis, Ion Exchange, Aeration, and Granular Activated Carbon, and these are either going to be installed as Point of Use, meaning at one faucet (like the kitchen sink), or Point of Entry, meaning the water is treated before it enters the home, so all water is treated. Other options for mitigation would include drinking bottled water, and when available, connection to a

public water system. This can be a good option when it is feasible, but unfortunately, connecting to a public water supply is often a very complex and pricey endeavor. We start getting into property annexation, connection costs, and so on. And that's if there's even a public water system to connect to nearby. More often than not, installing treatment is the best course of action. Understanding the presence and complexity of this issue and recognizing that there were large numbers of Wake County residents who were potentially using contaminated wells but were not aware of it, we launched a campaign in 2019 to:

- Inform the public about this naturally occurring health concern, including well users and stakeholders
- Build our internal capacity and expertise to provide support and technical assistance to private well users
- Connect well users to resources instead of introducing a problem without helping to find and implement solutions

Initial steps included mailing over 19,000 notices to residents living in eastern Wake County who are likely relying on a private well, a press conference, and community meetings. Resident response from this large-scale effort was significant, and resulted in over 100 applications and approvals for financial assistance and 1200 additional wells were tested within six months. The launch of the Rads Campaign was just one step in Wake County Wells program's efforts, and we continue to use the available data and research to bolster our knowledge and approach to this issue every day.

Ms. McCaully then took a moment to briefly highlight some of the other recent projects the program has been involved in. While these projects are not directly related to each other, each one plays an important role in our overall efforts.

- Revision of local well rules for well construction variances
- Partnering with Regional Centers to increase access for well users
- Updating and creating new program materials
- Configuring and implementing database upgrades

In 2023, we upgraded our Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) from a manual entry process to an application called Sample Master. This transition has significantly improved our data validation processes and allows for us to generate a single, easy to read report for water testing results. This year, we're taking a further step forward by replacing our twenty-year old Groundwater Information Management System (GIMS) with a platform called EQuIS. This system will store all the water testing results from wells we sample in Wake County, which will then be linked to their corresponding geographical locations. This integration is essential for performing the analysis and generating the maps you saw earlier. This new platform offers extensive capabilities to modernize our workflows.

Looking ahead:

- The water quality lab will be moving into the new Public Health Center once it's completed. This move will increase our in-house testing capabilities, resulting in faster turnaround times for water testing—and it has windows!
- Our wastewater team, responsible for inspecting mobile home parks in Wake County, identified a need to educate park owners on the proper management and maintenance of their wells. In response, we've begun developing some guidance to support them.
- We will also be reassessing the recommendations and requirements for radionuclide testing on both new and existing wells. As we continue to collect data, it's essential to keep evaluating the results to better understand where the risks for radionuclides in well water are greatest. Additionally, we'll be reviewing testing fees.

Our ongoing goal is to eliminate barriers for well users. This involves:

- Improving our processes to enhance accessibility.
- Educating well users and stakeholders about the importance of water testing and well maintenance.
- Engaging with the community to build trust, raise awareness, and expand our impact.

These goals require collaboration. We are a regulatory program, not experts in outreach and engagement. We've begun building relationships with those Wake County programs who are experts, like housing affordability and community revitalization, population health, the regional centers, and we really value those connections and will continue to look for ways to collaborate with them.

Lastly, our program will remain committed to identifying solutions to the challenges faced by private well users in Wake County, ensuring their access to a safe and reliable water supply.

At the end of the presentation a Board member asked Mr. Evan Kane to discuss the One Water survey that was sent out to the Board members. Mr. Kane spoke about the survey noted that Wake County in 2019 initiated a long-term water supply plan for the county looking out 50 years for all the water needs for the county. Individual municipalities are required under state law to have water supply plans to support their utilities. The county itself did not have a plan and is not bound by the statutory requirements. Thinking ahead of the importance of water for economic growth, health, recreation and so forth, the county embarked on what is known as a One Water approach to planning. This does not mean a "one water" supply system to support the county, it means that all water in whatever form has value, no matter if its wastewater, stormwater, drinking water etc. This project has gone from a visioning phase to now identifying strategies for water management going forward and they are currently soliciting community input, through the survey that you've been provided, on the strategies and ideas for how to manage water.

Another Board member asked about the letters mentioned that would be sent out to the family to take measures with testing for contamination. She asked about the mentioned financial assistance for those families that cannot afford to treat their wells. Ms. McCaully mentioned there is income based discounted water testing, and a financial assistance program that has been identified through ARPA funding, where they started a pilot program to provide assistance for eligible homeowners to get their wells or their septic system repaired. This is where the partnership with housing affordability and community revitalization has come in. A partnership has been created where if someone with a need is identified they can refer them over to housing and they can reach out and do an interview to assess their eligibility. There are different state and federal programs as well, that they can connect them to, such as for the elderly and disabled.

The question was asked of Ms. McCaully if we track improvements once we find out there is a problem with a well. Ms. McCaully noted that with the groundwater contamination there is no removing it because it's naturally occurring and is always there. The mitigation of the drinking water, once it's pumped up for drinking water from a well, for the permitting process there are testing requirements. To meet the requirements for a permit, if there is an exceedance of contaminants, then the homeowner or builder, whomever is responsible for that well, is required to put a treatment system on. Once the treatment system is in place the water is re-tested to be sure the treatment system is working. We do keep this information documented, all the different tests and where the sample was collected, so we do keep that data. It was also mentioned by a Board member if the libraries could be used as a resource to disperse well water testing and contaminate information. It was agreed that this could be an outlet for community information.

Mr. Kane then mentioned that there is a Bill, House Bill #376, currently in the House that is expected to rapidly cross over into the Senate and be adopted as law. The current version of this bill would strip away

local permitting regulations but has a specific mention that local well testing regulations would be preserved. We are viewing this as a win given the way the momentum on this Bill is headed. We've gotten to keep the most important part of our local well regulations. We can now shift our attention to trying to adapt to the new regulatory framework. It looks like we will be bringing some additional revisions to the Board so that we have the tools in place to keep the local well testing requirements and be able to follow through and enforce those. A Board member asked for clarification if we could require testing, but not permitting. Mr. Kane confirmed this, stating that the local well variances that were just adopted by the Board a few months ago would become irrelevant because the state will return to issuing those variances. Wake County would also lose the 10ft setback to property lines and a 50ft well-to-well setback, neither of which are in State regulations. These are things in Wake County that we have found are good practice. Chair Ann Rollins asked if there was anything the Board could do to advocate and Mr. Kane stated that we have done effective advocacy, but the Bill seems to be moving quickly with no changes. Chair Ann Rollins stated that Mr. Kane should keep the Board notified of what happens with House Bill #376.

Onsite Water Protection User Fees

(Presented by Mr. Evan Kane)

Mr. Evan Kane noted that this agenda item was brought to the Board in February, discussing the development of service fees they have been involved in with the community and Environmental services departments. At that time this was just an informational item for the Board, but it is now ready to bring to the Board as an action item. To recap, development services are things associated with building real estate development such as building permits, sediment and erosion control permits, and well and septic system permits. The role of this Board in evaluating and recommending these fees is governed by Accreditation Benchmark 33.5, The local Health Department shall determine the cost of services in setting fees, and also by Accreditation Benchmark 39.3 that states the Local Board of Health shall annually review and approve the local health department budget and approve fees in accordance with G.S. 130A-39(g). Not included in this action is voluntary well testing, complaint investigations, repair permits, and anything outside of Environmental Health. Mr. Kane presented a chart showing the current fees, the date they were adopted, and the proposed new fee. The fees are essentially being doubled; however, the current fees have not increased in 20 years. These fees should be reflective of the value that people are getting, as well as some cost recovery. Chair Ann Rollins noted that these were initially brought to the Board in February as informational. Mr. Kane noted that per the Accreditation Benchmark wording, the action for the Board would be to approve and adopt these proposed fees. Chair Rollins asked if there were questions or comments. One of the Board members asked if there is an issue with a site and an inspector has to come back, would the re-inspection charge only be charged once if there were multiple visits. Mr. Kane noted that one permit fee is charged, and testing fees are included. If the situation is if they come out and the permit requester has not prepared the property for inspection, such as staking out the area the well will be placed at so that it can be inspected, then the re-inspection fee would be charged. Mr. Kane stated they do their best to make sure the applicant knows what must be done before the inspector comes out. Chair Ann Rollins asked if the applicant is given information on what they need to do before the inspector comes, and that it is communicated clearly. Mr. Kane stated that yes, there is a lot of communication ahead of time and one of the things that will be done with the adoption of this new re-inspection fee will be to provide clear guidance to staff as well. There is very rarely a re-inspection fee charged, so there will be clear guidance for both staff inspectors and the permit applicants. Ms. Wanda Hunter asked about the re-inspection fee being higher than double. Mr. Kane noted that this price was based largely on looking at the actual cost of the time to send someone out to a site twice. The original \$75 was way under the impact in terms of staff time and mileage, etc. Ms. Lily Chen asked if the owner would pay for the drawing of the well construction, and who would be responsible for how deep the well should be. Mr. Kane noted that when an application is received and a builder requests an inspection, the lot will be marked out where the house will be built. The Inspectors would identify based on soil evaluation, where the septic would be

and based on setbacks, and would mark the location where the well should be drilled. There would be set locations in the permit. The builder would then be responsible for everything that happens on the lot. The dept would depend on where the water depth would be, and that is nearly impossible to predict.

Chair Ann Rollins asked for a motion to approve the proposed fee changes. There was a motion and a second, the fees were then approved with one Board member abstaining from the vote.

Committee Chairs Update

(Presented by Dr. Anita Sawhney and Ms. Wanda Hunter)

Dr. Anita Sawhney noted that there were no updates from the Public Health Committee as they had not met the previous month.

Ms. Wanda Hunter shared that last month was Child Abuse Awareness Month and Child Welfare presented at the Social Services Committee meeting. There was also a presentation from Warmth for Wake, a program through Wake County where a volunteer group meets to chop donated wood and deliver it to those in need that heat their homes by wood heat only. There was also discussion about the summer program, Cool for Wake that normally provides box fans for qualified individuals. The County is starting to reach out to try to begin donating air conditioners to qualifying households. It was suggested that a presentation be scheduled for the Board to present both the Warmth for Wake and Cool for Wake programs. Ms. Hunter also reported that the Childcare Subsidy Group was able to pull 50 families off of the waiting list. Ms. Hunter noted how hard the Social Services team works and thanked Ms. Pedroza for having such a great team in the Social Services department.

Ms. Wanda Hunter also mentioned that at the beginning of April the Community Health Workers were able to go to the NC Community Health Workers Summit held in New Bern, NC. There was a plethora of different topics discussed to help them in their journey to becoming community health workers and how to address different needs in the community. It was a great opportunity to spend time with other health workers.

Public Comments

- Ms. Deidre McCullers asked Mr. Kane if it was possible to bring the paperwork, the communication, that they would be handing out to well permit applicants telling them how to prepare for inspection so that they would not be charged for a re-inspection to the Board for review. It was agreed that it could be presented to the Board for review.
- Ms. McCullers commented on the construction of the new buildings the county is working on. She thinks that the county should have brought community members into the planning phase so that they could give a client perspective since they are the people that would be affected. She stated that while the staff have a covered parking deck, there was very little covered parking spaces for clients. She stated that it is disrespectful to plan buildings for the people and the people are not present at the planning meetings.

In closing Chair Ann Rollins mentioned the advocacy letter for House Bill 197 that was signed at the April Board meeting. She noted that she had spoken to a few of the co-signers but had not had a chance to speak with Representative White, who is one of the sponsors. The cosigners were not too hopeful but were aware that we are advocating for that Bill.

Mr. Ken Murphy then took a moment to remind the Board members that he needs one more Board member to participate on the review panel for the Dangerous Dog Appeal scheduled for May 20, 2025, at 9:00am.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

Board Chair's Signature:



Date: 05/22/2025

Respectfully submitted by Debra Baker