



Agenda Abstract

Department: Environmental Resources

Meeting Date: **8-16-10**

Submitting Official: Fred Royal

Authorizing Signature: _____

Subject: Draft Watershed Protection Ordinance: Amendments to meet Jordan Lake Buffer Rules	A status up-date and for review only.
Action Requested:	
Attachments (List Individually):	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Response Letter to DWQ 2. Summary Amendments <p><i>See URL link on ERB website for maps and ordinance:</i> http://www.chathamnc.org/Index.aspx?page=882</p>

Introduction & Background

The Jordan Lake Nutrient Management Strategy (Jordan Rules) aims to restore, protect and maintain the water quality of Jordan Lake. The rules (15A NCAC 02B.0262 - .0273) became effective August 11, 2009. Session Laws 2009-216 and 2009-484 modified the rules. The rules include riparian buffers, agriculture, nutrient management, stormwater and wastewater. The effective Chatham County Watershed Protection Ordinance has been amended as a draft (amended) with the intent of meeting the Jordan Lake buffer rules.

Discussion & Analysis

The amended ordinance is in draft form and is under a second round review at the NC Division of Water Quality (DWQ). The county was notified by letter from DWQ as to the status of the review. Staff and attorney addressed the DWQ comments and resubmitted the draft ordinance

within the 30-day required time-frame. DWQ will submit the draft ordinance to the Environmental Management Commission (EMC) in September, 2010 with recommendations for approval. EMC will review and comment/approve the draft ordinance. Chatham County will adopt the draft ordinance as final in November, 2010.

The Summary (Attachment 1) highlights the key amendments to the ordinance and describes what some of the changes mean and how the amendments will be applied to the existing ordinance.

Staff recommends that the Jordan Lake Buffer Rules only apply to the Jordan Lake Watershed Area as shown on Attachment 3; primarily due to the potential additional administrative/resource requirements and where the existing ordinance has been an effective countywide buffer ordinance for water quality protection. The Environmental Review Board will provide comments after their August 19, 2010 meeting.

Recommendation

It is the recommendation of the Environmental Resource Division staff that the Board of Commissioners reviews the draft ordinance submitted to DWQ and recommendations from the Environmental Review Board (from August 19 meeting). The Board of Commissioners may also consider additional conditions/provisions upon the receipt of any comments from the ERB and citizens as allowed by DWQ.