

NHCA, Inc. Community Meeting Minutes – August 13, 2009

Location: New Hill Baptist Church -- 7 PM

Attendees: New Hill Community and friends of New Hill

Guest speakers

- Chris Brook, Southern Coalition of Social Justice (<http://www.southerncoalition.org/>)
 - Working on preparing for EIS Record of Decision (ROD) which is expected in November / December
 - Possibilities are: could drop the project, could ask for supplemental comments, or could approve Site 14 and move forward
 - If Site 14 is approved, still have Final EIS process (hearing and written comments) before a Record of Decision (ROD) is made
 - Might need litigation. We are firming up our “legal standing”
 - Created an online petition to help us fight Site 14. To access the online petition, go to: (<http://www.southerncoalition.org/newhill>)
 - Still doing publicity campaign (Preservation NC, Capital Area Preservation)
 - Working on political avenue – e.g. Wake County Commissioners resolution
 - Organizing and engaging other groups
- Sue Dayton, Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League
 - A large part of our response to the DEIS focused on the fact that USACE had not adequately addressed how sewage sludge was going to be handled from the sewage treatment plant. In making this case, Sue Dayton, whose study on the sludge issue was one of the appendices in our response to the ACE DEIS. Sue was here to show our community a video called “Sludge Diet”. The video was well received and provided us lots to consider when the plant is built, sludge created and then needs disposal. We also had great video “technical support” from Rev. Pleasant.

Old Business

- Update on Harris Lake Drainage Basin Land Use Study
 - Study project completed and results will be presented to towns in near future

New and Future Business

- Sewage Plant
 - Harris Lake discharge (alternative discharge option)
 - Current indications still show this option to be very feasible and will provide WWP many cost savings such as many miles of reduced pipelines and elimination of a pump station. Key issue for New Hill will be if a determination can be made soon enough as to affect the plant location within sewage plant schedule.
 - WWP projected project schedule:
 - Final EIS – September 2009
 - Final public comments – September / October 2009
 - DENR and USACE ROD – November / December 2009
 - If Site 14 approved, permit applications could start – December 2009
 - If permits are approved, construction could begin early 2010

- US 64 Corridor Study
 - Attended public meeting on Thursday, July 16 at Green Hope High School, in Cary
 - Many issues were raised that sounded a lot like New Hill's issues
 - Mayor Weatherly opposed the road changes because it will affect the quality of life of Apex
 - Improved roads = increased growth and traffic causing more noise
 - Will impact home values
 - Changes will affect community's character. Folks moved here because of expected lifestyle and small town environment
 - Question asked: If folks don't want the road changes, what happens? Answer: Since there is no money available today and when limited money is available, and if community doesn't want the road improvements then the project is dead!
 - Mentioned the many public communications done to-date to obtain public input
 - Nelson dollar and other government representatives spoke against the project because the people they represent are opposed to the project
 - NCDOT offered to include representatives from affected area to be part of the project study group to help determine the best option. Wanted them part of the process! However, they didn't say their issues would be resolved.
- Next Community Meeting
 - **Tentatively** scheduled for September 10 at 7 PM – location First Baptist Church

Open Forum

Adjourn