

## ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD

### MINUTES

February 19, 2013: 5:30 p.m.  
Conference Room 10035  
316 N. Academy Street, Cary, North Carolina  
[www.townofcary.org](http://www.townofcary.org)

**Present:** Vice Chair Liz Adams, Board Members Eric Aumiller, Shuchi Gupta, Susan Lawson, Roy Legaard, Rajit Ramkumar, and Danna Widmar, Council Liaison Ed Yerha, Staff Liaison Emily Barrett and Deputy Town Clerk Karen Gray

**Absent:** Chair Dan McFarland, Board Members Christopher Flythe, Reid Miner, Oliver Pau, and Teen Liaison Allyson Weglar

#### A. Call to Order

Adams called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Barrett requested the following changes to the agenda:

- Remove Item D.4, Sustainability Communication Plan Review, from the agenda
- Move Item I, Public Comment to immediately follow Item C
- Move item D.2, Preserve Carolina Meeting, to item 1 under Old/New Business.

#### B. Adoption of Agenda

**ACTION:** Widmar moved to adopt the amended agenda. Lawson provided the second. The board granted unanimous approval.

#### C. Approval of Minutes

**ACTION:** Lawson moved to approve the January 15, 2013 minutes. Gupta provided the second. The board granted unanimous approval.

#### D. Public Comment (3 minutes maximum per speaker)

Charles Ritter, a member of Preserve Carolina, provided the following information in the form of handout to board members:

“On February 11, 2013, Senate Bill 76 was filed to set a date when our moratorium on fracking would end and pave the way for offshore drilling, putting public health, water and air at risk in NC! Senate Bill 76 authorizes DENR to begin issuing permits for shale gas exploration in March Of 2015, bypassing another vote by the General Assembly to approve regulations.

“Key reasons to be concerned:

- Some legislators only voted last year for Senate Bill 820, which started the process of developing regulations for fracking, because it required one final vote of approval after seeing the regulations, BEFORE permitting could start. S76 ignores this reasonable step and lets permitting start by default!
- It removes the requirement for “landmen” to register in North Carolina, leaving property owners vulnerable, and limiting public access to records about companies operating in NC.
- No local taxation, fees, licenses, etc., on anything related to fracking.

- The Senate, to hide the problems also wants to eliminate the State Geologist from the Mining and Energy Commission, removing all scientific inputs from the MEC.”

Barbara Goldberg, a Cary resident, stated she has experience with water contamination issues. Once groundwater becomes contaminated it can never be cleaned; it can only be treated for use and treatment is very expensive. Fracking has a history of causing groundwater and surface water contamination in other states. Polluted water can affect the Town’s economy because some industries require a clean source of water. It can also affect property values and real estate sales. Fracking requires a huge amount of water and the shale gas formation underlies parts of Cary and Jordan Lake. Before fracking begins, the Town should ask where the water is coming from and whether it could exacerbate problems. She suggested the EAB re-form the Shale Gas Development Task Force.

David Streifford, a Cary resident, stated he has a background in economics, international business training and support for small business exports. He suggested that the Town develop a local ordinance to address fracking. Problems exist in other states where fracking has occurred and searching for solutions is time consuming. His group wants to work with the EAB to reactivate the Shale Gas Development Task Force to help look for those solutions. They also want to work with the EAB to develop a local ordinance that protects Cary citizens, water, and air, and keeps our community safe.

**Widmar left the meeting at this point at 5:41 p.m.**

**E. Old/New Business**

**1. Preserve Carolina Meeting**

*Emily Barrett, Sustainability Manager*

Barrett met with Ritter and Chatham County Commissioner Sally Kost in early February to discuss fracking. The key points from their meeting are referenced in the below email:

**From:** Emily Barrett  
**Sent:** Monday, February 11, 2013 2:32 PM  
**To:** Karen Gray  
**Cc:** Dan McFarland  
**Subject:** Preserve Carolina

Karen,  
 Below the stars is my summary of the key points that Mr. Charles Ritter and Mrs. Sally Kost went over when we met on 2/8/2013. For the purposes of efficient use of EAB meeting time, I committed at January’s EAB meeting to meeting with Mr. Ritter and summarizing his key points for the EAB so they could determine if there was a productive way that the EAB could address his concerns. Mr. Ritter has visited and spoken at the public comment portion of the EAB meeting on multiple occasions. I believe that the EAB would like to have the below as part of their packets for 2/19. I realize that we are going away from printed packets, but I think this time it would probably be good to allow them to read it.

Emily

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*Preserve Carolina is a non-profit organization dedicated to raising awareness about the environmental, health, and fiscal risks of hydraulic fracturing/shale gas development.*

*They have asked that a few key points be emphasized to the EAB:*

- *They want the EAB’s support in asking a Town of Cary staff person to cover all Mining and Energy Commission (MEC) Local Government Study Group meetings, and they ask EAB members to attend these meetings as they can.*
- *They do not believe that fracking will occur much, if at all, in Cary, but they believe that Cary will suffer the negative impacts of fracking in North Carolina because they don’t believe that the MEC can provide adequate controls to insure the safety for the citizens of Cary. In particular they are concerned about Jordan Lake’s watershed, contamination of Cary’s drinking water, and the*

*proximity of the Shearon Harris nuclear facility and the largest depository of radioactive spent fuel rods in the nation.*

- *They believe that MEC rulemaking will provide for too short a window of comment (24 hours), so they think that it is crucial for every citizen of NC to become informed on policy/regulatory options so that they can best advocate for a healthy environment when the comment time arrives.*
- *They want to know what Preserve Carolina can do to assist the EAB in becoming informed on fracking. They would be happy to educate the group on topics of interest if that is what the EAB would like. They are also open to any/all other ideas on how they can be of assistance.*
- *They would like to have the EAB ask to reactivate the Shale Gas Development Task Force to further research all of the issues associated with fracking so that the Town can be prepared to advocate on behalf of the Town citizens when key rulemaking activities occur at a state level.*
- *They would like to work with the Town of Cary to develop a local ordinance to ensure that water quality and water supplies are protected from the prospective shale gas mining and/or horizontal hydraulic fracturing in North Carolina. Similarly, they want to prevent damage to roads and infrastructure from over a thousand roundtrips of logging trucks, flatbed semis, water and tanker trucks that are needed to support a single well.*
- *They think that it especially noteworthy for EAB consideration that there is no preemption of local government action in SB820. So, they state that nothing in NC statutes prevents a municipality or county from banning an activity through a local ordinance any activity that is deemed to deprive citizens of clean air, water and a safe community.*

Barrett stated that Preserve Carolina is a nonprofit organization that wants to help inform the EAB about fracking. The Town has multiple departments tracking the fracking issue--Public Works/Utilities, Planning and Administration. We also have paid legislative groups and professional organizations (such as the North Carolina League of Municipalities) who successfully advocated for local government representatives on the Mining and Energy Commission (MEC). She referred to the federal legislative agendas approved by council at their January 24, 2013 meeting. The two key points are preserving Jordan Lake and maintaining our local government authority to zone.

On August 23, 2012, Council approved the final Report of the Shale Gas Development Task Force that states:

*"The task force has completed its work, and recommends that the Town of Cary monitor the upcoming legislative and rulemaking processes, especially those related to land use protections, environmental protection, water resource management, and ability of local governments to mitigate impacts and recover costs associated with increased demand for services that may accompany this new industry, participating in the processes as needed to obtain the desired outcomes."*

Council also deactivated the task force at that meeting. Staff believes that we are adequately tracking fracking with the limited ability the Town has to dictate local action. The EAB is in place to advise council and staff and the EAB cannot reconstitute a task force.

Board members discussed the issue and suggested creating a subcommittee to stay on top of fracking issues. They would also like to receive a written update from staff.

The board also discussed the possibility of creating an ordinance that is contingent upon future authority by the legislature. They would like to prevent the impacts of fracking in the area.

The board suggested a subcommittee can look into the following:

- The greatest risk to the town if someone does fracking, and the community doesn't have access to the Town's water supply
- The risk of homeowners in the area being impacted by contamination
- Education efforts to communicate risks to council (properly zoned areas)

- What EAB can actively do to make sure fracking does not negatively impact Cary's quality of life/health/economy
- What the EAB can do to advise council and staff on possible approaches (ordinances, zoning, etc.)

Staff discussed zoning restrictions related to fracking and it's been too amorphous to pinpoint. There are very few places in the town or our ETJ that are considered industrial. The state has within their purview to dictate whether or not the Town has zoning authority for fracking and they have the power to determine what's considered industrial.

Yerha said that a subcommittee is a great place to start. He suggested that the staff monitoring the issue work with the subcommittee. He doesn't believe they need to reactivate the task force. Public speaks out might be a good forum to bring concerns about fracking to council.

Gupta, Legaard, and Ramkumar volunteered to be part of the subcommittee. Barrett will work with the group to invite the appropriate staff to their meetings.

Adams will ask other EAB members if they want to serve on the subcommittee.

## **2. Finalize formal comments on the Storm Water Master Plan**

*Dan Clinton, Engineering Department*

The following is a draft memo summarizing the EAB comments on the Storm Water Master Plan:

### **MEMO**

**RE: Town of Cary Stormwater Master Plan Comments**

Date: February 19, 2013

To: Town of Cary Staff and Consultants

From: Town of Cary Environmental Advisory Board

The Environmental Advisory Board (EAB) would like to thank Town and consultant staff for the time and attention spent on the Cary Stormwater Master Plan, for keeping the Environmental Advisory Board apprised of its progress, and for offering the opportunity to comment on the Plan. The EAB welcomes the opportunity to provide input and is grateful for that opportunity.

An overall comment about the plan is that it provides good background information regarding the municipal stormwater system, including management, and a detailed assessment of the current state of the system. In this regard, it is a very good Stormwater Assessment Plan, with the some components of a Master Plan, such as identification of physical plan concerns, policy alternatives, program options and funding options. It meets the stated purpose: "to explore the history of the Stormwater Management Program for the Town of Cary, assess the Programs' current condition in light of the state of the practice, its peers and the regulatory environment and to propose a framework for Stormwater Management for the next 10 to 20 years" (Town of Cary, 2012, p. 1). It is more reflective of an Assessment Plan rather than a Master Plan, therefore some comments from the EAB reflect that subtle distinction.

Specific comments:

#### *1. Goals, Objectives and Implementation Strategy*

The EAB believes that some components of a Master Plan are still missing within the document and stated purpose. Within the current plan, little is available regarding goals, objectives, milestones, measurable results and an implementation strategy. Current goals are identified on p. 2.23, however the listed goals are primarily management and administrative approaches. For example, appropriate goals may be "Mitigation of stormwater impacts on developed areas within the Town of Cary" and "Citizen

outreach and education regarding stormwater concerns and conservation opportunities.” Appropriately written, these broad goals can provide appropriate policy guidance for further development of alternative programs such as a Flood Quick Buy Program. Future detailed studies, as recommended in the plan, could then outline a detailed plan of action and project funding requirements for high-risk locations.

The plan indicates that the role of the EAB “is to identify and assess policy alternatives for the Council to consider as part of the Town’s strategy to expand leadership and implement cutting edge applications and standards of environmental stewardship” (Town of Cary, 2013, p. 2.28). To this end, some policy recommendations are included in this memo, however the EAB requires additional discussions with staff regarding the many alternatives within the plan.

## *2. Storm Water System Funding*

From the data provided in the report it appears that over the next 10-25 years there will be a substantial part of the stormwater infrastructure that will be in need of increased maintenance and possible replacement. At the current rate of funding and even with grants, the Town will be challenged to continue a maintenance program let alone repairs and replacements for the system. Between 1980 and 2000 the majority of the system’s pipe was installed. Over the coming years the town will need to increase inspections, clean out, etc. and plan for significant repairs as the system ages. Like many of the communities used for comparison, a stormwater utility may be the best option for the Town. A supplemental document should outline the capital improvement needs over the next 25 years for the System. It would also be prudent to consider the feasibility and perhaps implementation of a utility fee structure to occur over the next 5 years. The EAB requests additional analysis to consider a fee structure.

A separate but related comment was made regarding the following excerpt in the plan: “The town’s commitment to maintaining open space and providing protection for its natural systems while accommodating projected increases in population density within the developable and livable areas will increase stress on existing and future stormwater systems” (Town of Cary, 2012, p. 1.3). While it may be true that increased population density will increase stress on the existing systems, the protection of natural systems combined with an equitable user fee system can actually *improve future* stormwater systems through adequate open space for absorption and increased revenues per square mile in the higher density areas.

## *3. Town Center Area Plan (TCAP) Best Management Practice (BMP)*

The EAB recommends that the Town give additional consideration to how BMP’s can be used as a physical asset/design feature for the redevelopment that is planned for the targeted TCAP area. This is challenging as the topography does not readily lend itself to many BMP’s, but several of the streams/creeks initiate within TCAP and are critical to the stormwater management system in Cary. Additionally, this area affords great opportunity to create public awareness about our water resources, stormwater systems and the stewardship that the Town undertakes to maintain and protect for its citizens.

Additionally, the EAB recommends that the Town coordinate with NCDENR and NCSU’s Bill Hunt to provide current and future BMP sites as research projects. NCDENR currently contracts with Dr. Hunt to evaluate the pollutant removals for water quality credits. It would be beneficial if the Town could evaluate the different variety of BMPs and their actual versus design effectiveness.

## *4. Stormwater Monitoring and Testing*

The Town should undertake efforts, similar to many of the comparison communities, to establish a system for testing and monitoring the water quality in the Town. Just as the Town communicates the results of the Town’s drinking water quality stormwater quality can serve as performance measure of environmental management activities. Baseline data that is collected and reported to the community is also a good way to educate citizens. We have a highly educated citizenry who would understand the information when presented in a public information campaign. Additionally, quantitative water quality measurements could be utilized to help determine the success/failure of our practices.

## *5. Public Awareness Program*

The EAB is encouraged by the report’s recommendations to enhance the public awareness of stormwater

as a resource and the work of the Town to protect it. It will be important to lay a foundation for support in the coming decades. Citizen understanding and support will be essential to the continued expansion, maintenance and repair of our stormwater management system. The EAB further believes that immediate steps should be taken to educate and inform properties owners specifically identified within the flood risk locations.

#### 6. *Climate Change Readiness*

The EAB noted that Climate Change Readiness is entirely missing from the plan. Further assessment should be conducted and Climate Change Readiness should be considered within the goals and implementation strategy. The following comments and questions are based on two Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) documents regarding climate change and stormwater utilities. The first document, "Overview of Climate Ready Water Utilities Working Group Report" (February 2013), contains the following excerpt of relevance to municipal stormwater management utilities:

"... climate change represents an important challenge for drinking water and wastewater utilities and should be considered in all aspects of utility planning. Part of this challenge stems from the evolving nature of climate science and the uncertainty regarding the timing, nature, direction, and magnitude of localized climate change impacts. Despite this uncertainty, these impacts have the potential to compromise the ability of water systems to meet their public health and environmental missions, necessitating the integration of climate considerations into long-term utility planning and investments."

This Overview document also lists several "Findings" relevant to municipal stormwater management utilities:

1. The water sector faces important and potentially substantial climate change adaptation challenges, but also opportunities.
2. Proactive Climate Ready actions will enhance water sector utility resilience.
3. Different local conditions will dictate different Climate Ready responses.
4. Utility "Climate Readiness" is an emerging concept that must therefore reflect an adaptive learning and management framework.
5. An expanded concept of "water system infrastructure" is a key element of utility climate readiness.
6. To succeed, individual utilities need a robust enabling environment.
7. Many utilities do not have the capacity to become Climate Ready.
8. Climate change impacts create challenges for current "regulatory stationarity." [...]
11. Water sector utility greenhouse gas mitigation efforts are an important aspect of the sector's climate-related strategy. "

As described elsewhere in this Overview document, the EPA has also published an Adaptive Response Framework (November 2012), providing a summary of iterative actions a stormwater utility such as Cary's can take to become "Climate Ready" over time.

With respect to these documents, and the lack of climate-related discussion in the current Town of Cary Stormwater Master Plan, the following questions were raised:

1. Should this iteration of the Plan acknowledge these documents along with the potential for climate change to affect stormwater planning for the Town?
2. If so, which of the above "Findings" are of particular importance or relevance to the Town's stormwater management utility? If the Town does not know, should the Plan include an assessment of which Findings or actions within the Adaptive Response Framework are relevant to the Town[?
3. If so, what is the appropriate level of planning and research necessary to address the actions recommended by the Adaptive Response Framework for this particular iteration of the Plan?
4. If integration of climate considerations is not feasible for this iteration of the Plan, should

future, more in-depth analysis regarding climate and the Adaptive Response Framework (or future successors to this document) be noted as a specific area of focus for the next iteration of the Plan (or on the occasion of its integration into the Cary Community Plan)?

The EAB would like to request the opportunity to have the above concerns and questions addressed at a future meeting.

**References:**

- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). (November 2012). Adaptive Response Framework. Retrieved on-line from the EPA's website
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). (February 2013). Overview of Climate Ready Water Utilities Working Group Report. Retrieved on-line from the EPA's website
- Town of Cary Draft Stormwater Master Plan. (December 2012). Retrieved on-line from the Town of Cary's website
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**Additional Resources:**

- EPA's reports on how to predict climate impacts on water utilities
- EPA applications to see reports on the water quality of nearby streams based on address and zip code

Adams would like to add to the memo a request that the plan reference other watershed studies done by the Town. Having that kind of historical background on the studies would help citizens understand the magnitude of what may need to be done.

**ACTION: Lawson moved to adopt the memo to the Town of Cary Staff and Consultants with the addition to request that staff add all of the watershed studies done by the Town as references to the appendices for historical purposes. Ramkumar provide second. The board granted unanimous approval. Widmar was not present for the vote, so her vote counts as an "aye" vote.**

**3. Discuss idea of a Cary Sustainable Development Award**

*Emily Barrett, Sustainability Manager*

Barrett would like to receive the board's feedback on a sustainable development award specific to Cary that would recognize commercial or governmental buildings in Cary that are high performing. Raleigh has a similar awards program and there's also something called the Greater Triangle Stewardship Development Awards. It would need to be started in a very modest way, perhaps looking forward to FY15 planning.

The award would recognize development that benefits everyone, i.e., a building that uses less energy or a featured BMP that provides recreational opportunities. The applications for the greater Triangle Stewardship Development awards are in the fall; if the Town had awards in the spring or early summer it could feed directly into that process

Barrett stated they could call for applications. They could keep costs down by advertising using town resources and recognize award winners during a council meeting. If they rolled it together with another awards program there would be even more opportunities to potentially save on implementation costs. They would also need to determine who would judge and the criteria for judging. Several board members suggested that EAB members judge. Barrett said they could do it in March prior to earth month, which is April. Board members suggested giving the winner a plaque. It's also important that the awards program build in the social component.

They could grow the program to include citizens who make improvements to their homes. The board discussed including subdivisions or homeowner associations. Additionally, they could recognize Homeowner Associations that allow residents to be good stewards by conserving energy. They could advertize far enough in advance so that people have enough time to do what needs to be done and apply.

Barrett asked for a volunteer to research the awards program. Legaard volunteered to be the point person. They will update the board at the next meeting.

**~~4. Sustainability Communication Plan Review~~**

~~*Emily Barrett, Sustainability Manager*~~

This item was removed from agenda at the beginning of the meeting.

**5. Paperless Meetings**

*Dan McFarland, Chair*

The board previously discussed going paperless for their meetings—whether to continue receiving a packet or rely on electronic copies. The consensus of the board is to move to electronic meetings and receive the one page agenda.

**ACTION: Lawson moved that the EAB go paperless, Ramkumar provided the second. The board granted unanimous approval. Widmar was not present for the vote, so her vote counted as an "aye" vote.**

**F. Chair Announcements**

N/A

**G. Sustainability Update**

*Emily Barrett, Sustainability Manager*

Sustainability Notes, EAB Meeting February 19, 2013

Next Meeting: March 12, 2013

Mark Saturday 4/27 on your calendar for your Spring Daze shift.

**TOWN**

**Creating Sustainable Neighborhoods Technical Assistance Grant Award.** In December of 2012 the Town of Cary was awarded a competitive technical assistance grant called the Creating Sustainable Neighborhoods Technical Assistance Grant, which is part of the Environmental Protection Agency's Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities Program. This program will allow Town staff to work with technical experts from Global Green USA to identify opportunities to create a vibrant, sustainable community in downtown Cary. The team will use the LEED Neighborhood Development (LEED ND) standard as an evaluation tool.

**January Martin Luther King Jr National Day of Service Event at Middle Creek Community Center a Success.** If you happen by the parks and trails of Middle Creek, you can thank the 200 Spruce volunteers for spreading 200 yards of mulch, collecting over 800 pounds of litter, and planting 20 new shrubs. Save the date of January 20, 2014 to have a "day on" for service next year!

**Cary Community Plan Now Imagine Cary!** The Committee for the Future has been selected, and they decided on "Imagine Cary" as the name for the Two-year effort to gather citizen input and define the long-range plan for the Town. There will be many opportunities to get involved as citizens over the next few years. Save the date for the big community working meeting (all invited, but registration will be required) on the evening of May 1, 2013 [currently the most likely date, but still tentative]. If we are over capacity then we will have a secondary site for participation.

**Spring Daze Earth Day Lane, April 27, 2013**

New in 2012 and continuing in 2013:

- Earth Day flags (4 at lane entrances)
- Cary Creative Center booth hosted a kid "make and take" craft
- EAB members volunteer as ambassadors



### Changing in 2013:

- No passport in order to win “prize”
- EAB members greet guests at lane entrances by offering them maps of the booths with activities and prizes listed, and children’s activity on back
- EAB members will also offer guests a reusable grocery bag to put their collected items in. No minimum booth visits required
- Event Composting for guests and food booths, collecting all food and paper scraps for waste diversion. Collection bins will be available at pre-existing waste stations where food is sold

### Sustainability Tent Contents

- Energy bike (NEWLY PURCHASED) loaned from NC Green Power—I have asked them to have a volunteer come to assure that the bike is looked after and operated properly
- Town’s Nissan Leaf
- Soft launch of a sustainability app (tentative)
- Posters—including the Fire Station #8 poster from last year (possibly updated), Strategic Energy Action Plan, and Alternative Vehicles Summary

### **Planning/Upcoming Events**

- **March 12, 2013, EAB Meeting**
  - Town Clerk/PIO discuss board emails
  - Sustainability Communication Plan Input
  - Shuchi mentioned wanting to discuss Spring Daze content
- **March 13, 2013, Raleigh PEV Readiness Meeting**, Ed Yerha and Emily Barrett plan to drive the Town’s all-electric Nissan Leaf to the event. Up to two board members may ride with us.
- **March 16, 2013, Arbor Day Celebration**, Town Hall Campus, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
Celebrate Arbor Day with education, arts and crafts, and a free tree to plant in your own back yard! “Each generation takes the earth as trustees,” said J. Sterling Morgan 141 years ago when he established the first Arbor Day. Our community will continue that national tradition of celebrating the importance of trees with Spruce volunteers who will plant an honorary tree on Town Hall Campus. While supplies last, citizens are invited pot their own free dogwood tree to take home. Our certified arborist will be on hand to teach about appropriate tree and site selection as well as proper tree planting techniques. Tree crafts and refreshments will be available, making this event fun for the whole family! Call (919) 469-4301 with questions or in case of inclement weather.
- **March 23, 2013, Compost Giveaway Event**, Garmon Operations Center, 400 James Jackson Ave., 9:00 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
We invite residents to come get the good dirt for free at our 4th annual Compost Giveaway. To participate, bring your own hard-sided containers, between 18 and 32 gallons, to be filled with nutrient rich compost. Or those using pickup trucks and open trailers will be placed in a separate lane to receive their free compost. Call (919) 469-4301 with questions or in case of inclement weather. This is open to residents only while supplies last. No commercial interests please. The Town supports composting in a variety of ways and we invite you to learn more!
- **April 9, 2013, EAB Meeting**  
Spring Daze Preparation to go over to-do’s for EAB volunteering
- **April 16, 2013 Teen Council Recruitment**, Herb Young Community Center gym  
Meeting in the spring where we recruit the EAB teen council member. It would be great to have a board member represent the EAB at the meeting. Think about what a teen will want to hear about the board. Talk about skills they’ll build and what they will get out of it.
- **April 27, 2013, Spring Daze, SAVE THE DATE**
- **May 1 or 2, Summit on the Future, Large community meeting for Imagine Cary!**
- **May 28, 2013, EAB Meeting**  
Meeting at Hemlock Bluffs with brief talk in courtyard about history and mission of the site  
Board Recruitment begins
- **June 11, 2013, EAB Meeting**  
Begin annual report  
Applications for boards due end of month

- **August 13, 2013, EAB Meeting**  
LazyDaze
- **September 17, 2013, EAB Meeting**
  - Yearly report to cover September previous year to August current year
  - Operation Medicine Drop with Police Department
  - Tentative Sustainability Week for the Triangle is Sept 16 to 20, staff working with regional group to participate as we can.
- **October 15, 2013, EAB Meeting**  
Presentation of yearly report  
Goal setting for next year—including updating the Issues Index
- **November 12, 2013**  
Goal setting for next year

Barrett asked members who have iPhones to download an App called Joulbug, which is a gamification application that educates on sustainability, and to provide their feedback on the App. Joulbug is a Raleigh based company and we're talking with them about building a Cary sustainability patch that would promote Cary's ongoing conservation initiatives. It is currently only available on iPhones; however, they are coming out with an android application in the spring. Through the Town's EPA grant we have funding to make a Cary "sustainability badge" and the pins would be our different conservation initiatives. We are looking at launching the App at Lazy Daze in August.

She also discussed with Cindy King, who is over the teen council, the idea of a competition among the teen families on Joulbug. The teens would get one point for signing up and they would get four points to maintain activity through the competition. Barrett would solicit a donation from a private company for an award for the teen winner.

Barrett also reported the following:

- She just received notification from Progress that the interconnection agreement was received for the solar installation on the roof for Fire Station 8.
- A component of the EPA Climate Showcase Communities Grant is the Chief's Energy Challenge. The idea is that the Town of Cary would work to become sustainable. We would work to make the existing fire facilities more efficient and work on behavior changes within fire and police service. During a recent competition among Cary firemen, our winning station reduced their energy use by 15 percent and our runner up reduced use by 13 percent. The fire department showed leadership in behavior, existing buildings and new buildings. They have issued a fire Chief's Energy Challenge and we have a placeholder website for them—[firechiefsenergychallenge.org](http://firechiefsenergychallenge.org). Gupta has been helping draft information for that website. Additionally, the Nicolas School at Duke has a Duke University Energy initiative and they have collaborated with their career services to get volunteers for the challenge. The volunteer group is called "Team Triage". The first 20 fire stations that sign up to take the challenge will receive help from a Duke student graduate level volunteer putting their information into the portfolio manager.

**Widmar returned to the meeting at this point at 7 p.m.**

Barrett asked Widmar to talk about the "Nest". Widmar said the Nest is a thermostat that monitors your movement and controls temperature. You set minimums and maximums. It learns your schedule, programs itself and you can control it from your smartphone. Her first bill after installing the Nest showed 31 percent less usage over last year, even though it was colder this year; the next month was 65 percent less usage and it was one degree warmer than last year. Her third bill showed 61 percent less usage than last year and it was two degrees colder this year. Barrett noted that there are differently branded thermostats that do something similar.

The board also talked about the Hue, an energy saving lighting system you can control with your iPhone. The bulbs are \$60 a piece, and the start kit is \$200.

## **H. Council Liaison Comments**

Yerha said the mayor recently met with congressional representatives in Washington, DC. He met with the EPA who commented that they were thrilled with Cary's environmental initiatives.

Yerha met with Laura Huffman, the state director of the Nature Conservancy in Texas. They talked about Texas' conserving land for water quality purposes. Huffman mentioned the North Carolina chapter of the Nature Conservancy and offered their assistance if needed. Yerha believes that they can be a great resource to the board.

#### **I. Administrative Announcements**

Gray talked about the difference between members volunteering to work outside of the EAB meetings and an official subgroup or subcommittee of the EAB. An official subgroup/subcommittee is a public body and they must follow the rules of the open meetings law.

#### **J. Adjournment**

**ACTION: At 7:16 p.m. Legaard moved to adjourn; Gupta provided the second. The board granted unanimous approval.**