

LOCAL

Kings Mountain seeks permit for clean water

EMILY WEAVER

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Clean water for the future starts today. In an effort to help clean up the environment, the City of Kings Mountain will be applying for a permit to adopt regulations of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and to cover the city's storm-water program.

Phase I of NPDES requires medium-large cities with individual storm sewer systems to enact a storm-water management program as a means to control polluted discharges. Phase II extends coverage of the program to certain smaller municipalities with storm sewer systems.

"Kings Mountain has been designated for Phase II permitting by the NC Environmental Management Commission," said Codes Director Holly Black at the last city council meeting. She added that the ruling was handed down, partly due to KM's population and the fact that the eastern portion of the city's storm sewer system flows into the Catawba River, which is being monitored for pollutants.

Once in the program, KM operators will be required to design the city's system to: "reduce the discharge of pollutants to the maximum extent practicable; protect water quality; and, satisfy the appropriate water quality requirements of the Clean Water Act."

In PowerPoint slides explaining NPDES to the council, Black said that an

NPDES permit will help protect water quality by identifying an acceptable level of a pollutant in a discharge. "Conservative methods are used to calculate the acceptable level, based on the assimilative capacity and designated uses of the receiving stream," she said.

Kings Mountain will be able to choose the type of technology the city uses to achieve that level. "NPDES permits ensure that both NC's mandatory standards for clean water and federal minimum requirements are met," Black said.

Regulations will be put into place to help the city satisfy each of the plan's six minimum control measures. These measures are designed to reduce the amount of pollutants trickling into receiving water-bodies, like the Catawba River.

The six measures, outlined by the EPA, are listed as: "public education and outreach; public participation/involvement; illicit discharge detection and elimination; construction site runoff control; post-construction site runoff control; and, pollution prevention/good housekeeping."

Construction site run-off control involves "developing, implementing and enforcing an erosion and sediment control program for construction activities that disturb one or more acres of land. (Controls could include silt fences and temporary storm-water detention ponds.)"

Post construction run-off control includes "developing, implementing and enforcing a

program to address discharges of post-construction storm-water runoff from new development and redevelopment areas. Applicable controls could include preventative actions such as protecting sensitive areas or the use of structural best management practices such as grassed swales or porous pavement."

Pollution prevention/good housekeeping involves "developing and implementing a program with the goal of preventing or reducing pollutant runoff from municipal operations. The program must include municipal staff training on pollution prevention measures and techniques (e.g., regular street sweeping, reduction in the use of pesticides or street salt or frequent catch-basin cleaning)."

"Polluted storm water runoff is often transported to municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s) and ultimately discharged into local rivers and streams without treatment," Black said. "EPA's Storm-water Phase II Rule establishes an MS4 storm-water management program that is intended to improve the Nation's waterways by reducing the quantity of pollutants that storm-water picks up and carries into storm sewer systems during storm events."

When pollutants find their way into the water system the drinking water becomes contaminated, fish habitats become at-risk, other wildlife becomes endangered and recreational use of the waterways becomes limited.

O'Brien appointed to fill Grover seat

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On a vote of 3-1 the newest Grover Town councilmember is Cynthia O'Brien.



O'BRIEN

The Town Council received four applications from candidates interested in filling the vacant seat left behind by former Councilman Calvin Huffman. Applicants included former councilmen Bill Willis and John Harry and 19-year-old Michael Allen, the grandson of Councilor Jackie Bennett.

After quietly reviewing the applications at Monday night's Town Council meeting, council members marked their choices on silent ballots. The first round resulted in a tie: two votes O'Brien, two votes Allen. Councilman Adam Green ribbed Mayor Robert Sides

telling him that he would have to vote aloud.

Sides chose, instead, to do the votes by ballot one more time. The second round of ballots showed O'Brien as the chosen candidate 3-1. She was sworn into office and will fill the term until the seat's next election in November 2009.

"I love Grover. I've been here for years and I'm excited about helping out and hopefully making a change," O'Brien said after the meeting.

Her plans as councilor include economic development. "I want to get a lot of businesses to town and let it grow," she said. "I want to see it grow."

O'Brien ran for office several years ago and lost her bid by two or four votes. When Huffman's seat became vacant she decided to throw her bid in again. "I've got the best interest of Grover at heart," she said.

O'Brien is a hairdresser. She lives in Grover with her husband Ben O'Brien and sons Brock O'Brien, 9, and Damien O'Brien, 6.

Council to discuss future

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Grover Town Council Monday night set a date of March 18 for a workshop to discuss the town's future plans and direction.

The planning workshop will be held in the Community Room inside of Town Hall beginning at 6 p.m.

In other action, Council voted unanimously to appoint Councilman Cobia Goforth to fill the vacant seat on the Isothermal Planning Board. Many grants are available and

awarded through Isothermal every year. "I think it's important for us to get our foot in the door there," said Mayor Robert Sides.

Goforth has had several years of experience with grants and planning boards.

Also, Councilor Jackie Bennett said that the cemetery is almost complete. She will be getting an estimate on the rocks for the embankment.

Sides said that the town ran into a situation at a well station recently. "(Maintenance

Director) Donnie Herndon and
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