Asheville-Buncombe Air Quality Agency

MEMORANDUM

TO: Asheville-Buncombe Air Quality Agency Board of Directors

FROM: Ashley Featherstone, Director

RE: Minutes for May 14, 2026

DATE: June 17, 2026

Enclosed, please find the Minutes for the Asheville-Buncombe Air Quality Agency Board meeting held on **Thursday May 14, 2026, at 4:00pm**. The next meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday June 24, 2026, at 4:00pm** in the board meeting room located at 35 Woodfin Street, Asheville, NC 28801.

This meeting will be live streamed on Engage Buncombe which can be accessed at https://engage.buncombecounty.org/s8486. The board meeting documents will also be available on the Engage Buncombe site. The meeting will be recorded and can be viewed later.

The Asheville-Buncombe Air Quality Agency Board of Directors met on Thursday, May 14, 2026, in the board meeting room at 35 Woodfin Street, Asheville, NC 28801.

The attendance of the Board members was as follows:

Members Present:	**Members Absent:**
Ned Guttman	
Garry Whisnant	
Joel Storrow	
Karl Koon	
Caitlin Cook	

Staff Present: *Ashley Featherstone, Director; James Raiford, Permitting Program Manager; Steve Ensley, Air Quality Monitoring Coordinator; Allison Glass, Air Quality Specialist I; Hannah Rhodes, Air Quality Coordinator*

Others Present: *Suzanne Avett, County Attorney; Samantha Kirk, CAPE; Drew West, CIBO*

Joel Storrow called the meeting of the Asheville-Buncombe Air Quality Agency Board of Directors to order on May 14, 2026, at 4:00 pm.

The order of business was as follows:

1. **Public Comment Protocol Announcement**
   A. Joel Storrow read the public comment protocol.

2. **Adjustment and Approval of Agenda**
   A. Karl Koon made the motion to approve the agenda.
   B. Ned Guttman seconded the motion.
   C. All present – yes
   D. The motion passed 5-0

3. **Consent Agenda**
   A. Approval of minutes from March 26, 2026
   B. Ned Guttman made the motion to approve the minutes.
   C. Garry Whisnant seconded the motion.
   D. All present – yes
   E. The motion passed 5-0

4. **Unfinished Business**
   A. Consideration of FY27 Budget
      i. Joel Storrow said that going over and approving the budget is more of a formality, as the upcoming Air Quality budget is in the County's budget.

ii. Ashley Featherstone talked about the typical budget approval process of presenting a budget in March and then again in May with some amendments for the board to approve. This year we have the same spreadsheet as usual, but the proposed May budget looks a little different than normal.
iii. The biggest difference between this May budget compared to the one proposed in March is that the overall budget did go down. This is because of a reduction in staff salary and benefit expenses, as at this time we are not going to be able to fill our vacant position.
iv. Another big difference comes from the fact that our budget is now in the County's budget. The County Manager did present the budget to the Board of Commissioners last week, and in that budget she did have a slide that talked about Air Quality. The amount that they were proposing for Air Quality matches up with the number that is in the spreadsheet here, referred to as a "Net Impact." Here, it is roughly $123,000, which are the funds that would potentially be covered by the County, assuming they approve the budget as presented at the June 2nd meeting.
v. Ashley Featherstone also talked about how the County budgets for grants separately, so here we are only seeing the General Fund budget, which includes only Title V and Administrative program code costs.
vi. The new grant budgets will follow their respective grant award years, so going forward the 105 budget will go from October to the following September, while the 103 budget will go from April to following March.
vii. With this, an example of a change is that staff salaries are now separated out between the three different budgets – General Fund, 105, and 103. The salaries that we are seeing here are only the percentages allocated to the General Fund.
viii. Garry Whisnant asked when the budget gets finalized. Ashely Featherstone responded that there is a public hearing on May 19th, and the Board of Commissioners are set to adopt the budget on June 2nd.
ix. Joel Storrow asked if the action the Air Quality Board takes today on the budget would just be a placeholder until such time that the Board of Commissioners approves the County budget.
x. Ashley Featherstone responded that what should be formally done today is the Board can vote to recommend the budget to the Board of Commissioners. If any board members do not want to vote, they have the option of not voting at all and board members don't have to vote at all.
xi. Ashley Featherstone said that with the other two local programs in the State have their staff present their budgets to their boards, and then their boards vote to recommend those budgets to their respective Boards of Commissioners for adoption.
xii. Ned Guttman asked, if we were not to merge, would the Agency be approximately $125,000 in the red. Ashely Featherstone confirmed that yes, this would be the case.
xiii. Ashley Featherstone also noted that the about $125,000 cost includes the ozone equipment for the new site, and that is about $60,000. We were originally proposing to spread that cost over two years, but that changed when we implemented the expenditure reduction plan

because we did not want to pull more than $27,000 from the fund balance for this current fiscal year. With this, all of those expenses got moved to Fiscal Year 2027.

xiv. Since those are one-time funds, going forward, if we were to not fill that seventh position, our annual cost to the County should be about $60,000 a year.

xv. Ned Guttman asked what the impact on our operations will be with us not filling that seventh position. Ashley Featherstone responded that things will essentially stay the same as what we have now without that position being filled. But, we will have the opportunity to propose having the position again when the new budget comes up.

xvi. Garry Whisnant asked if we eliminated certain functions of Mike Matthews's role when he retired, or if we just distributed them to different parts. Ashley Featherstone said that right now all of the activities are distributed to other staff, so shout out to all of the staff that have been pitching in, going on the complaints, asbestos/demolition permits, etc.

xvii. Garry Whisnant asked if there are any tasks that were previously Mike Matthews's that we could eliminate. Ashley Featherstone responded saying no, not at this time, however we are still talking about moving the issuing of the demolition permits to the County's permits/inspections department. That would be very beneficial to us and our staff workload, as we would just issue the Asbestos removal permits and not the full demolition permits. Once we get through the transition in July, that will be a priority.

xviii. Garry Whisnant asked if the County has an existing function that does these kinds of tasks. Ashely Featherstone replied that it would be the County's Permits & Inspections department that would take these demolition permits on. General Statutes require counties to have demolition permit programs, and years ago we had folded that into our program. But the Permits & Inspections department appears to be willing to take over that responsibility. That being said, they are very intertwined with Asbestos Permits in our IT system called Accela, so IT has estimated that this could be a three-month project just to separate the two out from each other. Therefore, it would take at least that long, plus we would have to go through a rule change to state that demolition permits are not required from us. The County Municipal Code actually sites our Air Quality Agency as issuing those, so it would be a big project similar to, but smaller than, the current transition project. Since so much has to be worked out, it would probably be October at the earliest before we could fully complete something like this.

xix. Karl Koon asked if air quality revenues such as permit fees and gas taxes flow into the County's General Fund? He wanted clarification on that since a lot of those funds are specific to Air Quality and should not be co-mingled with County funds.

xx. Ashley Featherstone said that currently all of our funds go to the Air Quality Fund, which is a separate fund from the General Fund. All of the expenses and revenues are tracked and either allocated to Title V, EPA 103, EPA 105, or Admin, and that will continue to be the same. So even though the Air Quality department would be a part of the larger Permits & Inspections department, we will still have separate accounting. We are not allowed to spend money on Permits & Inspections, and they are not allowed to spend money on Air Quality, so everything will continue to be tracked separately. It will be in a different account than where

it is now. It will live in the General Fund, but it will be tracked separately. We have had finance review all of the Title V requirements for financial tracking, as there are some procedures we are supposed to do that are more accounting-related for Title V, and so they have looked at that and feel confident that we can keep all of those things separate.

xxi. Hannah Rhodes talked about how the coding of the different programs will continue to be the same. She said that, for the 105 grant program, we are still required to spend our own funds in addition to grant funds to cover 105 program expenses. With the new 105 grant fund and budget, which will start October 1, 2026, there will be a chunk of money transferred into it from the County that will include our 105-related revenues.

xxii. Ashley Featherstone talked about indirect costs. If you look at the proposed budget from March, $147,787 was going to be coming out of our budget for indirect costs. As a general fund department, we're not required to pay indirect costs and show them in the same way, so that will make us more financially viable. That's why we may be breaking even or only costing the County $60,000 annually going forward.

xxiii. Board members confirmed that indirect costs include things such as IT, HR, etc.

xxiv. Ned Guttman pointed out that part of the reason the Agency's expenses are so high is because of the indirect costs we're required to pay to the County. Joel Storrow noted that if we didn't pay it to the County, we would still have to contract out services like HR, finance, etc. to someone.

xxv. Ashley Featherstone mentioned that there is a 2.7% cost of living increase for staff salaries this upcoming fiscal year, so with this arrangement we would at least be able to cover that and not be worried about losing another position.

xxvi. On another note, Ashely Featherstone said that we did receive our EPA 105 grant funds last week. We received about $213,000, which is a little lower than we had hoped, but it was more than last year, which was $196,000. We should have our 103 grant funds in the next week or so.

xxvii. Ashley Featherstone said that the president's budget for FY27, like last year, is to eliminate our 103 and 105 grants. She is hopeful that that won't happen, since it didn't happen last year, but it is continuing to be an uncertain federal funding landscape.

xxviii. Garry Whisnant made the motion to recommend the budget to the County.

xxix. Caitlin Cook seconded the motion.

xxx. All present – yes

xxxi. The motion passed 5-0

5. Director's Report

A. Update on Program Transition

i. Ashley Featherstone said there is a memo in the board packet that gives a concise timeline and summary of actions for the program transition.

ii. Yesterday Ashley Featherstone went to the NC EMC meeting in Raleigh to give an update and present on local air quality programs alongside Michael Abraczinskas, the Director of the

Division of Air Quality at the State. You can see materials from this presentation on the EMC AQC committee agenda online.

iii. The EMC staff has come up with a checklist, based on the statute, where they list out all of the requirements for certification that we will fill out.
iv. Ashley Featherstone talked about the team from the County that meets every week to go through the transition checklist, and also draft changes to the Chapter 1 code.
v. On June 11th, DAQ and the NC EMC will review the checklist items we have completed with us and will give us feedback prior to us finalizing it and taking it to the EMC on July 9th. July 9th is when we will ask for certification of our program with our reformed governing structure. It is clear to them that we are an existing program that is reforming our board, and we will be asking for certification under that new governing structure.
vi. In June we will request board action for the County's Board of Commissioners. After the County budget is approved, they will go to public notice with a resolution to reform the Air Quality board and to adopt our code by reference. This could be approved by the Board of Commissioners on July 21st.
vii. The idea is that when we get to the NC EMC meeting on July 9th, we will have done everything, with the exception of the Board of Commissioners adopting the current Air Quality code. They will provide a letter stating we can continue to operate and the interlocal agreement will be extended beyond July 1st by the City and the County.
viii. Ashley Featherstone thanked Suzanne Avett from legal for all of her efforts on this.
ix. The City is being supportive of the transition.
x. Caitlin Cook's and Karl Koon's terms are technically up in July, but assuming they are willing to continue on, all parties are fine with that as we are in this transition period.
xi. Garry asked if there would be an application process for new board members, or if members will just go straight from the current board to the new board.
xii. Suzanne Avett explained the approach we are taking with the board member transition. Overall, we are trying to only have one resolution so that we only have to get in front of the Board of Commissioners one time. With that, the creation of the advisory board and the appointment of members would happen at the same time. The terms for the new board members will have to be staggered initially so that they all don't roll off at the same time.
xiii. Ashley Featherstone asked if they would have to reapply after a certain period of time.
xiv. Suzanne Avett said that because it is staggered, their terms would be up after their chosen times. So as of right now she is writing the terms to be one term for one year, two terms for two years, and two terms for three years. Those can be edited if the board would like, and we can work together to decide who would be in which length of term. For whoever has an expiration of one year for their term, they would need to reapply after one year.
xv. Ashley Featherstone asked if it would be the same number of board members.
xvi. Suzanne Avett said that, as a default, she stuck with the number of 5 board members, but there are not any limitations or restrictions on that if we would like to change it. If we want to add two board members to make it 7 total, now is the time.
xvii. Joel Storrow asked how many members other county boards have.
xviii. Ashley Featherstone said that she looked at information on other Air Quality program boards. Forsyth County has 7 members, but Mecklenburg has quite a bit more. It was worded

"not to exceed 9" or "not to exceed 11." Mecklenburg also has theirs set up to where they wanted to make sure there was board representation from the different parts of the county.

xix. Suzanne Avett also said that some boards have statutory requirements, like one position must be appointed by a county commissioner, another position must be held by a physician or engineer (categories of people). You would have to fit that criteria in order to be eligible. This board has not done that, but could going forward if we wanted.

xx. Ned Guttman asked Ashley Featherstone, since the new board would be advising her, what does she want? What is she looking for from the board? He said she doesn't have to answer right now, but said that the Advisory Board structure will depend a lot on what she is looking for.

xxi. Ashley Featherstone said that it may be nice to have the current 5 board members, if they are willing to continue on, and then if we did have as many as 7 board members, some of the members of the current Advisory Committee could join and have a way to share their background and knowledge.

xxii. Ned Guttman said he would like to hear from Ashely Featherstone what kind of advice she will be looking for from the future Advisory Board.

xxiii. Garry Whisnant said Forsyth and Mecklenburg County boards have slightly different roles/purposes, so he would like to hear from Ashley Featherstone what she'd like the new board to do.

xxiv. Ned Guttman said that the answers to this question will likely affect whether some or all of us want to be on the new advisory board.

xxv. Ashley Featherstone said that one of the key roles for the new advisory board will be reviewing rule updates. They will also be hearing any appeals of permits or things of that nature. She thinks the board should have a more active role in that, where she would be reporting to the board any appeals or violations that are issued. There would be other things that the Advisory Board would do as well, such as recommending policies.

xxvi. Karl Koon said that we are currently operating under a set of by-laws, and he assumes those will become null and void when we change our structure. He asked if penalty fees we collect will still go to the School Board. Suzanne Avett said that this is actually a law, so that will stay the same.

xxvii. Ashely Featherstone said that the new Advisory Board will adopt new bylaws at their first meeting, so we will have to have drafts of those ahead of time. She would like to look at other Air Quality programs to see what their bylaws, agendas, and meeting minutes are like.

xxviii. One of the parts of the resolution will be that the Director will be the one issuing permits. We are planning to keep permits on the same schedule since they coincide with renewal days, so Ashley Featherstone could report to the Advisory Board on what permits we have issued.

xxix. There is one thing that the EMC requires and has identified that we are not currently doing. Everyone involved in the issuing of permits is supposed to sign a yearly statement saying they don't have a conflict of interest for hearing appeals and approving permits. That is something we will have to start doing going forward.

xxx. Garry Whisnant asked Ashley Featherstone had identified any areas she would need help from board members in regarding looking through other program bylaws and responsibilities and drafting what to include in our new board's responsibilities.

xxxi. Ashely Featherstone said that she'd like to look at that in more detail. In the transition memo we have so far, the Advisory Board would continue to hear appeals of Agency actions and also advise on rule updates, technical standards, and budget recommendations. But overall, she would like to look more into what other programs are doing.

B. Rule Amendments Update
   i. June 24th is when we plan to vote on the rule amendments.
   ii. We do need to vote on sending the rules to public notice again. At the last board meeting, we had thought that we would be going to go to public notice sooner, but it took us a little more time to get everything prepared.
   iii. We are now going to public comment on May 22nd, and today we need to vote to go to public notice, as at the last meeting we voted to go to public notice prior to May 15th.
   iv. In the notice, we will put the option for a public hearing on June 22nd. With this, if a public hearing is requested, we will hold it on June 22nd; however, if there is not a request for a public hearing, we can cancel it.
   v. Garry Whisnant made the motion to go to public notice on the rule amendments on May 22nd, 2026.
   vi. Ned Guttman seconded the motion.
   vii. All present – yes
   viii. The motion passed 5-0

C. EPA Air Curtain Incinerator Proposed Rule Change
   i. Ashley Featherstone said that there is a no action assurance letter for ACI's.
   ii. James Raiford said that currently, the EPA has ACI rules wrapped up with other solid waste incineration types of machine. The EPA is proposing to have an ACI rule that is pulled out of the other rule that deals with various types of incinerators. This will also eliminate the need to have a Title V permit for them. If the timeline goes according to plan, the rule may go into affect in September 2026. At that time, we will likely need to go back and reclassify our ACI permits, most likely as Small Facility permits, depending on their circumstances.
   iii. Ashley Featherstone said that, in the board packet, there is a letter from the State of North Carolina, as well as a letter from the EPA on no action assurance. She said that if someone is just using an ACI to burn storm debris, the no action assurance covers this and they would not have to have a permit at all, as long as it is temporary and not operating past September 30th, 2026.
   iv. Ashely Featherstone said that for the permit we have on the agenda tonight, they want to burn both storm debris and debris from other places. So, the no action assurance would not cover them, but there is still a lot of storm debris in the area, so this could be an ongoing thing we deal with.

D. Clean Air Compliance Awards
   i. Ashley Featherstone said we do this every year, and we have a list of facilities we plan to give Clean Air Compliance awards to.

E. Clean Air Excellence Awards
   i. Ashely Featherstone said we did not receive any nominations for the Clean Air Excellence Awards, so the Advisory Committee that met in April did not have any applicants to consider.
   ii. The Advisory Committee did talk about trying to promote these awards more in the future.

F. Recognition for WNC Post Helene Air Quality Monitoring Project and AQIQ Contest Winners – July
   i. Ashley Featherstone said that there are certificates the State printed out and framed for us to recognize the partners that have been working with us on Purple Air Monitors. Normally in July we present the Clean Air Excellence Awards and have a small reception, but this year we would like to invite these partners instead and give them these certificates. To add, Keith Bamberger is involved in the AQIQ contest, and he thought that it would be nice to invite the Buncombe County students that participated in the contest and give them their certificates for that.
   ii. Joel Storrow said he thought it was a nice substitute for what we normally do. Ashely Featherstone said we also gave out the AQIQ awards maybe 7 years ago.

G. Monitoring Update
   i. Steve Ensley went over monitoring data completeness.
      1) PM2.5 data completeness: 98.69%
      2) Ozone data completeness: 94.67%
         a) Ozone data collection started in March.
   ii. Steve Ensley said that the PM standard may change soon, so if it does, we will be well below that standard.
   iii. One program update is that we've had movement on the AB Tech site establishment. Staff have met with General Services and we have a pour date for the concrete pad set for August 1st. We have talked with folks in Raleigh and have a delivery date for the building of August 19th.
   iv. General Services is going to hook up the electricity the same day as the building install. We should be able to start monitoring at the site shortly after that. They should bring our toxics monitor about a week later.
   v. Steve Ensley has been meeting with a UNCA student that is using the Citizen Science Center and is going to put a monitor there. They're also going to corroborate the Light at Night data with the data on the particulate matter in the air. Lastly, the student is also close to getting the equipment that we lent UNCA going.
   vi. Joel Storrow asked for follow up on that, as it sounds interesting. Steve Ensley said he'd be sure to give updates.

H. Facility Permit Renewals

Facility Name	Type of Facility	Facility Classification	Location	Changes from Existing Permit
Freudenberg Performance Materials	Non-woven and geosynthetic fiber manufacturing facility	Title V	Sand Hill Road, Enka	Removal of propane as a backup fuel. Updates to the equipment list and condition for emergency engine requirements.

vii. James Raiford said this is an existing Title V permit renewal. The big change was removing propane as a back-up fuel, and now they're only going to use fuel oil as a back-up fuel. They don't use back-up fuel often, but they do need something to run as a back-up in case they need to cut off natural gas for a period of time. Most of these types of facilities that have fuel oil only use it as back-up fuel, as they are pretty much running on natural gas 100% of the time.
viii. James Raiford said there were some other updates to some of their insignificant activity equipment, but for the most part the permit is the same as it was before.
ix. Karl Koon made the motion to approve the above permit renewal.
x. Ned Guttman seconded the motion.
xi. All present – yes
xii. The motion passed 5-0

I. New Permits

Facility Name	Type of Facility	Facility Classification	Location	Proposed Equipment
Taylor Frizsell dba Bee Tree Disposal	Solid Waste Facility	Title V	Warren Wilson Road, Swannanoa	Air Curtain Incinerator

i. James Raiford said that this is the 4th ACI permit that has been brought before the board over the last several months. They would like to use it initially for storm debris, but are hoping to use it in the future as a place where people could drop off their own debris and they would then be burning wood from other sites.
ii. It is located at the Hearts with Hands site at 850 Warren Wilson Road.
iii. The only slight difference between this ACI and the other ACI's that the board has already approved permits for is that this is a pit burner. It works exactly the same as a box above the ground, but with a pit burner they dig a hole in the ground, and you run the curtain on the ground above it. Functionally, it works the same, and if they operate it properly it shouldn't cause issues.
iv. Ned Guttman asked where this ACI is located.
v. James responded that it is on Warren Wilson Road, past the school on the left. It is where Owen Manufacturing used to be.
vi. Karl Koon asked how close the nearest structure is to this pit?
vii. James responded that they had the needed 300-foot clearance, but it is probably closer to 1,000 feet or maybe even a little more than that.
viii. Karl Koon asked if they would store whatever material they want to burn on the site.
ix. James Raiford replied yes, and that they are actively working with NC Solid Waste. He also said they do have to work with the County's Zoning Department, and the permit does state that they must abide by zoning regulations to operate.

x. Ned Guttman asked if they are burning the waste of the land next door to them. James Raiford said that they actually burned that already, maybe six months ago.
xi. Ned Guttman asked if all of that was open burned. James Raiford replied yes, it was.
xii. Ned Guttman asked if they were going to build something there. James Raiford said that his understanding is that they were going to use that for temporary housing, but he is not privy to all of that information.
xiii. Ashely Featherstone said that she thinks they still have some issues to work out with Zoning and Solid Waste. For our part, we are required to move forward with our permit because they meet our requirements, but a part of the permit is that they have to follow requirements as well, so there are still things on that side of it that they have to work out.
xiv. Ned Guttman made the motion to approve the above new permit.
xv. Caitlin seconded the motion.
xvi. All present – yes
xvii. The motion passed 5-0

6. New Business

A. None

7. Other Business

A. Legal Counsel Report
   i. Suzanne Avett said we've covered this partially already, but she is working very closely with Ashely Featherstone and other County employees on the transition. They have a meeting every Friday so that each person can provide an update from their area of expertise.
   ii. Right now, she is focused mostly on the resolution and making sure we are presenting information to the board that accomplishes all of the things that we need in one shot. She is hopeful to get that moving.
   iii. Because of the timing of the different meetings, we know that we will not be able to fully move forward with the transition until July 9th, which is after our original July 1st deadline. So, we are creating some language in the Interlocal Agreement to extend that, but we are not putting any timeframe on when it will end, so that we can negotiate and work with the City of Asheville to keep operations as-is until all of the new pieces take affect.
   iv. Joel Storrow said that he understands that we have been in communication with City Legal to talk about the details of this.
   v. Suzanne Avett confirmed this and said that they are also going to go before City Council to amend the Interlocal Agreement to allow it to be extended.
   vi. Karl Koon asked if it would be appropriate for this Board to make recommendations to the Board of Commissioners regarding the operation of the new Agency. More specifically, one thing this Board has tried to do is to not have our fee structure too far removed from the State's fee structure. Also, with approval of Title V permits going to the Board of Commissioners, that it would not become a political issue and be based solely on the administrative reading of the rules.

vii. Garry Whisnant said that, as far as he understands it, the permits would be issued by the Air Quality Program Director, and there would not be a Board approval of Title V or other permits. Ashley Featherstone confirmed this.
viii. Karl Koon said that he saw somewhere that the Board of Commissioners would be the ultimate authority of some of those permits.
ix. Suzanne Avett clarified that this is a delegated authority, so the Board of Commissioners will delegate those permit approvals to Ashley Featherstone.
x. Garry Whisnant wanted confirmation that permit approvals would not all have to be elevated to a County Commissioner's meeting, and that they would stay with the Program Director. That was confirmed by Ashley Featherstone and Suzanne Avett.
xi. Karl Koon asked if that would also be the case for permit fees.
xii. Suzanne Avett said that permit fees would be something that the Advisory Board could advise on, and that would be one of the things we would try to capture in the resolution. As stated earlier, we can look at what other Air Quality Board responsibilities are in Mecklenburg and Forsyth counties and use those to help us decide what we want our new Board to do. Advising on fees may be one of the items we want to include in the resolution.
xiii. Joel Storrow asked if that means the Board of Commissioners would consider those suggestions as we transition. Garry Whisnant said that he thought this would be a part of the resolution that the Board of Commissioners approves.
xiv. Suzanne Avett confirmed that the roles and responsibilities of the new Advisory Board would be listed in the resolution. She said that one of the other counties has their Advisory Board provide reports to the Board of Commissioners, and they have stated what the timing of that report will be, so we can make decisions such as that for ourselves.
xv. Ashley Featherstone added that our fees are in our rules, and so the Board of Commissioners would theoretically adopt our current fees when they adopt our current rules. Ashley Featherstone talked about how, if we wanted to change our fees and have a different fee structure, we could do a fee study. The last time we did one was in 2021, and what we would do is take what the new structure would be and figure out what the difference would be between the current and proposed fees for individual facilities. We would then send notices out to facilities and get their feedback. Ashely Featherstone said we were planning to do something like this anyway since it's been 5 years, and that could be a process the new Advisory board is involved in.

B. Advisory Committee Report
i. Committee met April 30, 2026
ii. Ned Guttman reported that it was the first meeting in a year, and probably the last one given the upcoming transition. The group advised Ashely Featherstone on things to talk about during her upcoming interview with WLOS. The rest of the time was mostly spent talking to the Committee about the transition and what the future board may look like after the transition.
iii. Ashley Featherstone said that she did an interview with WLOS last week, and it is supposed to air maybe this week. They had a lot of questions about rain and Air Quality, and said that they might air it on a day that rains. She said that they did meet at the Skyland library where we have a Purple Air monitor, so that was part of the interview, along with it being Air

Quality Awareness week. They talked about the burn ban, which was in affect for a month, and really helped to cut down on open burning complaints. Also, the Air Quality Forecast has been good, compared to last year during fire season when we had a forecast of Code Orange.

iv. Ashely Featherstone said that Asheville was named by the American Lung Association to be in the top 25 cities in the country for good air quality based on the particulate matter data.

v. Caitlin Cook also gave a report during the Advisory Committee meeting on what was already talked about with UNCA students.

C. Calendar

i. Next meeting June 24, 2026

1) Ned Guttman asked what was on the agenda.

2) Ashley Featherstone said the only thing that should be on it is the adoption of the rules, however there may be another permit that needs to get approved. We went to public notice on a permit for MSD, so we may ask the board to approve that. This was an issue with their compliance monitoring strategy. They have to monitor for relatively humidity parameters, and they'd like to switch that to temperature, as they are having some problems with instrumentation. So, we are going back to the EPA to see if we can change that plan. The EPA has to get approval from headquarters for a change like that, so we may have to wait.

ii. July Meeting – The Board decided to reschedule this meeting for after July 9th.

1) Ashley Featherstone will be in Raliegh on July 9th to attend the NC EMC meeting.

2) Board members discussed when the meeting should be with various people being away throughout July.

3) The decision was made to postpone the meeting until Thursday, August 6th, 2026, at 4:00pm. The reception discussed earlier will be held before 4:00pm.

D. Announcements

8. Public Comment

A. None

9. Adjournment

A. Karl Koon made the motion to adjourn the meeting.

B. Ned Guttman seconded the motion.

C. All present – yes

D. The motion passed 5-0

E. The meeting was adjourned at 5:19pm