**ACEC/NC and PENC Joint Environmental Committee**

**Meeting Date & Time:** January 13, 2021 11:45 am to 1:00 pm

**Location:** Zoom Call

**Agenda**

* Welcome, Introductions Jill S. Gurak, P.E., AICP, Atkins Global

Jonathan W. Ham, P.E., City of Raleigh/Raleigh Water

* Subcommittee Reports: (5 minutes each)

Please introduce yourself and your vice chair, go over subcommittee total, identify any major issues on the horizon, any new information and any action plans you have.

* + Transportation Committee Chair Lisa Samples, MS Consultants
  + Air Quality Andy Rodak, Duncklee & Dunham
  + Environmental Planning Candace Andre, VHB /Katharine Mather, WSP
  + Natural Resources Nikki Thomson, Kleinfelder
  + Solid & Hazardous Waste Edmund Woloszyn, S&ME
  + Stormwater Becky Ward, Timmons Group
  + Water/Wastewater Will Larsen, The Wooten Company
  + Energy Steve Kerlin, Terracon

* Presentation – Communicating PFAS and Lead to the Press and the Public
  + Mike McGill, President - WaterPIO

In 2017, Mike McGill founded WaterPIO, a North Carolina-based public communications firm dedicated to helping water and wastewater utilities of all sizes affordably improve their customer, media, and crisis communications. In just three short years, WaterPIO is already helping operations covering 14 states. Before starting WaterPIO, Mike directed public information and customer service operations for water utilities for a dozen years, including the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, Loudoun Water, and the Cape Fear Public Utility Authority.

McGill holds a Dual Degree in Broadcast Journalism and Political Science from Syracuse University.

He began his career as a political and media news producer with CNN. Before entering the Water World, Mike served General Colin Powell as the Media Director and Spokesperson for his nonprofit organization, America’s Promise.

* Upcoming Meetings:
  + Future 2021 Joint Environmental Committee Meetings are TBD – More information to come
* Closing Comments and Adjourn

**Minutes**

**Attendees (this list may not be complete). Thirty-two people registered for this event. There were 30 in attendance. In addition, Tammy Bromley and Jessica Hartong from ACEC assisted with organizing and supporting the Zoom call.**

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| **Committee Members** |  |  |  |
| **Name** | **Role** | **Firm** | **Email** |
| Jonathan Ham | Co-Chair | City of Raleigh | Jonathan.ham@raleighnc.gov |
| Jill Gurak | Co-Chair | Atkins | Jill.gurak@atkinsglobal.com |
| Leah Young | Co-Vice Chair | KCI | Leah.young@kci.com |
| Chris Windley  (did not attend this mtg) | Co-Vice Chair | CJS Conveyance | [cwindley@cjsconveyance.com](mailto:cwindley@cjsconveyance.com) |
| Colin Davis | Board Liaison | Kleinfelder | cdavis@kleinfelder.com |
| James Smith | ACEC-NC Executive Director | ACEC-NC | jsmith@acecnc.org |
| **Subcommittees** |  |  |  |
| No representative this meeting | Air Quality Subcommittee |  |  |
| No representative this meeting | Environmental Planning Subcommittee |  |  |
| No representative this meeting | Energy Subcommittee |  |  |
| Nikki Thomson - Chair | Natural Resources Subcommittee | Kleinfelder | nthomson@kleinfelder.com |
| No representative this meeting | Solid/Hazardous Waste  Subcommittee |  |  |
| Leah Young - Liaison | Stormwater Subcommittee | KCI | Leah.young@kci.com |
| Will Larsen - Chair | Water-Wastewater Subcommittee | The Wooten Company | wlarsen@thewootencompany.com |
| **Registrants** |  |  |  |
| Richard Bollinger |  | RS&H | [Richard.bollinger@rsandh.com](mailto:Richard.bollinger@rsandh.com) |
| Ty Colwell |  | Withers & Ravenel | [tcolwell@withersravenel.com](mailto:tcolwell@withersravenel.com) |
| Miles Galloway |  | The Wooten Company | [mgalloway@thewootencompany.com](mailto:mgalloway@thewootencompany.com) |
| Scott Hinesley |  | REI Engineers |  |
| Mike Iagnocco |  | STV | Michael.iagnocco@stvinc.com |
| Brian Johnson |  |  |  |
| Colby Jones |  | ECS Limited |  |
| Greg Kanellis |  | Hart & Hickman | gkanellis@harthickman.com |
| Natalie Lockhart |  | Arcadis | [Natalie.lockhard@arcadis.com](mailto:Natalie.lockhard@arcadis.com) |
| Nicholas Macie |  | NOVA Engineering and Environmental |  |
| Jennifer Martin |  | Parrish & Partners | jmartin@parrishandpartners.com |
| Neal McElveen |  | Terracon | [Neal.mcelveen@terracon.com](mailto:Neal.mcelveen@terracon.com) |
| Mike McGill |  | WaterPIO | info@waterpio.com |
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| Mary O’Bryan |  |  |  |
| Tom Raymond |  | S&ME | [traymond@smeinc.com](mailto:traymond@smeinc.com) |
| Bill Rice |  | Rice-USA | [brice@rice-usa.com](mailto:brice@rice-usa.com) |
| Lane Sauls |  | VHB | [lsauls@vhb.com](mailto:lsauls@vhb.com) |
| Patrick Waterman |  |  |  |
| Jay Watson |  | WSP |  |
| Ben Whitley |  | Froehling & Robertson | [bwhitley@fandr.com](mailto:bwhitley@fandr.com) |
| Mitchell Wimberley |  | Kleinfelder | [mwimberley@kleinfelder.com](mailto:mwimberley@kleinfelder.com) |

Jonathan Ham opened the meeting with introductions and the announcements from the agenda.

**Subcommittee Reports**

No reports were provided for Air Quality, Environmental Planning, or Solid and Hazardous Waste.

Natural Resources. The committee last met in October, but are monitoring the new Waters of the US rule that came out in June 2020 and the revised riparian buffer rules effective June 15, 2020.

Stormwater. Leah Young stated they had to cancel their most recent scheduled meeting due to unforeseen circumstances.

Water-Wastewater. Will Larson became the new chair in late 2020. They have not had a formal committee meeting yet.

Energy. This is a rebuilding year for the subcommittee and Colin Davis noted they are slowly adding members.

**Report from ACEC**

Jim Smith provided an update on ACEC as a whole.

At a national level, ACEC is lobbying around issues related to the stimulus act and tax deductions for PPE (personal protective equipment) loans. There are concerns about how the provision of PPE will be regarded as part of overhead rate calculations.

At the state level, ACEC is part of the NC Chamber Coalition. They are finalizing their agenda and ideas on how to fix long-term infrastructure funding.

Most ACEC-NC committees are conducting their meetings virtually and delaying their annual networking events. Going forward, ACEC-NC would like to see a virtual component for all meetings to encourage greater participation.

Michael Regan, head of the NC Dept of Environmental Quality has been nominated by the Biden Administration to be head of the US EPA. Normally, ACEC-NC has a quarterly meeting with Mr. Regan. These meetings will restart when a new head of the NC DEQ is appointed.

**Next Committee Meeting**

The next Environmental Committee meeting will be held in March. Dates will be announced later.

**Guest Speaker**

Jonathan introduced the guest speaker – Mr. Mike McGill from Water PIO. Mike gave a presentation on how water systems should communicate with the press and public on issues related to PFAS, copper, and lead. He identified challenges and best practices.