

Comments on Jordan lake Reservoir Nutrient Rules

George Lucier, Vice Chair of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners speaking on behalf of Chatham County

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak to you tonight. Chatham County is doing all that we can to protect the water quality of Jordan lake. The State of North Carolina should do no less. Chatham County urges the Environmental Management Commission to NOT delay implementation of the nutrient reduction rules and to require compliance beginning in 2011.

My comments tonight will focus on eight points:

1. Jordan Lake has almost 150 miles of shoreline. Nearly all of that shoreline is surrounded by Chatham County. We are disappointed that North Carolina has chosen to NOT have a public hearing in Chatham County. We are working hard to be good stewards of the Jordan Lake. Why not have a public hearing in the County most impacted by water quality in Jordan Lake? This is where we live; it's not just an economic issue for us it's also a quality of life issue.
2. Chatham County has a number of ongoing initiatives aimed at protecting and enhancing water quality in Jordan Lake.
3. We are in the process of strengthening our stream buffer requirements on new developments including the buffering of ephemeral or wet weather streams in the Jordan lake watershed. These buffers will significantly reduce nutrient releases into the lake from Chatham County.
4. We are establishing criteria for the requirement of Environmental Impact assessments on new developments in the Jordan lake Watershed and other environmentally sensitive areas of Chatham County.
5. We are amending our subdivision and zoning ordinances to insure that all new developments do not adversely impact water quality in Jordan Lake.
6. We have established a Major Corridor Ordinance task force to develop an ordinance that will both promote economic development while at the same time protect the water quality of Jordan Lake.
7. We have entered into a joint planning agreement with the Town of Cary with a major focus to protect water quality in Jordan Lake.

8. The Chatham County Board of Commissioners voted unanimously (5-0) to send the following resolution to the Environmental Management Commission. We don't always agree but we are in full agreement with the following resolution adopted February 19, 2007.

Read Resolution

Let me end by saying that Chatham County is not afraid to do what it takes to protect water quality in Jordan Lake. The State of North Carolina should not be afraid to do the right thing. We urge you to adopt the Jordan lake Nutrient Rules with an effective date no later than 2011 for nitrogen reductions.