

Rowan County Health Department
1811 East Innes Street – Salisbury, NC 28146-6030

MEMO

To: Rowan County Board of Commissioners
From: Alyssa Harris, Public Health Director
Adrian Pruett, Environmental Health Manager
Date: February 23, 2023
Re: Rowan County Health Department – FY22-23 Environmental Health Schedule Updates

Situation:

The Rowan County Health Department assess fees on an annual basis and reviewed for adjustments for Environmental Health. The local board of health shall annually review and approve the local health department budget and approve fees in accordance with G.S. 130A-39(g).

Background:

Environmental Health houses two programs – Onsite wastewater and Food, Lodging, and Institutions. The mission of the Environmental Health Section is to protect people by promoting a safe and healthy environment in partnership with private businesses and public agencies through consistent application of education, best practices, and compliance monitoring.

Onsite wastewater Program:

1. Ongoing discussions with community partners have led to the identified need of more specialized services for some builders and owners. This includes an additional pathway in which to coordinate services onsite when needed.
2. For newly legislated paths for services, there are occasions where additional work must be completed by staff before applications can be approved. We currently do not have a pathway to account for this work.
3. Session Law 2020 was ended and needs to be removed from the fee schedule

Food and Lodging Program

4. We are seeing an increase in the establishment of shared kitchens for local food trucks.
5. More individuals are starting food businesses and need assistance with plans.

Assessment:

Onsite wastewater Program:

- A Subcommittee of the Board of Health met to review ongoing work and to determine the parameters around adding or changing fees. This subcommittee included Carla Rose, Public Member, who is the Chief Executive Officer at the Salisbury Rowan Realtors Association, and Giles Goodman, Engineer, Senior Mechanical Engineer at Duke Energy.



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- Fees were assessed and determined based on reviewing surrounding county fees and the cost of services and staff time.
- We are proposing a time-limited pilot for the onsite meeting fee which will include two staff onsite, a one-hour time limit, and follow-up/wrap-around services. This pilot will run for six months for us to evaluate use, effectiveness, and impact to backlog.
- Parameters for the onsite meeting include: two Environmental Health staff time, mileage, and turnkey service for those who choose this option.
- The Environmental Health office is open 8 AM – 9 AM Monday through Friday for walk-in clients, or scheduled meetings, with environmental health staff. This ensures that the service is available for consultation prior to the onsite work without having an additional fee.

Food And Lodging Program:

- Fees were determined through assessing surrounding counties and current fee structure.
- Minimal fees were added as necessary

Recommendations:

The Rowan County Board of Health approved the fee schedule at the meeting on Tuesday, February 14th, 2023.

The affirmative votes included: Judy Klusman, County Commissioner; Dari Caldwell, Board of Health Chair; Dr. Amy Wilson, Board of Health Vice Chair; Carla Rose, Public Member; John Thomason, Public Member; Giles Goodman, Engineer; Dr. Mike Fuller, Pharmacist; and Dr. Corrie Connolly, Veterinarian. All were in agreement.

The Rowan County Board of Health respectfully requests Board of Commissioner's approval of the updated Environmental Health Fee schedule.