

**MINUTES  
Scotland County Board of Commissioners  
November 1, 2010 Regular Meeting  
1405 West Boulevard, Laurinburg NC**

At 7 p.m. Chairman J. D. Willis called the regular meeting to order. Commissioners in attendance: Chairman Willis and Commissioners Bob Davis, Guy McCook, Joyce McDow and Clarence McPhatter. Commissioners not in attendance: Vice Chair Betty Blue Gholston and Commissioner John Alford. Staff in attendance: County Manager Kevin Patterson, County Attorney Edward Johnston and Clerk to the Board Ann W. Kurtzman. Commissioner Davis delivered the opening prayer. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Public Forum**

**Ms. Jennifer Ketner** of the NC Association of County Commissioners presented a plaque to the governing body recognizing the County as a Super Member in the Risk Management Pools.

**Item 1. Recommendation: WestPoint Stevens Preliminary Engineering Study**

LRCOG Executive Director Jim Perry said engineers were interviewed October 28 for the WestPoint Stevens Water and Sewer Regionalization study. As a result of the interviews, it is recommended that Marziano & McGougan, P.A. and WK Dickson be awarded the contract for the \$76,000 study funded with a Rural Center Planning grant.

**Motion was made by Commissioner McPhatter and duly seconded by Commissioner Davis approve the WestPoint Stevens regionalization study to engineering firm Marziano & McGougan, P.A. and WK Dickson. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

**Item 2. Scotland County Working Lands Protection Plan**

Cooperative Extension Director Cathy Graham introduced Ms. Grace Lawrence, BRAC Consultant, and Dr. Sandra J. Maddox, Associate Director, Lois G. Britt Agribusiness Center at Mt. Olive College, who were in attendance to answer questions.

Dr. Graham said the Plan was necessary because BRAC would result in 40,000 people moving to Fort Bragg. The regional planning effort was organized to balance development and growth and the compatible uses around training at the base and its operational sites. Farms and forests are deemed compatible uses to the military.

Dr. Graham discussed the process involved in developing the Scotland County Working Lands Plan, which must follow legislative statutes. The Plan was reviewed by the County team and is presented to the governing body for endorsement. Once endorsed, the Plan will be submitted to the NC Department of Agriculture for certification.

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Dr. Graham said four other counties have been endorsed and certified out of 11 counties in the region. Seventeen counties statewide have certified plans. Dr. Graham said once certified, Scotland County would be in priority placement for funding for agricultural development and farmland protection grants that come from State trust funds.

Dr. Graham said because Scotland is a Tier 1 county, there would be no match for grants received. Funds could be used for the development of agriculture enterprises, conservation easements and any type of agricultural agreements. Dr. Graham assured the Plan would not restrict farmers and foresters from developing their land or their ability to manage any of their assets. The Plan is intended to provide training, education and resources to equip landowners with tools to preserve working lands.

Ms. Lawrence and Dr. Maddox answered questions including how much is available in grants and the timeframe for achieving certification.

**Motion was made by Commissioner McDow and duly seconded by Commissioner McPhatter to endorse the Scotland County Working Lands Protection Plan. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

Dr. Graham provided an update on when the search for the Agricultural Agent position.

**Item 3.CDBG Grant: Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing and Authorizing Resolution**

Economic Developer Greg Icard distributed the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing. Mr. Icard explained the document is a new requirement attached to the receipt of CDBG funding. Mr. Icard said approval of the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing apply to the scattered housing program as well as the Veridian Biomass sewer line extension project.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Davis and duly seconded by Commissioner McDow to approve the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

Mr. Icard introduced the Authorizing Resolution, the approval of which applies to \$105,000 received from the Rural Center for the Veridian Biomass project.

**Motion was made by Commissioner McPhatter and duly seconded by Commissioner McCook to approve the Authorizing Resolution. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

**Authorizing Resolution by Governing Body of the Applicant  
NC Economic Infrastructure Program**

**WHEREAS**, The North Carolina General Assembly passed House Bill 1352 authorizing the making of grants to aid eligible units of government in financing the cost of construction of wastewater treatment works, wastewater collection systems, and water supply systems, that will result in job creation, and

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**WHEREAS**, The County of Scotland has need for and intends to construct or rehabilitate a publicly-owned treatment works or an alternate wastewater system, for wastewater collection systems or for water supply and distribution systems, project described as a sewer line and pump station to serve the future Viridian Biomass facility; and

**WHEREAS**, The County of Scotland intends to request grant assistance from the Economic Infrastructure Grants Program for the project;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF SCOTLAND:**

That County of Scotland will arrange financing for all remaining costs of the project, if approved for a grant.

That County of Scotland will provide for efficient operation and maintenance of the project on completion of construction thereof.

That Greg Icard, Director of Economic Development, and successors so titled, is hereby authorized to execute and file an application on behalf of Scotland County with the NCREDC (Rural Center) for a grant to assist in the construction of the project described above.

That Greg Icard, Director of Economic Development, and successors so titled, is hereby authorized and directed to furnish such information as the Rural Center may request in connection with such application or the project; to make the assurances as contained above; and to execute such other documents as may be required in connection with the application.

That Scotland County has substantially complied or will substantially comply with all Federal, State, and local laws, rules, regulations, and ordinances applicable to the project and to the grants pertaining thereto.

Adopted this the 1<sup>st</sup> day of November, 2010 at Laurinburg, North Carolina.

**Item 4. Authorization for Finance Officer to ABC Board**

ABC Board Member Dee Hammond asked that the ABC store manager also serve as finance officer for the ABC Board. Ms. Hammond said new State legislation allows for any county with two stores or less to designate the store manager to also serve as finance officer. Ms. Hammond said up until the new, recent legislation, Store Manager Buddy Lewis has served as finance officer to the ABC Board for 25 years.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Davis and duly seconded by Commissioner McCook to designate ABC Store Manager Buddy Lewis to serve as Finance Officer for the ABC Board. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

**Item 5. Consent Agenda:**

- a) Approval of minutes of the Board of Commissioners October 4, 2010 regular meeting.

b) Approve Tax Department request to release funds in the amount of \$59.21 and in the amount of \$5,593.95 and to make refunds in the amount of \$10.52 and in the amount of \$30,356.17.

c) Declare as surplus a 1987 Thomas Bookmobile, VIN 1GBG6P1F3HV108351, with 153,554 miles.

d) Approve Health Department request to increase the cost of processing Rabies Titers fees from \$33 to \$35.

e) Budget Amendments:

- 1) **Economic Development:** Approve receipt of funding in the amount of \$49,000 from the NC Rural Center and authorize the Finance Officer to make the necessary arrangements to receive and expend the money.
- 2) **DSS:** Approve receipt of additional funding in the amount of \$115,880 for Crisis Intervention and authorize the Finance Officer to make the necessary arrangements to receive and expend the money. No County dollars involved.
- 3) **DSS:** Approve receipt of funding in the amount of \$50,000 for Medicaid gas vouchers and authorize the Finance Officer to make the necessary arrangements to receive and expend the money. No County dollars involved.

**Motion was made by Commissioner McDow and duly seconded by Commissioner McPhatter to approve the Consent Agenda. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

#### **Item 7. Wagram Recreation Fee Schedule and Facility Update**

Parks and Recreation Director Shannon Newton said the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board recommended a fee schedule for the soon-to-be-completed Wagram Recreation Center.

**Motion was made by Commissioner McCook and duly seconded by Commissioner McDow to approve the fee schedule for the Wagram Recreation Center. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

Ms Newton said hours of operation at the Wagram Recreation Center will be 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday. Grand opening will be Wednesday, November 17 at 5:30 p.m.

#### **Item 6. Tax Department: Schedule of Values**

Tax Administrator Mary Helen Norton asked the Commissioners to adopt the 2011 Schedule of Values, which was presented in September and was the subject of a Public Hearing in October. Once adopted, it will be advertised that the Schedule of Values is open for inspection in the Tax Office. Ms. Norton discussed the timeline for mailing values notices and appealing values. Ms. Norton asked the Commissioners to consider adoption of both the market value and land use value schedule.

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**Motion was made by Commissioner McPhatter and duly seconded by Commissioner McCook to adopt the 2011 Schedule of Values. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

#### **Item 8. Appointments to Boards and Committees**

**Motion was made by Commissioner McDow and duly seconded by Commissioner McCook to appoint Ms. Allison Norton to the Laurinburg Downtown Revitalization Corporation. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

#### **Item 9. Update from the County Manager**

County Manager Patterson said Coastal Horizons Center submitted a lease agreement for space in the Courthouse. Coastal Horizons is now the lead agency for TASC, which serves as the gateway for the Criminal Justice Partnership Program (CJPP), replacing Cumberland County as of October 1. The lease is amended from the existing contract for office space, and Coastal Horizons requests that the County extend the same terms.

County Attorney Johnston recommended that some modifications first be made to the document. Chairman Willis suggested the Attorney make the modifications and bring the document back to the December meeting.

County Manager Patterson said the Southeastern Regional Mental Health fiscal monitoring report is included in the agenda for review.

Mr. Patterson said the County received a \$250,000 grant for installation of a methane gas collection facility. The estimated total budget for the project is \$336,045. The Board must accept the grant before additional work can begin. The funds would be used to install methane gas wells with an appropriate generator to supply electricity to the landfill. Mr. Patterson asked permission to negotiate with LREMC to purchase excess power generated from the project.

Commissioner McCook said he would first like some assurance that there would be a sufficient savings over time to justify the \$86,000 investment made by the County.

***The Board of Commissioners by consensus authorized the County Manager to begin negotiations with Lumber River Electric Membership Corporation (LREMC).***

Mr. Patterson said Ms. Twilla Allen, LRCOG Aging Ombudsman, will gather information on senior-friendly communities as part of her master's thesis. Ms. Allen will survey groups to identify what services the County could provide that it does not now provide. The project is in line with the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Visioning Plan under Community Development.

The County Manager said the Wagram Recreation Center will be dedicated 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, November 17.

Mr. Patterson said NCACC discontinued the Legislative Liaison Program, and the County no longer needs to appoint a liaison going forward.

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*Other Information/Comments from the Chairman and Commissioners*

Commissioner McCook asked about the status of space needs issues at DSS. Mr. Patterson said he and DSS Director Robby Hall are looking at alternatives to providing additional space, and a report should be forthcoming in December or January.

Commissioner McDow said she was selected to serve on the NCACC legislative goals committee. Commissioner Davis said he was selected to serve on the NCACC environmental committee.

County Manager Patterson said Century Care Nursing Home is looking for letters of support from Commissioners in its bid to build a new facility in Laurinburg. Chairman Willis suggested the County compose one letter of support signed by all Commissioners.

The Commissioners thanked Chairman Willis and extended their appreciation of his service to the community. Chairman Willis said it was a pleasure serving the County for 22 years.

**Motion was made by Commissioner McPhatter and duly seconded by Commissioner McCook to adjourn. Vote: Motion unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.**

Ann W. Kurtzman  
Clerk to the Board

J.D. Willis  
Chairman