



Albemarle Commission

Balancing
Nature & Commerce

Emphasizing
our Regional Assets

Northeastern North Carolina Balancing Nature and Commerce “Connecting Our Region” National Wildlife Refuges on the Albemarle-Pamlico Peninsula





What is Balancing Nature & Commerce?

Purpose

Cultivate the creation of a regional identity that fosters sustainable economic development and regional partnerships and builds awareness of the value of the Region's assets

- 2 and ½ days of collaboration, learning and fervor was felt by the 80+ participants
- 6 Action Plans were developed by the workgroups that relate back to the purpose of the Balancing Nature and Commerce Program
- The Albemarle Commission, Region R's Council of Government was selected as the Program Manager for the Program

BN&C Partners

Bertie County

Bertie County
Bertie County Economic Development
Heritage Collegiate Leadership Academy
NC Cooperative Extension
Roanoke-Cashie River Center
Town of Windsor
US Fish & Wildlife Service, Roanoke River NWR
Windsor-Bertie County Chamber of Commerce

Camden County

Camden County
Dismal Swap Visitors Center

Chowan County

Albemarle Resource Conservation District
Albemarle Soil and Water District
Chowan County Arts Council
Chowan County Tourism Development Authority
Connecting Corridors, LLC
Edenton Chowan Chamber of Commerce
Edenton Chowan Partnership, Inc.

Currituck County

Currituck Chamber of Commerce
Currituck County
Donal C. O'Brien, Jr. Sanctuary and Audubon Center
at Pine Island

Dare County

Kitty Hawk Kites
Outer Banks Visitors Bureau

Gates County

Gates County
Merchants Millpond State Park
US Fish & Wildlife Service, Great Dismal Swamp
NWR

Halifax County

Roanoke River Partners
Sylvan Heights Bird Park

Hyde County

County of Hyde
Dare to Hyde
Fingeance Sportfishing Charters
The Greater Hyde County Chamber of Commerce
US Fish & Wildlife Service, Mattamuskeet NWR

Martin County

Martin Community College Small Business Center
Martin County Arts Council
Martin County Board of Commissioners
Martin County Tourism Development Authority
NC Department of Agriculture-Sen. Bob Martin Ag
Center
Town of Bear Grass
Williamston Startup Marketing

Northampton County

NC Cooperative Extension

Pasquotank County

Elizabeth City Area Convention & Visitors Center
Elizabeth City State University

Perquimans County

Perquimans County Economic Development
Perquimans County Restoration Association
Town of Winfall

Tyrrell County

NCSU-Eastern 4-H Center
Red Wolf Coalition, Inc.
Town of Columbia
Tyrrell County Board of Commissioners
Tyrrell County Chamber of Commerce
US Fish & Wildlife Service, Pocosin Lakes NWR

Washington County

Washington County
Town of Plymouth
Washington County Travel & Tourism Authority
Friends of Pocosin Lakes NWR

Regional and Other Attendees

Albemarle Commission
Audubon North Carolina
Coastal Wildlife Refuge Society
East Carolina University
Golden Leaf Foundation
Kenan Institute of Private Enterprise
National Capital Investment Fund
National Park Service
NC Department of Environmental Quality
NC State Senate District 3
NC State University
NCEast Alliance
North Carolina Coastal Federation
North Carolina Land of Water
North Carolina Small Business and Technology
Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and
Natural Resources
People First Tourism
South Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative
The Conservation Fund
The Nature Conservancy
US Fish & Wildlife Service, NC Coastal Plain Refuge
Complex
Visit NC
Western Carolina University

Components of Balancing Nature & Commerce

Basis for the updated Comprehensive Regional Economic Development Strategy (CREDS)

- Branding—Regional Identity
- Natural Resources & Water Quality
- Broadband & Infrastructure
- Education and Training
- Outreach

Components of Balancing Nature & Commerce Branding—Regional Identity

- Identifying Regional Assets – cultural, historic, natural resources, bicycle and paddle trails
- GIS Staff have created a map of these assets
- RPF for Regional Branding based on the Workgroup's recommendations (one region or 3 sub-regions) (early 2018)

Components of Balancing Nature & Commerce

Natural Resources & Water Quality

“Water, Soil, and Sun”

- Focuses on the environmental aspects of the natural resources and water quality within the Region
- Received a Clean Water Management Trust Grant to study the cause of algal blooms within the Chowan River Basin

Components of Balancing Nature & Commerce Broadband & Infrastructure

- Hosted Regional Broadband Summit
- Completed Regional Broadband Demand Aggregation Survey
- Drafting County Specific Recommendations with the State Broadband Office
- Advocate for state and federal funding for water, sewer and economic development infrastructure projects

Components of Balancing Nature & Commerce Education and Training

- Working Smart Soft Skills Training in the Schools and throughout the Region
- First Certified Career Pathway in Health Science in the State
- First Certified Career Pathway implemented in the local schools: Health Science
- 4 Certified Career Pathways: Health Science, Agri/Bio Science, Advanced Manufacturing, Business Services

Components of Balancing Nature & Commerce Outreach

- Creating a Regional Map with Assets to enhance tourism and economic development work within our Region
 - Map acts as a cumulative Resources – multiple maps have been included into one resource
 - DREAM: Map will be a part of a regional app that will direct visitors and businesses throughout our region utilizing wi-fi points as identified through the Broadband Project

Questions???

Contact

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