

## PASQUOTANK RIVER BASIN REGIONAL COUNCIL

A. Parker Midgett Building  
City Hall Complex  
302 East Colonial Avenue  
Elizabeth City, NC  
252/337-6864

May 4, 2000

### AGENDA

4:00 PM	Welcome	Chairman Haste
4:05	Roll Call	Joan Giordano
4:10	Approval of Minutes from 2/24/00 Meeting in Edenton	Chairman Haste
4:15	<u>PRESENTATION</u> "Sustainable Development and Livable Communities in the Albemarle Region"	Cheryl Byrd Dare County Rep.
4:45	<u>Old Business:</u> 1. Status of Demonstration Project. 2. What happened on the Scuppernong? 3. Status of possible Currituck Sound study. 4. Coordinating Council news.	ALL
5:45	New Business and Public Comment	ALL
5:50	Plans for Next Meeting (create agenda items)	ALL
6:00	Adjourn	



# PASQUOTANK RIVER BASIN REGIONAL COUNCIL

CITY HALL COMPLEX  
302 EAST COLONIAL AVENUE  
ELIZABETH CITY, NC

MAY 4, 2000

## MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 4:00pm by Vice-Chairman Yates Barber, during the absence of Chairman Erie Haste. Joan Giordano called the membership roll and it was determined that 1 more Regional Council member needed to be present to satisfy the quorum requirement (1/3 of the membership). (See Attachment A). Upon Chairman Haste's arrival that requirement was satisfied. New members and guests were recognized and welcomed.

A motion by Cheryl Byrd, seconded by Yates Barber, to accept the minutes as mailed was made. Motion carried.

Cheryl Byrd gave a presentation on sustainable development which had been postponed, in the interest of time, from the previous meeting. (See Attachment B). She emphasized that the year round population of Dare Co. residents is approximately 29,000 persons but, during the summer season (and to a somewhat lesser degree during the "shoulder" seasons) the population swells to 250,000 people. This, of course, exerts tremendous pressure on the natural resources, infrastructure and economy of the area. Following some discussion, Chairman Haste asked Ms. Byrd to approach the Northeastern Economic Partnership to request time on their June 21<sup>st</sup> agenda for the purpose of updating them on the status of this initiative. Apparently, with the departure of the Chairman of the Albemarle Commission (another initiative partner), the project has hit a snag and has not progressed. Ms. Byrd agreed to making the contact with the Partnership and to reporting the results to the Regional Council.

The next agenda item dealt with an update by Rodney Johnson (Albemarle RC&D) and Mayor Yates (Town of Winfall) on the demonstration project confirmed for funding (following distribution to the full Regional Council) at the last meeting. (See PRBRC minutes 2/24/00). Mayor Yates thanked Regional Council members for their consideration of the project and the \$26,000 allocated to supporting it. Rodney Johnson updated the group on the project's status by saying that a 3<sup>rd</sup> property owner is needed to launch the effort, and that contact has been made with that person. He added that the Division of Water Quality (the permitting agency) had some recommendations pertaining to it, as well. And finally, he stated that Buck Moore of the Wooten Co. (consulting engineers) would be visiting Winfall in the near future to view the project site.

Joan Giordano reported on the series of events that followed-up a complaint made by Regional Council member, Marvin Davenport relative to foul-smelling water existing in the Alligator River following Hurricane Floyd. Chairman Haste asked that a particular effort be made to contact Mr. Davenport regarding the follow-up, and to ensure his attendance at the next meeting, in order to make certain he is satisfied with the attention he received from the DWQ (Washington Regional Office) which handled his complaint.

Yates Barber reported on the status of the Currituck Sound Study (See Attachment C) which had been endorsed and supported, through resolution, by the Pasquotank River Basin Regional Council. Discussion centered around the fact that the allocation of \$100,000 to conduct the study was still included in the President's budget and that all wished it to remain there. The federal government's fiscal year commences October 1, 2000 and to ensure the best possible chance of keeping the allocation in place, Lloyd Griffin

suggested a letter-writing campaign aimed at keeping the issue before the Congress. He felt a letter, and a copy of the resolution, should be sent by the Regional Council to all county managers in the Pasquotank basin, asking them to endorse the study also. Additionally, they would be prevailed upon to make their endorsements and support known to our Congressional delegation in Washington, DC and other politicians within the state. Chairman Haste asked Joan Giordano to accomplish this.

In new business, Lloyd Griffin mentioned viewing an alternative septic system technology, using peat, on a recent trip. Joan Giordano made the group aware of the various septic system technologies being researched by Dr. David Lindbo at the Vernon James Research Station in Plymouth. It was decided that a presentation and/or a field trip should be planned to help the group understand and view first-hand, these technologies. It was also suggested that environmental health staff be present for this occasion. Chairman Haste asked Joan Giordano to make the arrangements.

**The next meeting date was set for July 6<sup>th</sup> at the Vernon James Research Station. NOTE: Mrs. Giordano has been in contact with Dr. Lindbo and he made her aware of two FUNCTIONING peat septic systems located in Dare Co. and Elizabeth City. The field trip may occur at one of these sites. The exact location will be determined in the near future.**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Attendance  
 PRBRC  
 5/4/00

<u>NAME</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
<del>Jean Giordano</del>	APNEP Staff
VERNIE BROWN	VA DCR
Julia Hillgas	Hampton Rds. Planning District
Cheryl Byrd	Dare County Commissioner
George FARAH	Dare Co. Municipal Gov. (Nass Head Comm)
CARL PARROTT	DARE Co At Large
Opriette Sipps	Hyde County
Rodney Johnson	Athermal RC&D
Frederick A Yates	Town of NIMBLE
Lloyd GRIFFIN	CITY of F. City
Yates M. Barber	Pasq. County



**INITIATIVE FOR SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
AND  
LIVABLE COMMUNITIES  
IN THE ALBEMARLE REGION**

**Peggy Birkemeier, Northeastern Region Associate,  
NC Community Foundation**

**Barbara Blonder, Northern Sites Manager,  
Division of Coastal Management**

**Cheryl Byrd, Dare County Commissioner**

## **What is Sustainable Development?**

**Sustainable development is a focused effort to maintain and nurture economic vitality in our region while safeguarding our enviable quality of life, our natural heritage and our environment. It is typically implemented through wise land use practices and long term planning for transportation, utilities, schools, housing, businesses and health care facilities which incorporates a vision of a livable community with convenient access to needed services in an a clean environment that is carefully maintained.**

**Sustainable development envisions a community with good schools, living wages, no traffic congestion, affordable housing, easy and affordable access to natural and cultural resources, good drinking water, affordable utilities and most of all a clean environment that everyone can enjoy.**



## **Why Now? What Prompted this Proposal?**

- **Emergence of local issues with regional solutions**
  - **affordable housing**
  - **potable drinking water**
  - **management of wastewater and solid waste streams**
  - **land use planning that is more sensitive to the environment; concern about sprawl**
  - **health care needs**
  - **public transportation, congested roads and transportation infrastructure**
  - **seasonal tourism-related jobs with implications for all ten counties in the region**
  - **diversification of economic growth to attract higher paying, full-time jobs**
  - **lack of clear vision for future coupled with loss of control over direction and amount of economic development**
  
- **New emphasis and resources at state and federal levels**

## **Other Resource Groups**

- **Joint Center for Sustainable Communities - NACo & US Conference of Mayors - 1997**
- **Save Our State - 150 civic, corporate, educational, medical and religious leaders - only one in this region - 1998**
- **Sustainable Coast Corporation - a proposed 501c(3) nonprofit corporation for the North Carolina coast - 1999**
- **Commission to Address Smart Growth, Growth Management and Development Issues - included in new state budget**

## **Proposed Initiative**

- **Albemarle Commission as Lead Agency for this Region**
- **Seek grants for staff to start effort**
- **No use of existing Commission resources except for help in identifying grant sources and preparing proposals**
- **Effort would have three phases:**
  - **Information gathering in all ten counties followed by effort to develop and prioritize an implementation plan**
  - **Review and approval of plan by Advisory Committee of stakeholders and the Albemarle Commission, followed by grant writing and other fundraising efforts to acquire resources needed for implementation**
  - **Implementation of plan for sustainable development and livable communities in Region R**

## **Management of Proposed Effort**

- **Advisory Committee of Stakeholders to steer work**
- **Oversight by Executive Director of Albemarle Commission and by Albemarle Commission Board**
- **Initial preparation of grant proposals by current Steering Committee, David Parrotte and other volunteers**

## **What We Need from You**

- **Approval of concept and permission to pursue grant funds under umbrella of Albemarle Commission**
- **Suggestions for membership of Advisory Committee from across the region**

## **II. PROJECT OVERVIEW**

### **A. Role of Albemarle Commission in the Community**

The Albemarle Commission is responsible for providing comprehensive planning assistance and promoting orderly economic development and growth in a ten-county region in northeastern North Carolina. In this role, it promotes intergovernmental cooperation for joint Federal, State and local efforts focused on regional development. More generally, it oversees programs that are funded on a regional level.

### **B. Location and Geographic Scale of the Initiative for Sustainable Development and Livable Communities in the Albemarle Region**

The proposed activity will occur in all ten counties of the Albemarle region (listed in Summary Information Page) and the communities contained therein. This region encompasses approximately half of North Carolina's coastal area, where the natural environment has come under increasing development pressure over the past two decades. These ten are also half of the twenty counties, which are subject to development restrictions and land-use planning requirements imposed by North Carolina's Coastal Area Management Act. Much of the area consists of estuarine waters, including the Albemarle, Currituck and Pamlico Sounds, and it is intersected by three river basins, protected under EPA's National Estuary Program for the Albemarle-Pamlico Sounds.

### **C. Goals and Objectives of the Project**

Northeast North Carolina's communities are either experiencing rapid growth or encouraging new economic development without a clear vision for the future or the land-use practices and long-range planning in place to ensure our high quality of life and protect our environment. The project's objectives are:

- Collect information through research, surveys and public forums with stakeholders in communities throughout the region to determine goals, problems, strengths, weaknesses and priorities, and work with these communities to shape visions for their future and for the future of the region as a whole;
- Develop a long-range plan for sustainable development in the region; and
- Prepare, publish and distribute a five-year implementation plan after defining the strategies and resources needed for implementation.

### **D. Expected Results and Impact of the Initiative**

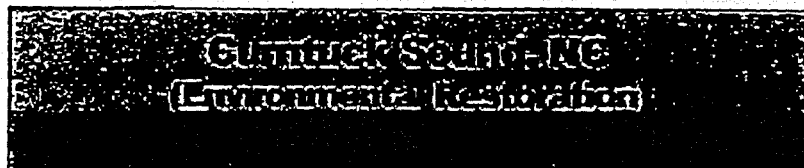
This Initiative will foster cooperation among stakeholders in the ten counties as they work together for sustainable growth across the region. Over time, land-use and planning practices will become more uniform and environmentally sensitive, as information and experiences are shared among the counties and as project research, in concert with information from state and federal sources, is disseminated.

Coastal counties/municipalities will use regional information to develop responses for management of continued growth and redevelopment while reducing tourist-related impacts on traffic, water and wastewater treatment systems. These responses will stabilize their economies as they diversify and attract environmentally friendly industry. Agriculturally-based counties will find ways to preserve farmlands while using environmentally sound agricultural practices to improve production or grow new crops. Regional information, developed by this project, will help all ten counties solve their own infrastructure problems.

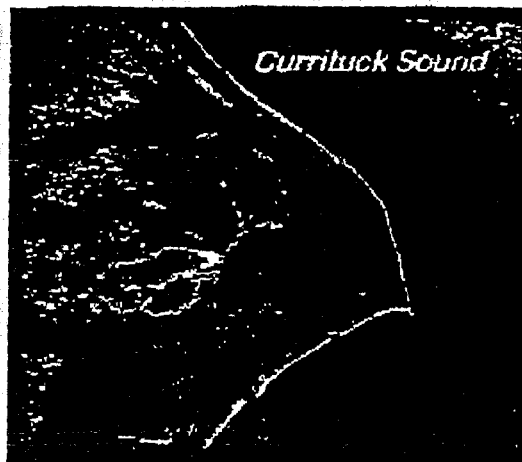




US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Wilmington District



- Congressional Resolution adopted March 11, 1998
- Study proposed to address salinity increases in the Sound which have adversely impacted freshwater fisheries.
- The increased salinity has also adversely impacted submerged aquatic vegetation
- New study start in the President's FY 01 Budget



CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: NC 3

DATE: 17 March 2000

1. **AUTHORIZATION:** Resolution adopted by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the United States House of Representatives dated 11 March 1998.
2. **STUDY AREA:** Currituck Sound is a 153 square mile brackish water estuary separated from the Atlantic Ocean by thin barrier islands known as the Outer Banks. Located in Currituck and Dare Counties in northeastern North Carolina, the sound has an average depth of 5 feet and maximum depth of approximately 13 feet. The most significant freshwater inputs to Currituck Sound include North Landing River and Northwest River, both originating in the Great Dismal Swamp of North Carolina and Virginia. Back Bay, a 35 square mile estuary located in Virginia, also discharges water into the sound through shallow water channels along the eastern shore. Water level fluctuations in Currituck Sound are a function of prevailing winds and possible point source inputs of brackish water from Federal canals influence the salinity of Currituck Sound.
3. **IMPROVEMENTS DESIRED:** The local interests are concerned about increased salinity levels which have frequently exceeded the threshold for many freshwater fisheries (largemouth bass, black crappie, and bluegill) and have caused a severe decline in these fisheries. In addition, the increased salinity regime has contributed to the loss of extensive submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV). SAV provides a food source for various fish stocks, creates an ideal habitat for numerous migrating waterfowl species, and maintains the stability of the sound bottom. Local interests want the current trends reversed or at least stabilized.

