

**PASQUOTANK COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
FEBRUARY 10, 2017**

The Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners met today in a special meeting with the Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisors and staff on Friday, February 10, 2017 at 12:00 Noon at the Pineapple Café.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cecil Perry, Chairman
Dr. William R. Sterritt, Vice Chairman
Jeff Dixon
Joseph S. Winslow, Jr.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Lloyd E. Griffin, III
Frankie Meads
Bettie Parker

OTHERS PRESENT: Rodney Bunch, County Manager
R. Michael Cox, County Attorney
Lynn Scott, Clerk to the Board
Sheri Small, Finance Officer
Shelley Cox, Planning Director
Steve Harris, Pasquotank SWCD Chairman
Maurice Berry, Pasquotank SWCD Supervisor
Doug Temple, Pasquotank SWCD Supervisor
Chuck Jackson, Pasquotank SWCD Supervisor
Dwane Hinson, Pasquotank SWCD Technician
Dianne Watts, Pasquotank SWCD District Administrator

Mr. Steve Harris, Pasquotank Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) Chairman, welcomed everyone. He introduced new board members Doug Temple and Chuck Jackson. He gave the invocation and lunch was served. Following lunch SWCD Technician Dwane Hinson updated the Board on some new projects going on in the county, as well as the Little River Project. He asked for input on some water quality issues in the Albemarle Sound and its tributaries.

Mr. Dwane Hinson stated that the Board is already aware of the historic water quality and the problems in the Chowan River and fish kills in the Pamlico Sound, but he wants the Board to understand that there is a new trend developing in the sound. He stated that Chowan River has had massive algal blooms and in the upper Perquimans River there has been extensive duck weed blooms. Little River has had two blooms, which are getting larger every year. He said he is trying to figure out what has changed. He stated that he is noticing some trends. He explained that these changes are usually caused by land use changes such as urban development, farming, ditch cleanouts, construction (solar), and swamp logging. He explained that we have more inputs that are releasing too many nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus and there is not enough buffering capacity in the rivers and streams. He said it can take years to get the balance back. He said we are basically destroying the riparian buffers along the creeks and rivers. He noted that we do not have any protection of our buffers in Pasquotank County.

Mr. Hinson suggested requiring at least 200-300' buffers on new projects. He also suggests we form water management districts, so landowners will be responsible for determining what maintenance projects are needed and funding. He said we need to control drainage and reduce the total amount of outflow, which can increase crop yields by as much as 20% and reduce pollution. He said we need to rebuild a drainage system that emulates what Mother Nature did originally.

Mr. Hinson informed the Commissioners that as a result of Hurricane Matthew the North Carolina General Assembly passed the Disaster Recovery Act of 2016. Mr. Hinson said Pasquotank County may be eligible to receive approximately \$260,000 to clear and snag streams. He shared an aerial map indicating 18 locations for individual projects he has identified for clearing and snagging. The sites are in the upper Little River, Knobbs Creek and Pasquotank River. Mr. Hinson is applying for the grant funds. He also will prepare bid packets to be forwarded to at least three contractors soliciting bids.

Mr. Harris thanked the Board.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:20 PM.

CHAIRMAN

CLERK TO THE BOARD