

**MINUTES**  
**CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**WORK SESSION**  
**FEBRUARY 05, 2007**

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The Board of Commissioners (“the Board”) of the County of Chatham, North Carolina, met in the Agricultural Building Auditorium, 45 South Street, located in Pittsboro, North Carolina, at 10:00 AM on February 05, 2007.

Present: Chairman Carl Thompson; Vice Chair, George Lucier; Commissioners Patrick Barnes, Mike Cross, and Tom Vanderbeck; County Manager, Charlie Horne; Interim County Attorney, Jep Rose; Assistant County Manager, Renee Paschal; Finance Officer, Vicki McConnell; and Clerk to the Board, Sandra B. Sublett

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 10:27 AM.

The County Manager reviewed the Work Session agenda.

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**Work Session**

1. Division of Parks and Recreation Presentation by Carol Tingley (Deep River Paddle Trail)
2. Joint Processing Facility with Orange County Presentation by Charlie Bolton
3. Major Corridor Ordinance Discussion
4. “Citizens in Government” Session Presentation by Debra Henzy
5. Discussion on Sedimentation and Erosion Control
6. Establish Guidelines and Priorities for Funding Non-Profit Agencies: Consideration of a request to establish guidelines and priorities for funding non-profit agencies
7. ABC Board Discussion

**ABC BOARD DISCUSSION**

Commissioner Cross explained that the County Manager and he had met with Roy Siler, ABC Board Chairman and Walter Harris several weeks prior; that their meeting was to discuss filling the vacancy of Ms. Catherine Blackwelder who passed away in December; that he learned that Chatham County has a total of five ABC Stores and three ABC Boards; that there is one for Siler City, Pittsboro, and one for the County; that on behalf of the State ABC Board and the County ABC Board, he would like to ask the Board’s approval to seek consolidation with the Town of Pittsboro; and that depending on how that goes, they will then seek consolidation with the Town of Siler City.

The County Manager stated that he had made contact with Pittsboro and Siler City Managers to begin the inquiry process, but that he has not heard anything at this point.

Commissioner Cross stated that another question is whether the Board wants to add “liquor by

the drink” to the 2008 ballot.

Commissioner Cross moved, seconded by Commissioner Barnes, to grant the County ABC Board authority to discuss consolidation with the Pittsboro ABC Board to see if they are interested.

Commissioner Cross explained that one reason consolidation is being discussed is so that they can have some storage room; that they could purchase larger quantities of hard alcohol at lower prices if they have somewhere to store it; and that that would help the County and be able to pass the lower cost on to their customers.

Commissioner Vanderbeck questioned making a motion at the day’s meeting.

Commissioner Cross stated that all he is asking for is permission from the Board of Commissioners' to talk with Pittsboro after which they would be able to work out the financial impact it would have.

The Chairman called the question. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

### **JOINT PROCESSING FACILITY**

The County Manager stated that in October, 2006, the Orange County Board of Commissioners inquired of Chatham, Alamance, Caswell, Durham, and Person Counties to look at the feasibility of a joint processing facility for local farm products; that the sitting Board asked the Ag Advisory Committee to look at it; and that Charlie Bolton is in attendance to explain the follow-up.

Charlie Bolton explained that they would like to proceed with a feasibility study that is going to cost approximately \$15,000.00; that they would like for each county to contribute approximately \$2,500.00; that it would be primarily for vegetable and fruit growers and small producers who do not have access to large canneries; and that Clarence Durham is in attendance to further explain the process.

Clarence Durham stated that a processing facility has been located in Toccoa, Georgia; that they can beef, vegetables, peanuts, etc.; that most of it goes to farmer’s markets, Good Will Industries, etc.; they have a lot of machines that the homeowner would not have; that there are two in the State of North Carolina; that it is a State-inspected kitchen; that everything that is processed there can be resold; that they think it is feasible; that he personally believes that six counties may be too many; that they need to get their sustainable agriculture people interested in it and get their feedback to get the ball to rolling.

Charlie Bolton said that approving the feasibility study would not obligate the County to proceed with the actual processing facility.

Commissioner Vanderbeck stated that he was in favor of the idea; that it would take advantage of local markets; that it would possibly put more people to work; that he would like to see how a non-profit might be involved, possibly Chatham Trades.

Commissioner Lucier moved, seconded by Commissioner Barnes, to approve the request to fund the feasibility study in the amount of \$2,500.00. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

### **DEEP RIVER PARKS**

Carol Tingley, stated that a multi-county project to protect the natural resources and enhance the recreational potential of the Deep River could take the form of a land-based and paddle trail along the

river and its tributaries; that the trail could begin at the river's headwaters near High Point and Jamestown in Guilford County and continue through Randolph, Moore, and Chatham Counties before ending at the confluence of the Deep River and the Haw River near Moncure in Lee County; that this trail could become the backbone of an extended regional trails system with connecting trails to Greensboro, Asheboro, the NC Zoological Park, and Jordan Lake; that it could perhaps continue down the Cape Fear River to Raven Rock State Park and beyond; that establishing the trail as a unit of the NC State Parks System called the Deep River State Park Trail would unify this regional effort and enable the NC Division of Parks and Recreation to coordinate and facilitate the multiple-partner project; that the Deep River is considered nationally significant for its biological resources, including globally rare species of fish (Cape Fear Shiner) and mussels (Atlantic Pigtoe); that along the river's edge, scenic bluffs and rock outcrops alternate with many features of historical interest and is popular with paddlers and fishermen; and that the Deep River State Park Trail has considerable potential to support recreational uses and to attract tourism to the five-county region.

Ms. Tingley stated that a State Park Trail is a recognized unit of the State Parks System that is somewhat different than a traditional state park, such as at Hanging Rock or Morrow Mountain; that when the General Assembly adds a State park trail unit to the State Park System, it defines an area often larger and more linear in scope than a traditional State Park; that legislators want to see the area jointly planned, acquired, developed and managed by local governments, other state and federal agencies and the Division of Parks and Recreation; that if the Deep River were added as a State park trail unit of the State parks System, the Division of Parks and Recreation would be authorized to:

1. Collaborate with local governments, landowners, nonprofit organizations, and other stakeholders to develop a comprehensive plan for the Deep River State Park Trail.
2. Acquire and manage some of the lands necessary for major public access areas and support facilities along the trail corridor.
3. Promote, encourage, and assist the establishment of trail segments and access areas on lands managed by other governmental agencies and nonprofit organizations in order to form a continuous trail within the Deep River Corridor.

She stated that the Deep River State Park Trail could begin as a canoe/paddle trail, with public access sites, beginning near the new Randleman lake Dam and continuing downstream to the confluence of the Deep River and Haw River near Moncure in Lee County; that the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources now manages 952 acres along the Deep River; that the NC Department of Cultural Resources manages over 400 acres (including the House in the Horseshoe State Historic Site and the Endor Iron Furnace property), and the Triangle Land Conservancy owns 583 acres (including White Pines Nature Preserve and La Grange Riparian Preserve); that at least some of these lands could serve as the first public access areas on the Deep River State Park Trail; that as plans are jointly developed and land is acquired, the potential exists for longer distance trails and greenways that could connect High Point and Jamestown to Jordan Lake State Recreation Area; that legislation must be passed by the North Carolina General Assembly for the Deep River State park Trail to be included as a unit of the State Parks System; that if the authorization bill is passed, the NC Division of Parks and Recreation will bring together involved local governments, nonprofit organizations, landowners and interested citizens to begin the development of a comprehensive plan for the Deep River State Park Trail; and that participation in the project will be voluntary and private property rights will be respected.

After considerable discussion, Commissioner Barnes moved, seconded by Commissioner Cross, to vote on the concept of the Deep River State Park Trail project. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

The Resolution Supporting the Establishment of the Deep River State Park Trail is to be placed

on the February 19, 2007 Board of Commissioners' agenda for action by the Board.

### **NON PROFIT GUIDELINES AND PRIORITIES**

Renee Paschal, Assistant County Manager, explained that as part of its Budget Summit on January 9, 2007, the Board of Commissioners discussed funding non-profit agencies. She stated that staff had previously presented two documents for the Board to consider using in establishing priorities: 1) a copy of the priorities identified by the Community Health Assessment, and 2) a copy of the Analysis of Human Services in Chatham County, 2006; that the Community Health Assessment has changed somewhat; that the Commissioners decided on January 9 they would revisit the setting of priorities during a work session; that in order to share these priorities with non-profit agencies applying for funds, Commissioners would need to set priorities as non-profit funding applications are due on February 28; that agencies need some notice so that they can respond to the priorities in their applications; that in addition to revising priorities, staff agreed to provide a copy of proposed certification criteria for adoption; that the Board also asked that a written rationale be provided by the review panel volunteers; that staff has developed a draft form for that purpose, titled "Evaluation Form"; that the evaluation form will also be used by the review panel volunteers to rank agencies; that the certification criteria represent the minimum standards agencies must meet in order to receive funding; that they are in place so that the County can be assured: 1) the agency is financially viable, 2) appropriate governance is in place, 3) minimum operational standards are in place; that having priorities for funding non-profit agencies is helpful to volunteers and staff; and that it allows them to match their recommendation with the wishes of the Board and gives them overall direction.

She asked that the Board consider adopting the "Certification Criteria" that establish the minimum requirements for agencies. She explained the specifics of the "Evaluation Form", the Executive Summary and Revised Priorities from the Community Health Assessment, and the Analysis of Human Services in Chatham County, 2006 which provided some basis for establishing priorities.

Commissioner Lucier moved, seconded by Commissioner Barnes, to approve the Certification Criteria. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

Ms. Paschal asked that, at some point, the Board establish and give staff some priorities for funding non-profits and state the areas that they wish to see targeted.

Commissioner Lucier stated that there were several established priorities that he agrees with in terms of County needs; that there are a couple that are not as explicit in that the groups that put them together wouldn't be necessarily thinking of watershed protection, environmental protection, etc.; that he thinks that should be a priority as well for non-profits to apply for certification criteria; that he thinks that should be added as it is not present in the current priorities; that it is not replacing existing priorities, it is adding to it; that he believes recreation is covered, and to some extent, might include the eco-tourism/eco-recreation, relevant to environmental issues.

Ms. Paschal reiterated that the Board wishes to use the documents that have already been distributed as the basis and then add things to it.

Chairman Thompson asked if the deadline could be extended to the middle of March.

Ms. Paschal stated that that would be a Board decision, but they would have to regroup as far as planning is concerned. She stated that she felt that it was probably better to leave things as they are now; that the decisions that would be made would be similar to the process used in the past; that she hopes that the Board will appoint volunteers to sit on the review panels who will hear the presentations

and rank those agencies based on what they submit in writing and their presentations; and then development a recommendation for the Board.

Commissioner Lucier stated that he would like to add the ones that he mentioned if the Board is agreeable to it; that he would like the two regarding environmental protections and watershed protections; that there are those that relate to eco-tourism, 501.C3s that would assist in gathering funding or trail systems throughout the County; and that he believes that they would be helpful.

Commissioner Vanderbeck mentioned that he would support eco-tourism, the cultural tourism/arts, and economic development.

The County Manager stated that if the Board could distribute their lists to other Board members of what they wish to add, then the matter could be discussed prior to the joint meeting with the Board of Education.

Ms. Paschal stated that she would prepare a draft based on draft based on the additions and those already included in the distributed documents and ask for the Board to adopt it on February 12, 2007.

### **GAGLIONE REQUEST**

The County Manager explained that Mr. Pat Gaglione, 2531/2533 O'Kelly Chapel Road, Cary, NC, asked about an emergency water connection and voluntary annexation of his property by the Town of Cary; that the property is located on the north side of O'Kelly Chapel Road and is surrounded by the Cary corporate limits; that the Board, by consensus, approved Mr. Gaglione's request at the January 29, 2007 Board meeting, but that no official vote was taken; and that the request needs to be formalized.

Commissioner Barnes moved, seconded by Commissioner Cross, to give Mr. Gaglione permission to seek emergency water connection and voluntary annexation of his property by the Town of Cary. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

### **CLOSED SESSION**

Commissioner Barnes moved, seconded by Commissioner Cross, to go out of Regular Session and convene in Closed Session, in the County Manager's Conference Room, for the purpose of discussing litigation: Mariott v. Chatham County, Murdock v. Chatham County, Casper v. Chatham County, and Winters v. Chatham County. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

### **REGULAR SESSION**

Commissioner Barnes moved, seconded by Commissioner Vanderbeck, to adjourn the Closed Session and reconvene in Regular Session. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Cooperative Extension Service Luncheon and Annual Report:** Luncheon with the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service and consideration of Annual Report

Commissioner Barnes moved, seconded by Commissioner Cross, to adjourn the meeting for lunch with the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service and for presentation of their annual report. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0), and the meeting was adjourned at 11:14 AM.

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Carl Thompson, Chairman

ATTEST:

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Sandra B. Sublett, CMC, Clerk to the Board  
Chatham County Board of Commissioners