

*Kevin Austin, Chairman of Board
David Moxley, Vice Chairman
Cliff Collins, Commissioner
Marion Welborn, Commissioner
Frank Zachary, Commissioner*



*Ed Powell, County Attorney
Lisa Hughes, County Manager
Tanya Gentry, Clerk to the Board*

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

July 28, 2023

Holcomb Creosote

This week I met with EPA and NCDEQ representatives to discuss the Holcomb Creosote Plan clean-up. They have made the chemical injections into the ground water and will test it in another 6-months to ensure it is having the desired impact. They have also extracted the contaminated soils and stabilized the area with concrete pads. They have assured me that the pond and the residences are Dobbins Mill Road are not impacted by the project. For future use of the property, they have said that industrial or warehouse use should be fine, but they would not be able to use the groundwater. We will have another meeting in a few weeks to discuss the potential uses of the property.

Solid Waste

Republic Services continues the repair work on the transfer station and they should be completed next week.

The FY2024 Budget includes replacing 2 of the buildings at Convenience Sites and the quotes received during preparation of the budget was \$10,000 and now the cost has increased to \$15,000. One of the sites we were going to replace the building is only open 1 day per week for 6 hours and is on property we lease. It may be a more economical decision to close this site or change it to an unmanned site.

VIPER Tower

Another property outside East Bend town limits has been identified as a potential site for the new VIPER tower that is needed. The owner of the property contacted us after seeing our post on Facebook. He is currently out of town and will be back in touch upon his return. Being that the County will be responsible for the cost of constructing the tower, it would be better to construct it on property owned by the County and that is the discussion we are having with the owner.

Surry-Yadkin Works

During the fall semester we hope to have Surry-Yadkin Works Pre-apprentices in Veterans, Emergency Services, Finance, IT/GIS, Central Permitting and Administration. These are excellent opportunities to introduce high school students to public service and local government.

Holcomb House

The footings have been poured and now McCrary Movers are waiting on Duke Energy to temporarily lift lines while they turn a corner. Hopefully, it will happen very soon.

Insight Human Services

Insight Human Services has received Community Impact NC funding to focus on building youth and community capacity to address substance misuse in Yadkin County. They are planning a community event called: Hope is Here: A Collaborative Call to Action event on August 3rd at the Agricultural & Educational Building. They reached out to Brock Hall about this event and asked if he would like to speak about the Opioid Settlement funds and plans for the community. Brock and Opioid Action Coordinator, Marie Walters plan to attend.

Medicaid Expansion

NCDHHS held a conference call for County Managers this week in advance of their press release issued Wednesday concerning Medicaid Expansion. They intend to start Medicaid Expansion October 1st and it depends upon the General Assembly acting by September 1. The General Assembly will have to pull it out of the budget or adopt the budget by September 1. DHHS is working to reduce the original implementation period from 90-120 days down to 30 days so enrollment can start more quickly. If they do not have authority from the General Assembly by September 1, the next earliest date they could start would be December 1. DHHS is opening the public comment period now on their website.

NACo Conference

Chairman Kevin Austin, Vice-Chairman David Moxley, Commissioner Frank Zachary and I attended the NACo Annual Conference in Austin, Texas July 21-24. It was a tremendous event that provided many learning opportunities, networking and advocacy for counties. There were over 2,000 attendees and NC had over 170 attendees. As this was my first NACo Conference it was amazing to see the impact and levels of involvement that North Carolina Commissioners and the NCACC have on the national level. While these impact the federal level, it trickles down to make differences at home in our communities.

While counties receive funding locally through fees, property taxes and sales taxes, we also receive funding passed through the State from the Federal Government. Most of the regulations for health, social services, veterans, farm use, waters in the United States, etc. come from the Federal Government. The Federal Farm Bill impacts NC farmers just as much as the State Farm Bill. Veterans Services Officers are certified by the Federal Government, but it does not fund Veteran Services Offices....local government does. NACo is advocating on our behalf to urge Congress to reintroduce and pass the Commitment to Veteran Support and Outreach Act that authorizes federal funding to expand and strengthen County Veteran Service Officers. NACo is also working on our behalf with CMS to obtain Medicaid eligibility for jail inmates, which local counties in NC are financially responsible for all medical services provided to inmates. Thankfully, NCGS limit the amount

we pay, but it can be substantial as we had one inmate a few years ago with medical bills in excess of \$1.5 million.

We attended the Business meeting, the NC Caucus, the South Region Caucus, Health and Mental Health sessions, as well as Steering Committee meetings. There are many opportunities to be involved at the federal level, include serving on committees. If you are interested in serving or would like more information, please let me know.

Yadkin Gray Eagles Flag Dedication

Greg Cheek informed me that the Yadkin Gray Eagles Flag Dedication Ceremony has been rescheduled for Saturday, **September 9th** at 10:30am at the Museum of History in Raleigh. Please let me know if you are interested in attending.

School of Government Classes

The School of Government offers many classes for Elected Officials and the Board has funding available for these classes in its budget. One is coming up on **August 11**, 9:30am-4:30pm in Asheville for \$225 "Working Better Together As a Board." If you would like to attend this class, please register for it or contact Tanya and she can register you.

They also offer the Local Elected Leaders Academy to help elected leaders develop a mutual understanding of how governing at the local level affects residents and differing constituencies, regardless of where they live. LELA has 4 levels established through education and service: Practitioner, Master, Mentor and Ambassador. They also offer short webinars or primers on topics such as Public School Funding Process; Understanding the Public MH/DD/SA System in NC; Gifts, Favors and Conflicts of Interest; Rules of Procedure; Transportation Planning and Funding, Use of Social Media for Local Elected Officials and Capital Budgeting for Elected Officials. If you are interested in any of these, please visit the School of Government website or let Tanya know.

Upcoming Dates

Strategic Planning work session will be held on **August 2, 2023** at the Front Yard, starting at 8:30am. The session will conclude by 4pm and lunch will be provided.

The NCACC Annual Conference is scheduled for **August 24-26** in Raleigh, NC. Registration is now open, so please let Tanya or me know as soon as possible if you would like for us to register you.