

Hyde County Board of Commissioners
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY SHEET

Meeting Date: April 7, 2025
Presenter: Chairman
Attachment: No

ITEM TITLE: OPENING

SUMMARY: Call to Order
Prayer
Pledge of Allegiance

Hyde County Board of Commissioners
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY SHEET

Meeting Date: April 7, 2025
Presenter: Chairman
Attachment: Yes

ITEM TITLE: CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA

SUMMARY: Attached is the proposed Agenda for April 7, 2025.

RECOMMEND: Review, Amend and Approve.

MOTION MADE BY: MATHEWS
 SWINDELL
 MOORE
 MIDGETTE
 BERRY

MOTION SECONDED BY: MATHEWS
 SWINDELL
 MOORE
 MIDGETTE
 BERRY

VOTE: MATHEWS
 SWINDELL
 MOORE
 MIDGETTE
 BERRY



REGULAR MEETING - April 7, 2025, 6:00 P.M.

Held in the Hyde County Government Center, Multipurpose Room, and the Ocracoke Community Center using electronic conferencing equipment.

CALL TO ORDER

CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

- March 3rd, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes

PRESENTATIONS

- 1) Hyde County NBPSCF Grant Distribution Request and Annual Report.....Dr. Melanie Shaver
Hyde County Schools Superintendent
- 2) Tax Collections..... Donnie Shumate
 - Report

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public Comments are a time for the public to make comments to the County Commissioners. Comments should be kept to three (3) minutes or less and comments should be directed to the entire Board and not to individual members, the staff or to other members of the public. Comments requesting assistance will typically be referred to the County Manager for follow-up or for Board action at a future meeting.

ITEMS OF CONSIDERATION

- 1) BHM Library Appointment..... Kris Cahoon Noble
- 2) Albemarle RC&D Appointment.....Kris Cahoon Noble
- 3) Albemarle Commission Appointment.....Kris Cahoon Noble
- 4) Resolution In Support of NC Senate Bill 540 & House Bill 457.....Kris Cahoon Noble

- 5) Health Department Master Fee Schedule (Clinical)Luana Gibbs
- 6) Mainland Occupancy Tax Funding Requests.....Richard Mann
- 7) Ocracoke Occupancy Tax Funding RequestsKris Cahoon Noble
- 8) Release of Tax Bills Donnie Shumate

BUDGET MATTERS

MANAGEMENT REPORTS

The Commissioners, County Manager and Assistant County Manager will share with the public their various activities and ideas for continuous improvement of government services to the citizens.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The public is invited to use this time to make comments to the County Commissioners on items discussed during this meeting and/or matters not discussed earlier in the meeting.

ADJOURN

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

- 1. Soil & Water Update
- 2. Carteret County Tax Reappraisal Information
- 3. Bertie County DSS Hiring Information

Hyde County Board of Commissioners
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY SHEET

Meeting Date: April 7, 2025
Presenter: Clerk to the Board
Attachment: Yes

ITEM TITLE: CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

SUMMARY: Attached are the March 3rd, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes.

RECOMMEND: Review, Amend, and Approve.

MOTION MADE BY: MATHEWS
 SWINDELL
 MOORE
 MIDGETTE
 BERRY

MOTION SECONDED BY: MATHEWS
 SWINDELL
 MOORE
 MIDGETTE
 BERRY

VOTE: MATHEWS
 SWINDELL
 MOORE
 MIDGETTE
 BERRY

BOE JOINT MEETING & REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

HYDE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Monday, March 3rd, 2025

Following the opening prayer by Vice Chairman Swindell and pledge of allegiance, Chairman Mathews called the March 3rd Special Joint Meeting of the Hyde County Board of Commissioners and Hyde County Board of Education to order at 5:00 p.m., in the Hyde County Government Center Multi-Use Room.

The following members were present on the mainland: Chairman Randal Mathews, Jr.; Vice Chairman Shannon Swindell; Commissioner Thomas Midgette; Commissioner Jan Moore; Commissioner Jeffrey Berry; County Manager Kris Cahoon Noble; County Attorney Franz Holscher; and Clerk to the Board Richard Mann.

The Hyde County Board of Commissioners was also joined by the Hyde County Board of Education. The following members were present representing the Hyde County Board of Education: Vice Chair Chanta Gibbs Rickard; Board Member Rachael Chestnut; Board Member Edward Torres; Board Member Dustin Nails; and Hyde County Schools Superintendent Dr. Melanie Shaver. The meeting was live-streamed via the Hyde County Facebook page. Video is also available on Facebook for download to a personal device.

HYDE COUNTY SCHOOLS BUDGET PRESENTATION:

County Manager Kris Cahoon Noble welcomed the Hyde County Board of Education and Superintendent Dr. Melanie Shaver to the meeting and expressed the importance of joint partnership and planning.

County Manager Kris Cahoon Noble presented the joint meeting agenda between the Hyde County Board of Commissioners and the Hyde County Board of Education.

Vice Chairman Swindell moved to approve the Monday, March 3rd, 2025 Joint Meeting Agenda as presented by Manager Noble. Commissioner Moore seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Mathews, Swindell, Moore, Midgette, and Berry; Nays – None; Absent or not voting – None.

Board Member Chesnut moved to approve the Monday, March 3rd, 2025 Joint Meeting Agenda as presented. Board Member Torres seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Rickard, Chestnut, Nails, and Torres; Nays – None; Absent or not voting – Mooney.

1) Distribution Request NBPSCF NC Education Lottery:

Hyde County School Superintendent Dr. Melanie Shaver presented a \$188,175.16 distribution request for funding being used through the NBPSCF grant.

The Needs-Based Public School Capital Fund (NBPSCF) grant is funded with revenue from the NC Education Lottery and is designed to address critical K-12 school facility needs across North Carolina.

Vice Chairman Swindell moved to approve the NBPSCF Distribution Request as presented. Commissioner Midgette seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Mathews, Swindell, Berry, Midgette, and Moore; Nays – None; Absent or not voting – None.

Board Member Torres moved to approve the Distribution Request as presented. Board Member Chestnut seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Rickard, Chestnut, Nails, and Torres; Nays – None; Absent or not voting – Mooney.

2) Easement and Interlocal Agreement:

Manager Noble and Dr. Shaver co-presented an agreement and easement between the County of Hyde and the Board of Education.

Interlocal Agreement Between the County of Hyde and the Hyde County Board of Education - The purpose of this Agreement is to establish the terms and conditions under which the parties will share the use of their respective properties for recreational and educational purposes, to the benefit of the citizens of the County and Board of Education, its students and employees.

Permanent Access Easement and Parking Area and Access Easement Agreement - The agreement provides easements to the new Industrial Arts complex and the Brandon Marshall Ballfield.

Vice Chairman Swindell moved to approve the Easement and Interlocal Agreement as presented. Commissioner Berry seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Mathews, Swindell, Berry, Midgette, and Moore; Nays – None; Absent or not voting – None.

Board Member Torres moved to approve the Easement and Interlocal Agreement as presented. Board Member Chestnut seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Rickard, Chestnut, Nails, and Torres; Nays – None; Absent or not voting – Mooney.

3) Hyde County Board of Education Budget Message:

4) Board of Education Budget Information:

5) Hyde County Budget Resolution for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2026:

Hyde County Schools Superintendent Dr. Melanie Shaver presented the Hyde County Board of Education Budget Message, Board of Education Budget Information, and the Hyde County Board of Education - Budget Resolution for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2025.

Dr. Shaver reported that this year's budget message reflected the construction projects being pursued by Hyde County Schools and reported that construction provided by grant funding is well underway on the Mattamuskeet Campus.

Dr. Shaver further expressed that Hyde County Schools would like to offer programs that introduce new classes and training that can benefit students in future careers in existing and developing industries, not only in Hyde County but in Northeastern North Carolina. It was reported that the Mattamuskeet campus recently hosted a career fair for both Mainland and Ocracoke students which was a great success.

Dr. Shaver also expressed a goal of establishing Citizen Hyde and Student Hyde, which would act as a program for both Hyde County citizens and students to learn more about the function of local government while also exploring the local economy and the possibility of new economic development.

The Hyde County Board of Education cumulative agreed that there is growing excitement about new opportunities across the student body.

The Hyde County Board of Commissioners thanked Dr. Shaver for her initiatives in bringing new opportunities to Hyde County Schools.

6) Joint Strategies and Shared Legislative Goals:

Dr. Shaver expressed that the main legislative initiative for Hyde County Schools is the passage of (Small Rural County Schools System Allotment) in the form of House Bill 457 and Senate Bill 540. Dr. Shaver explained that the approval of this funding would be crucial to helping small counties, especially Hyde County in its uniqueness.

Former Senator Bob Steinburg, who is Hyde County's acting lobbying consultant, and Manager Noble expressed excitement for the legislation.

Sen. Steinburg reported that this legislation should be a top priority among Hyde County representatives and expressed confidence that the legislation would be passed.

Manager Noble reported that Hyde County and Hyde County Schools will work together to ensure that the legislation is supported at the NC General Assembly.

Dr. Shaver reported that Hyde County legislators have been a great help thus far in supporting the legislation.

The Hyde County Board of Commissioners expressed thanks for finding additional money to support the school system and its needs for an innovative future.

The Hyde County Board of Commissioners thanked Dr. Shaver and the Board of Education for their presentation and commitment.

Manager Noble thanked Dr. Shaver and the Board of Education for taking the time to come and present their plans and exciting initiatives.

ADJOURN:

Board Member Chesnut moved to adjourn the joint meeting between the Board of Education and the Hyde County Board of Commissioners. Board Member Torres seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Rickard, Chestnut, Nails, and Torres; Nays – None; Absent or not voting – Mooney.

The Hyde County Board of Commissioners took a brief recess before coming back for their regular meeting.

REGULAR MEETING

Chairman Mathews called the March 3rd Regular Meeting of the Hyde County Board of Commissioners to order at 6:40 p.m., in the Hyde County Government Center Multi-Use Room.

The following members were present on the mainland: Chairman Randal Mathews, Jr.; Vice Chairman Shannon Swindell; Commissioner Thomas Midgette; Commissioner Jan Moore; Commissioner Jeffrey Berry; County Manager Kris Cahoon Noble; County Attorney Franz Holscher; and Clerk to the Board Richard Mann. Hyde County Lobbying Consultant Sen. Bob Steinburg was also present.

CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA:

County Manager Kris Cahoon Noble reported that a tax refund would be added to the agenda.

Vice Chairman Swindell moved to approve the Monday, March 3rd, 2025, Meeting Agenda with the added tax refund as presented by Manager Noble. Commissioner Moore seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Mathews, Swindell, Moore, Midgette, and Berry; Nays – None; Absent or not voting – None.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:

Vice Chairman Swindell moved to approve the March 3rd Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. Commissioner Berry seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Mathews, Swindell, Moore, Midgette, and Berry; Nays – None; Absent or not voting – None.

PRESENTATIONS:

1) Rose Acre Farms Check Presentation:

Rose Acre Farms representatives, Nick Menzel, Phyllis Ricadez, and Abraham Ricardez, presented the Hyde County Board of Commissioners with a check in the amount of \$45,000.00 to use towards furthering EMS capabilities in Hyde County.

Hyde County EMS, Chief Brook Cox, thanked Rose Acre Farms for their donation and explained that the donation would help Hyde County Emergency Services purchase stair-lift stretchers, which would help EMS crews care for individuals who physically cannot be transported due to stairs that are found on many of Hyde County's elevated homes.

Manager Noble and the Hyde County Board of Commissioners thanked Rose Acre Farms for their donation and community involvement.

2) Legislative Update and 2025 Session Goals:

Hyde County Lobbying Consultant, Sen. Bob Steinburg, gave an update to the Commissioners on the happenings at the NC General Assembly. Sen. Steinburg expressed that the majority of state funds would be going towards Western North Carolina to aid in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene. This would mean Hyde County would not particularly see big appropriations for projects; however, Hyde County's funding requests regarding public safety would possibly be easily considered. It was further expressed that if funding was not forthcoming, legislative actions could be considered, such as House Bill 457 and Senate Bill 540 for Hyde County Schools.

Vice Chairman Swindell expressed that common-sense legislation should be considered when it comes to the permitting processes of many water management projects, and dredging should be considered. The streamlining of permits would make many of Hyde County's initiatives more obtainable and timely.

Manager Noble thanked former Senator Steinburg for taking the time to discuss legislative goals with Hyde County.

The Hyde County Board of Commissioners thanked Senator Steinburg for his work on behalf of Hyde County and expressed that Hyde County's presence in Raleigh will not diminish.

Tax Collections:

Tax Administrator Donnie Shumate presented the February Tax Report and reported that the February current year collections are up \$115,819.00 and down \$6,948.00 in prior year collections. The current year-to-date collections are up \$1.8 million, and prior year collections are up \$180,000 to date. The total percentage of collections for the current year is at 89.01%.

Vice Chairman Swindell moved to accept the Tax Report as presented. Commissioner Midgette seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Mathews, Swindell, Moore, Midgette, and Berry; Nays – None; Absent or not voting – None.

Tax Administrator Donnie Shumate presented a tax refund for Ms. Carolyn Lawson, which totaled \$214.68.

Vice Chairman Swindell moved to accept the Tax Report as presented. Commissioner Moore seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Mathews, Swindell, Moore, Midgette, and Berry; Nays – None; Absent or not voting – None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

The Hyde County Board of Commissioners were given a written comment from Ms. Ellen Gaskill of Ocracoke.

Hearing no comment from the public, Chairman Mathews continued the meeting.

ITEMS OF CONSIDERATION:

1) Resolution Opposing the NC DMF Proposed Regulations:

Manager Noble reported that the N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission meeting that was planned has been rescheduled for **March 12-13** at the Hilton Garden Inn, 5353 N. Virginia Dare Trail, Kitty Hawk, N.C. 27949. The meeting was rescheduled due to inclement weather for much of the state.

The County Manager, as a Board Member of the North Carolina Fisheries Association, has referenced information provided by the NCFCA, including but not limited to articles by Thomas Newman, Fisheries Liaison.

The biggest change that people are discussing is the removal of the Blue Crab Adaptive Management discussion. Everyone needs to know, although this was removed from the agenda, the schedule for the final vote has not changed. Final vote on Blue Crab Adaptive Management is still scheduled for May 2025. With a failed stock assessment, DMF says, “there is little evidence suggesting overfishing has ended or sustainability objectives of Amendment 3 will be met. Because Amendment 3 is nearly halfway through the required rebuilding timeline, management measures projected to rebuild spawner abundance to a higher level with a much higher probability of success must be implemented.” DMF has outlined 8 options to reduce commercial blue crab harvest, which can be viewed in the Decision Document. These options range anywhere from an 11.6% to a 51.6% harvest reduction.

Although no MFC action is required on this issue at the meeting, this is the time to show up, comment, and talk about what you are seeing on the water. They do not have the necessary information to be asking for these harsh reductions. The timeline on this issue is a rather quick one.

The draft Blue Crab Amendment 3 Adaptive Management will be presented to the ACs and up for public comment in March.

After public comment and AC review, the MFC will vote on final approval of the preferred management measures at their May 2025 meeting.

Manager Noble requested the Board's approval for both the Blue Crab and Speckled Trout Resolutions. Additionally, authorization is sought for the County Manager to draft resolutions addressing false albacore, southern flounder, and wild-caught oysters and clams. These resolutions would be presented to the Board individually before being submitted to the NCMFC, NCDMF, and Hyde County's elected General Assembly representatives.

Commissioner Moore expressed that the regulations and pressures being put on Hyde County commercial fishermen are absolutely absurd and fundamentally wrong.

Commissioner Midgette expressed that the science does not add up to support the proposed regulations, and such regulations will undoubtedly devastate the way of life for many Hyde County citizens and Hyde County's economy.

Commissioner Midgette further expressed that he would make the motion for the County Manager to be authorized to construct and share all other mentioned resolutions without Board review, as long as all the resolutions follow the same format as the Blue Crab and Speckled Trout Resolutions.

Manager Noble further expressed that it was necessary for citizens to let their voices be heard at the upcoming Marin Fisheries Commission meeting and that the County can not tackle these ridiculous regulations alone.

Commissioner Berry expressed that he plans to attend the meeting.

Commissioner Midgette motioned to approve the Blue Crab Resolution and the amended Speckled Trout Resolution, along with allowing the County Manager to be authorized to construct and share all other mentioned resolutions without Board review, as long as all the resolutions follow the same format as the Blue Crab and Speckled Trout Resolutions. Commissioner Moore seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Mathews, Swindell, Moore, Midgette, and Berry; Nays – None; Absent or not voting – None.

2) Resolution Supporting Update to Beach Inlet Management Plan:

Manager Noble reported that the first NC Beach Inlet Management Plan was funded via House Bill 1840 (Session Law 2000-67) and completed in 2009. It provided necessary information to address our natural resources, funding mechanisms & strategies for the comprehensive management of the state's ocean & inlet shorelines. The BIMP also provided the necessary socioeconomic values of N.C. beaches and recommended management strategies. In 2016, an updated BIMP provided new coastal and socioeconomic data and reflected policy changes implemented since the original Plan. It also focused on the latest beach nourishment and dredging activities completed over the previous

seven (7) years and projected the needed funding to maintain the state's coastline, while offering several possible revenue options. Due to healthy growth in N.C. coastal communities, an updated BIMP must be conducted to effectively steer state and local management resources in complex planning in support of 326 miles of ocean shoreline, barrier islands, and 19 active inlet complexes that collectively generate over \$4 billion in annual revenues.

Vice Chairman Swindell moved to approve the Resolution Supporting Update to the NC Beach Inlet Management as presented. Commissioner Berry seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Mathews, Swindell, Moore, Midgette, and Berry; Nays – None; Absent or not voting – None.

3) Streamflow Rehabilitation Assistance Program PBO Amendment:

Manager Noble reported that the Streamflow Rehabilitation Assistance Program Project Budget Ordinance and Secondary Roads Agreement adds an additional \$13,000 to the project in NC Department of Transportation funding for drainage work on Swamp Road, Engelhard.

The Project consists of sediment removal and disposal along Swamp Road in Hyde County for 3,200 linear feet and the replacement of at least 3 residential driveway culverts. The work starts near the Swamp Road/North Lake Road intersection and goes east-northeast to Wallace Canal.

Commissioner Moore moved to approve the Streamflow Rehabilitation Assistance Program PBO Amendment as presented. Vice Chairman Swindell seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Mathews, Swindell, Moore, Midgette, and Berry; Nays – None; Absent or not voting – None.

4) Amendment to the Budget Calendar:

Manager Noble reported that due to scheduling conflicts, Hyde County is amending their Budget Calendar to meet with all Department Heads and External Agencies on Thursday, March 13, 2025, to discuss short and long-term budget goals. The Budget Calendar is further amended to make all Preliminary Department Assessments due on March 13, 2025 as well. This will not affect the overall timeline further.

Vice Chairman Swindell moved to approve the amended Budget Calendar as presented. Commissioner Midgette seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Mathews, Swindell, Moore, Midgette, and Berry; Nays – None; Absent or not voting – None.

5) Tax Office Peer Review:

Manager Noble reported that in order to improve the processes, organizational structure, and collection rate within the Hyde County Tax Office, we would like to invite the NCACC to conduct a Peer Review.

Commissioner Midgette moved to approve the Tax Office Peer Review Letter as presented. Vice Chairman Swindell seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Mathews, Swindell, Moore, Midgette, and Berry; Nays – None; Absent or not voting – None.

6) Ocracoke Building Inspector Contract:

Manager Noble presented a contract that increases the hourly compensation of the contract with Mr. John Contestable by \$2.50 an hour to continue to provide services as Hyde County Building Inspector serving Ocracoke Island. All other terms remain the same as the previous year's contract.

Vice Chairman Swindell moved to approve the Ocracoke Building Inspector Contract as presented. Commissioner Moore seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Mathews, Swindell, Moore, Midgette, and Berry; Nays – None; Absent or not voting – None.

7) Secondary Legal Services Agreement DSS:

County Manager Kris Cahoon Noble presented a Secondary Legal Services Agreement for Hyde County DSS, which would allow legal services to be provided to DSS in needed situations.

Commissioner Moore moved to approve the Secondary Legal Services as presented. Vice Chairman Swindell seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Mathews, Swindell, Moore, Midgette, and Berry; Nays – None; Absent or not voting – None.

8) Landing Road Marsh Sill Agreement - Coastal Federation:

Manager Noble reported that Hyde County has partially constructed a marsh sill at the terminal end of Landing Road in Swan Quarter. Funds provided through the Community Conservation Assistance Program are available to finish the project as previously approved, but those funds have a match requirement. This agreement between the land owners and the North Carolina Coastal Federation will provide matching funds needed to finish the project at no cost to the county.

Commissioner Midgette moved to approve the Landing Road Marsh Sill Agreement as presented. Commissioner Moore seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Mathews, Swindell, Moore, Midgette, and Berry; Nays – None; Absent or not voting – None.

BUDGET MATTERS:

County Manager Kris Cahoon Noble presented three budget revisions. One budget revision increases the budget by \$5,000 in order to support the grant match needed for the last Urgent Repair Grant Program. The \$5,000 will come from the General Fund. The other budget revisions are from the Senior Center and Health Department, and they do not increase the local budget.

Vice Chairman Swindell moved to approve the budget revisions as presented. Commissioner Moore seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Mathews, Swindell, Moore, Midgette, and Berry; Nays – None; Absent or not voting – None.

MANAGEMENT REPORTS:

Commissioner Jan Moore- reported that February was a slow month and many of her meetings were canceled due to the snow.

Commissioner Thomas Midgette - reported that it was also a slow month for him; however, he attended a Black History Month program where Colonel Bobby Burrus, a Hyde County native, presented. Commissioner Midgette explained that Colonel Burrus was a student at Mattamuskeet and now works at the Pentagon which illustrates the opportunity our youth truly have. Commissioner Midgette also reported he was able to walk through the new building at the Mattamuskeet Campus which now has furniture and it was great to see the teachers excited about the future possibilities. Commissioner Midgette expressed that there is some community concern over the turn-over rates at Hyde County Emergency Services.

County Manager Kris Cahoon Noble - explained that EMS was recently blessed with new leadership and many great organizational changes were underway.

Vice Chairman Swindell- voiced thanks to Hyde County Utilities for professionally handling the major pipe break in the Currituck Township region of the County. Vice Chairman Swindell expressed that the incident illustrates the importance of investing in our infrastructure.

Commissioner Jeffrey Berry- expressed that things are now settling after the successful hunting season and that he was grateful for the great initiatives Hyde County is pursuing.

Chairman Randal Mathews- reported that it was a relatively quiet month but thanked those that were doing great things for the County.

County Manager Kris Cahoon Noble- presented the informational items found in the agenda packet. Manager Noble notified that NC Catch would be having their conference in Carteret County where many of the discussions will be focused on the proposed regulations on commercial fishing. Manager Noble also reported that NC League of Municipalities will no longer offer health care insurance benefits; therefore, Hyde County will have to find a new provider for the next budget year. Manager Noble complimented Commissioner Midgette on his mention in the article titled "Snowy Wagon Traveler's Thank You". Lastly, Manager Noble mentioned that Clerk to the Board, Richard Mann was able to attend the STEM East Alliance Conference in Washington DC along with the Hyde County Schools Superintendent.

Board Clerk Richard Mann - reported that the STEM Conference was a great learning experience and it was interesting to see how education was beginning to focus on local and regional industries to better prepare students.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Gwen Newman submitted a written comment thanking the Hyde County Board of Commissioners for their support of commercial fishermen in the County.

Hearing no further comment from the public, Chairman Mathews continued the meeting.

ADJOURN:

Vice Chairman Swindell motioned to adjourn the March 3rd, 2025 Regular Meeting. Commissioner Moore seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Mathews, Swindell, Moore, Midgette, and Berry; Nays – None; Absent or not voting – None.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Minutes approved on the 7th day of April 2025.

Attest:

Richard Mann
Clerk, Hyde County Board of Commissioners

Randal Mathews
Chairman, Hyde County Board of Commissioners

Attachments

Exhibit A: *“Blue Crab Resolution and Speckled Trout Resolution”*

Exhibit B: *“Resolution Supporting Update to Beach Inlet Management Plan”*

Exhibit C: *“Streamflow Rehabilitation Assistance Program PBO Amendment”*

Hyde County Board of Commissioners
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY SHEET

Meeting Date: April 7, 2025
Presenter: Dr. Melanie Shaver, Hyde County Schools Superintendent
Attachment: Yes

ITEM TITLE: Needs-Based Public School Capital Fund - Distribution Request and Annual Report

SUMMARY: Hyde County School Superintendent Dr. Melanie Shaver will present the distribution request necessary for the Needs-Based Public School Capital Fund (NBPSCF) which is funded with revenue from the NC Education Lottery and is designed to address critical K-12 school facility needs across North Carolina.

RECOMMEND: DISCUSS AND APPROVE

MOTION MADE BY: BERRY
 MATHEWS
 MIDGETTE
 MOORE
 SWINDELL

MOTION SECONDED BY: BERRY
 MATHEWS
 MIDGETTE
 MOORE
 SWINDELL

VOTE: BERRY
 MATHEWS
 MIDGETT
 MOORE
 SWINDELL

ANNUAL REPORT

Report Date: _____

NEEDS-BASED PUBLIC SCHOOL CAPITAL FUND NORTH CAROLINA EDUCATION LOTTERY

Per North Carolina **GS 115C-546.14**, on or before April 1 of each year, a Needs-Based Public School Capital Fund (NBPSCF) grant recipient shall submit to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction an annual report for the preceding year that describes progress of the project for which the grant was received.

County: _____ LEA: _____
Address: _____ Address: _____

Construction Project Title: _____
Project Location: _____
Short Description of Construction Project: _____

Project Delivery Method (check one): Design / Bid / Build Design / Build Design / CM at Risk

Design Contract

Design Firm: _____
Date of Design Contract: _____
Contract Amount: _____

Construction Contract

General Contractor / CM@R: _____
Date of Construction Contract: _____
Contract Amount: _____

Project Schedule

Bid Date (check one: actual estimated): _____
Construction Start Date (check one: actual estimated): _____
Estimated Construction Completion Date: _____

Project Expenditures

Total Grant Amount: \$ _____
Amount of Grant Funds Allocated to Disbursing Account to Date: \$ _____
Date/Amount of First Grant Allocation (Disbursement): _____ / \$ _____
Date/Amount of Most Recent Grant Allocation (Disbursement): _____ / \$ _____
Amount of Grant Funds Expended to Date: \$ _____ Percent of Total Award: _____ %

Total Local Funding: \$ _____ Required Local Match (if any): \$ _____
Amount of Local Funding Exp. to Date: \$ _____ Percent of Total Match Exp. To Date: _____ %

Project Status (check one item in the applicable project phase that best describes the current project status):

Design Phase: Schematic Design (SD) Design Development (DD) Construction Document (CD)
Bid Phase: Bidding Construction Contract Negotiations
Construction Phase: up to 25% complete over 25% to 50% complete over 50% to 75% complete
 over 75% to 95% complete Final Punch List Substantial Completion

Additional Remarks : _____

(Signature – Chair, County Commissioners)
Date: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

(Signature – Chair, Local Board of Education)
Date: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

**DISTRIBUTION REQUEST
NEEDS-BASED PUBLIC SCHOOL CAPITAL FUND
NORTH CAROLINA EDUCATION LOTTERY**

Date of Request: _____

DPI USE ONLY
Approved: _____
Date: _____

County: _____
 Address: _____
 LEA: _____
 Address: _____

Contact Person: _____
 Title: _____
 Phone: _____
 Email: _____

Project Title: _____
 Project Address: _____

The Needs-Based Public School Capital Fund is governed by Article 38B of GS 115C-546. The purpose of the NBPSCF is to assist counties with their critical public school building capital needs. Grant funds may be used for construction of new public school buildings, as well as additions, repairs, and renovations to existing public school buildings. Grant funds cannot be used for real property acquisition, or for capital improvements to administrative buildings. Grant funds may be utilized for a lease agreement per GS 115C-546.13. **Do Not use this Distribution Request Form for lease payments.**

Total Project Costs (per signed agreement)	State Grant		Local Match		Total
Planning / Design	\$ _____	+	\$ _____	=	\$ _____
Construction	\$ _____	+	\$ _____	=	\$ _____
Other	\$ _____	+	\$ _____	=	\$ _____
Total	\$ _____	+	\$ _____	=	\$ _____

Design Firm: _____
 Date of Design Contract: _____ Bid Date (__ actual __ estimated): _____
 General Contractor: _____ Date of Construction Contract: _____
 Construction Start Date (__ actual __ estimated): _____ Completion Date (__ actual __ estimated): _____

Local Matching Fund Requirement: __ 1:1 | __ 1:3 ---- or ---- __ 0% | __ 5% | __ 15% | __ 25% | __ 35%

Source(s) of matching funds: _____

Project Costs (as of date): _____	State Grant		Local Match		Total
Planning / Design	\$ _____	+	\$ _____	=	\$ _____
Construction	\$ _____	+	\$ _____	=	\$ _____
Other	\$ _____	+	\$ _____	=	\$ _____
Total	\$ _____	+	\$ _____	=	\$ _____

Grant Funds Requested	All Prior Requests		This Request		Total
Planning / Design	\$ _____	+	\$ _____	=	\$ _____
Construction	\$ _____	+	\$ _____	=	\$ _____
Other	\$ _____	+	\$ _____	=	\$ _____
Total	\$ _____	+	\$ _____	=	\$ _____

Supporting Documentation: At DPI's request, submit documentation to DPI substantiating project expenditures identified here.

Reporting Requirements

We, the undersigned, agree to submit a report describing the progress of this project, including State and Local amounts expended, as follows: 1) with each distribution request; 2) annually on or before April 1 of each year; and 3) within 90 days following completion of the project (final payment). We certify that the project herein described is within the parameters set forth in Article 38B of GS 115C-546, and that all the required local funding is available and designated as a Local Match for this project. We certify that Local Matching Funds are derived from non-State and non-Federal funds and will be expended along with Needs-Based Grand funds as the project progresses.

 (Signature - Chair, County Commissioners) (Date)

 (Signature - Chair, Board of Education) (Date)

Lottery Project Summary				Mattamuskeet IAC			
		Payee	Amount	Design	Repairs/Exp	Construction	Subtotal
Date	Invoice	Project to date at 6.18.24*	1,577,183.95	440,299.35	20,070.26	1,116,814.34	1,577,183.95
6.19.24	IAC 15	Cahoon and Kasten Architects PC	12,803.15	12,803.15	-	-	
6.21.24	S&T 02	Stocks & Taylor Construction Inc #2	439,733.37	-	-	439,733.37	
6.28.24	S&T 03	Stocks & Taylor Construction Inc #3	417,872.45	-	-	417,872.45	
		Payment request #3 (thru 6.30.24)	870,408.97	12,803.15	-	857,605.82	
		Project to date 6.30.24	2,447,592.92	453,102.50	20,070.26	1,974,420.16	2,447,592.92
8.01.24	IAC 16	Cahoon and Kasten Architects PC	17,836.77	17,836.77	-	-	
8.01.24	Reno 5	Cahoon and Kasten Architects PC	161,132.79	161,132.79	-	-	
8.01.24	S&T 04	Stocks & Taylor Construction Inc #4	515,068.38	-	-	515,068.38	
		Payment request #4 (thru 8.01.24)	694,037.94	178,969.56	-	515,068.38	
8.28.24	S&T 05	Stocks & Taylor Construction Inc #5	601,390.88	-	-	601,390.88	
9.26.24	S&T 06	Stocks & Taylor Construction Inc #6	608,513.92	-	-	608,513.92	
9.30.24	IAC 17	Cahoon and Kasten Architects PC	16,955.62	16,955.62	-	-	
9.26.24	Reno 6	Cahoon and Kasten Architects PC	101,857.16	101,857.16	-	-	
		Payment request #6 (thru 9.25.24)	727,326.70	118,812.78	-	608,513.92	
10.30.24	IAC 18	Cahoon and Kasten Architects PC	8,442.97	8,442.97	-	-	
10.30.24	Reno 7	Cahoon and Kasten Architects PC	101,961.68	101,961.68	-	-	
10.30.24	TEMC-2	Hyde BOE (Reim for electric hookup)	5,888.05	-	-	5,888.05	
10.30.24	NFC-1	National Fitness Campaign	176,137.50	-	-	176,137.50	
10.30.24	S&T 07	Stocks & Taylor Construction Inc #7	887,763.07	-	-	887,763.07	
		Payment request #7 (thru 10.31.24)	1,180,193.27	110,404.65	-	1,069,788.62	
11.21.24	IAC 19	Cahoon and Kasten Architects PC	10,904.19	10,904.19	-	-	
11.21.24	Reno 8	Cahoon and Kasten Architects PC	153,098.12	153,098.12	-	-	
11.21.24	S&T 08	Stocks & Taylor Construction Inc #8	826,600.92	-	-	826,600.92	
		Payment request #8 (thru 11.21.24)	990,603.23	164,002.31	-	826,600.92	
12.11.24	Reno 9	Cahoon and Kasten Architects PC	127,425.97	127,425.97	-	-	
12.19.24	S&T 09	Stocks & Taylor Construction Inc #9	295,689.67	-	-	295,689.67	
		Payment request #9 (thru 12.19.24)	423,115.64	127,425.97	-	295,689.67	
1.24.25	iAC 20	Cahoon and Kasten Architects PC	4,175.25	4,175.25	-	-	
1.24.25	IAC 21	Cahoon and Kasten Architects PC	5,415.10	5,415.10	-	-	
1.24.25	Reno 10	Cahoon and Kasten Architects PC	286,391.13	286,391.13	-	-	
		Payment request #10 (thru 1.24.25)	295,981.48	295,981.48	-	-	
2.21.25	Reno 11	Cahoon and Kasten Architects PC	188,175.15	188,175.15	-	-	
2.21.25	S&T 10	Stocks & Taylor Construction Inc #10	73,942.22	-	-	73,942.22	
		Payment request #11 (thru 2.21.25)	262,117.37	188,175.15	-	73,942.22	
2.26.25	Pitt 1	Pitt Electric	44,918.20	-	44,918.20	-	
2.28.25	Demo 1	4 Seasons Demolition	70,200.00	-	70,200.00	-	
3.07.25	S&T 11	Stocks & Taylor Construction Inc #11	46,425.57	-	-	46,425.57	
		Payment request #12 (thru 3.24.25)	161,543.77	-	115,118.20	46,425.57	
		Project to date 3.24.25	7,783,903.20	1,636,874.40	135,188.46	6,011,840.34	7,783,903.20
		Vendor Summary:					
		Cahoon and Kasten Architects PC	1,636,874.40	1,636,874.40			
		Lafaves Construction Company Inc	550,350.00			550,350.00	
		Sawyer and Sons Topsoil project	197,875.00			197,875.00	
		APG Media	269.20		269.20		
		THE SOUNDSIDE GROUP INC	112.09		112.09		
		TIDELAND EMC PAYMENT PROCESSII	7,617.02		1,728.97	5,888.05	
		David Hooks	10,000.00		10,000.00		
		Smiths Demolition and Clean Up LLC	7,960.00		7,960.00		
		Pitt Electric	44,918.20		44,918.20		
		4 Seasons Demolition	70,200.00		70,200.00		
		Stocks & Taylor Construction Inc	5,257,727.29			5,257,727.29	
		Project to date 3.24.25	7,783,903.20	1,636,874.40	135,188.46	6,011,840.34	7,783,903.20

* Effective June 18th, 2024 all payments to vendors are direct from the County to the Vendors

Hyde County Board of Commissioners
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY SHEET

Meeting Date: April 7, 2025
Presenter: Donnie Shumate, Tax Administrator
Attachment: Yes (handed out at meeting)

ITEM TITLE: March 2025 Tax Collections Report

SUMMARY: The tax administrator will present the January tax collections report.

RECOMMEND: ACCEPT REPORT

MOTION MADE BY: MATHEWS
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MOTION SECONDED BY: MATHEWS
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VOTE: MATHEWS
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Hyde County Board of Commissioners
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY SHEET

Meeting Date: April 7, 2025
Presenter: Citizens
Attachment: Yes

ITEM TITLE: PUBLIC COMMENTS

SUMMARY: Citizens are afforded an opportunity at this time to comment on issues they feel may be of importance to the Commissioners and to their fellow citizens.

Comments should be kept to (3) minutes and directed to the entire Board, not just one individual Commissioner, staff member or to a member of the audience.

Time for one person cannot be used by another person.

Comments that reflect the need for additional assistance will be directed to the County Manager or referred to a future meeting agenda.

RECOMMEND: Receive comments.

Hyde County Board of Commissioners
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY SHEET

Meeting Date: April 7, 2025
Presenter: Manager Noble
Attachment: No

ITEM TITLE: BHM Library Appointment

SUMMARY: The Beaufort Hyde Martin Regional Library Board has requested that Ms. Chanta Gibbs Rickard be appointed to serve as Hyde County’s representative on the BHM Library Board, a position most recently held by Ms. Betty Burleson.

RECOMMEND: APPOINT CHANTA RICKARD TO SERVE AS HYDE COUNTY’S REPRESENTATIVE TO THE BHM LIBRARY BOARD

MOTION MADE BY: MATHEWS
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MOTION SECONDED BY: MATHEWS
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VOTE: MATHEWS
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Hyde County Board of Commissioners
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY SHEET

Meeting Date: April 7, 2025
Presenter: Manager Noble
Attachment: No

ITEM TITLE: Albemarle RC&D Council Appointment

SUMMARY: It is recommended that the Hyde County Board of Commissioners appoint Mr. Daniel Brinn to serve as Hyde County’s representative on the Albemarle RC&D Council.

RECOMMEND: APPOINT DANIEL BRINN TO SERVE AS HYDE COUNTY’S REPRESENTATIVE TO THE ALBEMARLE RC&D COUNCIL

MOTION MADE BY: MATHEWS
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MOTION SECONDED BY: MATHEWS
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VOTE: MATHEWS
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Hyde County Board of Commissioners
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY SHEET

Meeting Date: April 7, 2025
Presenter: Manager Noble
Attachment: No

ITEM TITLE: Albemarle Commission At-Large Member

SUMMARY: It is recommended that the Hyde County Board of Commissioners appoint Mr. Earl Pugh Jr. to serve a two-year term as Hyde County’s at-large member for the Albemarle Commission. This position must be held by a non-elected official on a two-year rotational basis with other regional counties. Commissioner Moore currently serves as Hyde County’s Albemarle Commission Delegate, a position that must be held by an elected official.

RECOMMEND: APPOINT EARL PUGH JR. TO SERVE AS HYDE COUNTY’S AT-LARGE REPRESENTATIVE TO THE ALBEMARLE COMMISSION

MOTION MADE BY: MATHEWS
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MOTION SECONDED BY: MATHEWS
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VOTE: MATHEWS
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Hyde County Board of Commissioners
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY SHEET

Meeting Date: April 7, 2025
Presenter: Manager Noble
Attachment: Yes

ITEM TITLE: Resolution In Support of NC Senate Bill 540 & House Bill 457: Small Rural County School System Allotment

SUMMARY: Senate Bill 540 and House Bill 457 propose to increase the supplemental allotment amounts and appropriate an additional \$20,961,180 in recurring funds for the 2025–2026 fiscal year, reflecting the growing financial needs of small and rural school districts; and the revised funding schedule outlined in these bills would allow Hyde County Schools to receive additional and sustainable state support based on its Average Daily Membership (ADM), helping to ensure financial stability and educational equity.

RECOMMEND: APPROVE RESOLUTION

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MOTION SECONDED BY: MATHEWS
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VOTE: MATHEWS
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COUNTY OF HYDE

Board of Commissioners

Randal Mathews, Chair
Shannon Swindell, Vice-Chair
Thomas Midgette
Jeffrey Berry
Jan Moore

30 Oyster Creek Road

PO Box 188

SWAN QUARTER, NORTH CAROLINA 27885

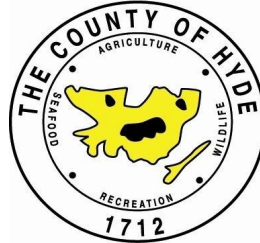
252-926-4400

252-926-3701 Fax

Kris Cahoon Noble
County Manager

Franz Holscher
County Attorney

Richard Mann
Clerk to the Board



RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF NORTH CAROLINA SENATE BILL 540 AND HOUSE BILL 457: SMALL RURAL COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM ALLOTMENT

WHEREAS, Hyde County is one of North Carolina's most rural and geographically unique counties, with a small and dispersed population that presents significant challenges in providing public education across the mainland and Ocracoke Island; and

WHEREAS, Hyde County Schools plays a vital role in serving our community and preparing students for the future, despite limited local resources and a small tax base; and

WHEREAS, the current Small County School System Supplemental Allotment is a critical source of funding for Hyde County Schools, helping to offset the additional costs of operating a small school district, including staffing, transportation, and infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 540 and House Bill 457 propose to increase the supplemental allotment amounts and appropriate an additional \$20,961,180 in recurring funds for the 2025–2026 fiscal year, reflecting the growing financial needs of small and rural school districts; and

WHEREAS, the revised funding schedule outlined in these bills would allow Hyde County Schools to receive additional and sustainable state support based on its Average Daily Membership (ADM), helping to ensure financial stability and educational equity; and

WHEREAS, the Hyde County Board of Commissioners recognizes that strong public schools are essential to the well-being of our county, our economy, and the future of our children, and that investing in small county school systems is an investment in the future of rural North Carolina;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Hyde County Board of Commissioners strongly supports Senate Bill 540 and House Bill 457, and urges the North Carolina General Assembly to enact this legislation promptly and fully.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to members of the Hyde County legislative delegation, the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, the Speaker of the North Carolina House of Representatives, and the President Pro Tempore of the North Carolina Senate.

Adopted by the Hyde County Board of Commissioners this the ____ day of _____, 2025.

Randal Mathews, Chair
Hyde County Board of Commissioners

Shannon Swindell, Vice Chair
Hyde County Board of Commissioners

Kris Cahoon Noble, Hyde County Manager

**Hyde County Board of Commissioners
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY SHEET**

Meeting Date: April 7, 2025
Presenter: Luana Gibbs, Health Director
Attachment: Yes

ITEM TITLE: Hyde County Health Department Master Fee Schedule FY 2025 Updates
(Clinical)

SUMMARY: Attached are updated fees to the Master Fee Schedule for Quarter Three FY 25. The Board of Health approved the updated fees on March 18, 2025. This request is for Board of Commissioner approval.

RECOMMEND: APPROVAL

MOTION MADE BY: MATTHEWS
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MOTION SECONDED BY: MATTHEWS
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VOTE: MATTHEWS
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Hyde County Board of Commissioners
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY SHEET

Meeting Date: April 7, 2025
Presenter: Manager Noble
Attachment: Yes

ITEM TITLE: Mainland Occupancy Tax Funding Requests

SUMMARY: The Mainland Occupancy Tax Board met to discuss requests for funding from the Mainland Occupancy Tax Funds. These are their recommendations.

Engelhard Development - \$3,000

Hyco Pyrotechnics - \$9,000

Hyde County Chamber of Commerce - \$9,000

Total :\$21,000

RECOMMEND: DISCUSS & APPROVE FUNDING REQUESTS

MOTION MADE BY: MATHEWS
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MOTION SECONDED BY: MATHEWS
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VOTE: MATHEWS
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Hyde County Mainland Occupancy Tax 2025-2026 Funding Chart

Organization	Project or Event	Requested Amount	Amount Recommended
Friends of the Historic Hyde County 1854 Courthouse	Grant Match for the Old Hyde County Courthouse	\$2,000	
Engelhard Medical Center	Handicap Ramp Replacement	Any amount up to \$14,800	
Engelhard Volunteer Fire Department	Annual Expenses	\$3,000	
Engelhard Development	Davis Park Update Picnic / Restroom Maintenance	\$3,000	\$3,000
Hyco Pyrotechnics	Hyde County Fireworks	\$10,000	\$9,000
Davis High Ventures Corporation (DHVC)	Davis School Website/ Brochure/ Signage	\$2,800	
Hyde County Chamber of Commerce	Hyde County Farm Days	\$10,000	\$9,000
Mainland Occupancy Tax Available Funding Total: \$21,000		Total Funding Requested : \$45,600	Total Funding Recommended: \$21,000

Hyde County Board of Commissioners
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY SHEET

Meeting Date: April 7, 2025
Presenter: Kris Cahoon Noble, County Manager
Attachment: Yes - One Page Request Summary and Letter of Recommendation

ITEM TITLE: Ocracoke Occupancy Tax Recommendation

SUMMARY: The Ocracoke Occupancy Tax 3% Board met on Wednesday, April 2, 2025 to consider FY 2025-2026 funding requests. At that meeting, the Hyde County Manager presented the attached request for both the FY 2025-2026 budget year as well as a request for the current fiscal year. The Ocracoke OT Board will meet again on April 17, 2025 to consider requests for next fiscal year but did vote to approve an appropriation to Hyde County within this fiscal year with details in the subsequent paragraphs.

Hyde County has secured the services of Coastal Protection Engineering to complete engineering and project management tasks that will support an application for North Carolina Shallow Draft Funding and associated permits to dredge Big Foot Slough coming into Silver Lake Harbor. The funding provided through the Shallow Draft Fund will enable Hyde County to contract with a private dredge, the Ms. Katie, to augment the USACE's dredging activities to maintain a reliable ferry route as well as a clear channel for recreational and commercial boaters.

The cost of these services is \$12,500 and Hyde County has respectfully requested a \$6,250 appropriation from the 3% Occupancy Tax Board and an equal amount from the Tourism Development Authority for FY 2024-2025 (this current fiscal year). These funds can be appropriate from surplus requiring a favorable vote of the 3% Board and a Budget Revision at the April Hyde County Board of Commissioners meeting. Hyde County does provide all Grant Administration and Project Management services associated with all dredging projects and reports monthly to the Ocracoke Waterways Commission.

Additionally, the County Manager had planned to request an additional \$10,000 from the General Fund at the April Board of Commissioners meeting to support similar services needed to support the Sloop Channel permitting within the Hatteras Ferry route, however after working with the consultant and the Accounting Specialist, has decided to wait until the May BOC meeting for that request if needed.

RECOMMEND: APPROVE THE OCRACOKE OCCUPANCY TAX BOARD RECOMMENDATION FOR \$6,250 BE APPROPRIATED FROM OCRACOKE OCCUPANCY TAX FUNDS TO BE USED FOR COSTS RELATED TO PERMITS THAT WILL ALLOW HYDE COUNTY TO DREDGE BIG FOOT SLOUGH.

MOTION MADE BY: MATHEWS
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MOTION SECONDED BY: MATHEWS
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VOTE: MATHEWS
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**Ocracoke Occupancy FY 2024 and 2025 Tax Board Requests
Engineering Support for Dredging and/or Beach Nourishment Projects**

FY 2024-2025

Hyde County has secured the services of Coastal Protection Engineering to complete engineering and project management tasks that will support an application for North Carolina Shallow Draft Funding and associated permits to dredge Big Foot Slough coming into Silver Lake Harbor. The funding provided through the Shallow Draft Fund will enable Hyde County to contract with a private dredge, the Ms. Katie, to augment the USACE's dredging activities to maintain a reliable ferry route as well as a clear channel for recreational and commercial boaters.

The cost of these services is **\$12,500** and Hyde County has respectfully requested a \$6,250 appropriation from the 3% Occupancy Tax Board and an equal amount from the Tourism Development Authority for FY 2024-2025 (this current fiscal year). These funds can be appropriate from surplus requiring a favorable vote of the 3% Board and a Budget Revision at the April Hyde County Board of Commissioners meeting.

Hyde County does provide all Grant Administration and Project Management services associated with all dredging projects and reports monthly to the Ocracoke Waterways Commission.

Additionally, the County Manager is requesting \$10,000 from the General Fund at the April Board of Commissioners meeting to support similar services needed to support the Sloop Channel permitting within the Hatteras Ferry route.

FY 2025-2026

While Hyde County and the Ocracoke Waterways Commission has made notable progress in utilizing the Shallow Draft Fund, some preliminary engineering and design costs are most often required to apply for and secure those funds. Additionally, there are times that those services, while in the best interest of the county and the island are not eligible under the grant guidelines. For this reason, Hyde County requests the Ocracoke Occupancy Tax Board to set aside an additional **\$15,000** to be utilized upon request and approval for costs associated with dredging and/or beach nourishment.

Respectfully submitted,



Kris Cahoon Noble
Hyde County Manager
252.542.0802

knoble@hydecountync.gov

Please note all financial information for the County of Hyde can be found at
<https://www.hydecountync.gov/departments/finance.php>

April 3, 2025

Hyde County Board of Commissioners
PO Box 188
Swan Quarter, NC 27885

Dear Hyde County Commissioners,

The Ocracoke Occupancy Tax Board recommends that \$6,250 be appropriated from Ocracoke Occupancy Tax Funds to be used for costs related to permits that will allow Hyde county to dredge Big Foot Slough.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Chestnut". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line under the name.

Bob Chestnut, Chairman
Ocracoke Occupancy Tax Board

Hyde County Board of Commissioners
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY SHEET

Meeting Date: April 7, 2025
Presenter: Donnie Shumate, Tax Administrator
Attachment: Yes

ITEM TITLE: Tax Bill Releases

SUMMARY: Hyde County is currently working on an initiative devoted to improving processes in tax collections to increase efficiency and improve the collection rate. The Tax Office would like to clean up our current tax data to exclude any existing tax bills that are non-recoverable.

Release of RMV Bills

Prior to 2013, Hyde County was responsible for the collection of Motor Vehicle taxes. Since that time, the state has taken over those collections as part of the tax and tags program, however, there are old and uncollectable bills left within the tax collections system. The Tax Administrator recommends the board authorize the release of uncollectable RMV bills to clean up the data and give the Tax Office a more efficient data set.

Release of Bills less than \$10

The current tax data set within our NCPTS system has many bills less than \$10 that typically include interest accrued between the customer sending payment and the Tax Office receiving the payment. Hyde County, in March 2025, has sent Second Delinquent Tax Collection notices to taxpayers and plans to issue Demand Letters for those taxpayers in the coming weeks. The Tax Administrator respectfully requests the release of these bills of less than \$10 to streamline the collection process, clean up the data set and avoid customer dissatisfaction.

Release of Bills Older than 10 Years

Under NC General Statute 105-378. County Tax Offices have a limitation on use of remedies for tax collections as follows: (a) Use of Remedies Barred. – No county or municipality shall maintain an action or procedure to enforce any remedy provided by law for the collection of taxes or the enforcement of any tax liens, whether the taxes or tax liens are evidenced by tax receipts or otherwise, unless the action or procedure is instituted within 10 years from the date the taxes became due. The Tax Administrator requests that all delinquent taxes 10 years old or greater and not currently involved in an enforced collections remedy, be released as they are uncollectable. This action will further the Tax Office's efforts towards cleaning up our data to increase our collections percentage.

RECOMMEND: AUTHORIZE THE TAX ADMINISTRATOR TO RELEASE ALL BILLS CONSIDERED UNCOLLECTABLE INCLUDING RMV BILLS, BILLS LESS THAN \$10.00, AND BILLS 10 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER.

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MOTION SECONDED BY: ___ MATHEWS
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VOTE: ___ MATHEWS
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Tax Bill Release - Request Summary

Bill Type	Bill Count	Total Levy
RMV	2754	\$59,159.99
Under \$10	660	\$3,752.63
10+ years	2161	\$186,394.00
Total	5575	\$249,306.62

Hyde County Board of Commissioners
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY SHEET

Meeting Date: April 7, 2025
Presenter: County Manager Kris Cahoon Noble
Attachment: No

ITEM TITLE: BUDGET MATTERS

SUMMARY: Departmental budget revisions and amendments will be presented by department managers for Board discussion and approval.

RECOMMEND: Discussion and approve budget revisions and amendments.

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MOTION SECONDED BY: MATHEWS
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VOTE: MATHEWS
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Hyde Co Board of Commissioner FY 2024-25

MEETING DATE
4/7/2025

"+" EXP BUDGET	"-" EXP BUDGET
"-" REV BUDGET	"+" REV BUDGET

(FO USE) BR # OR IDT#	DEPARTMENT	ACCOUNT #	LINE ITEM ACCOUNT NAME / EXPLANATION	DEBIT	CREDIT
21-25	Healthy Communities	100-50200-600-583-00000-00	Salaries	\$ 2,000.00	
		100-50500-600-583-00000-00	FICA	\$ 200.00	
		100-50700-600-583-00000-00	Retirement	\$ 300.00	
		100-54500-600-583-00000-00	Contract Services		\$ 2,500.00
			TOTAL	<u>\$ 2,500.00</u>	<u>\$ 2,500.00</u>

Transferring funds from Contract Services to cover Salary and Fringes for the remainder of FY25. **Budget is not increased.**

REQUESTED *Diana C Gibbs* DATE 4/7/25

APPROVED... _____ CO MANAGER _____ CO COMMISSIONER-CHAIR _____ CLERK TO BOARD _____

Hyde Co Board of Commissioner FY 2024-25

MEETING DATE
4/7/2025

"+" EXP BUDGET	"-" EXP BUDGET
"-" REV BUDGET	"+" REV BUDGET

(FO USE) BR # OR IDT#	DEPARTMENT	ACCOUNT #	LINE ITEM ACCOUNT NAME / EXPLANATION	DEBIT	CREDIT
22-25	General Health	100-54504-600-590-00000-00	Contract Services	\$ 4,000.00	
		100-55300-600-590-00000-00	Dues and Subscriptions	\$ 5,450.00	
		100-55400-600-590-00000-00	Insurance & Bonds	\$ 4,852.00	
		100-57420-600-590-00000-00	Equipment Lease		\$ 1,900.00
		100-55902-600-590-00000-00	Essential Services		\$ 8,000.00
		100-59800-600-590-00000-00	Education & Training		\$ 4,402.00
			TOTAL	\$ 14,302.00	\$ 14,302.00

Transferring funds from Eqpt Lease, Essential Services, Education to cover Contract Services, Dues, and Insurance for the remainder of FY25. **Budget is not increased.**

REQUESTED *Shana C. Gibbs* DATE 4-7-25

APPROVED... CO MANAGER CO COMMISSIONER-CHAIR CLERK TO BOARD

Hyde Co Board of Commissioner FY 2024-25

MEETING DATE
4/7/2025

"+" EXP BUDGET	"-" EXP BUDGET
"-" REV BUDGET	"+" REV BUDGET

(FO USE) BR # OR IDT#	DEPARTMENT	ACCOUNT #	LINE ITEM ACCOUNT NAME / EXPLANATION	DEBIT	CREDIT
23-25	Environmental Health	100-51400-600-617-00000-00	Travel	\$ 700.00	
		100-57400-600-617-00000-00	Equipment Vehicle		\$ 700.00
			TOTAL	\$ 700.00	\$ 700.00

Transferring funds from Eqpt to cover Travel for the remainder of FY25. **Budget is not increased.**

REQUESTED Quana C. Gibbs DATE 4-7-25

APPROVED... _____ CO MANAGER CO COMMISSIONER-CHAIR CLERK TO BOARD

HYDE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS 2024/2025 BUDGET REVISIONS

MEETING DATE

4/7/2025

"+" EXP BUDGET	"- " EXP BUDGET
"- " REV BUDGET	"+" REV BUDGET

(FO USE)
BR # OR
IDT#

DEPARTMENT	ACCOUNT #	LINE ITEM ACCOUNT NAME / EXPLANATION	DEBIT	CREDIT
OCRACOKE OCCUPANCY TAX	760-51300-500-000-000000-00	UTILITIES		\$ 10,000.00
OCRACOKE OCCUPANCY TAX	760-51500-500-000000-00	MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR	\$ 10,000.00	
TOTAL			<u>\$ 10,000.00</u>	<u>\$ 10,000.00</u>

BUDGET REVISION DOES NOT INCREASE THE OCRACOKE OCC TAX FUND BUDGET

REQUESTED _____

DATE _____

APPROVED... CO MANAGER CO COMMISSIONER-CHAIR CLERK TO BOARD

HYDE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS 2024/2025 BUDGET REVISIONS

MEETING DATE

4/7/2025

"+" EXP BUDGET	"- " EXP BUDGET
"- " REV BUDGET	"+" REV BUDGET

(FO USE)
BR # OR
IDT#

DEPARTMENT

ACCOUNT #

LINE ITEM ACCOUNT NAME /
EXPLANATION

DEBIT

CREDIT

SHERIFF	100-50202-200-510-000000-00	AUXILIARY DEPUTIES		\$ 20,000.00
SHERIFF	100-57425-200-510-000000-00	CAPITAL OUTLAY	\$ 10,000.00	
SHERIFF	100-57400-200-510-000000-00	EQUIPMENT	\$ 6,000.00	
SHERIFF	100-50021-200-510-000000-00	SPECIAL SERVICE FUNDS	\$ 4,000.00	

TOTAL

\$ 20,000.00 \$ 20,000.00

BUDGET REVISION DOES NOT INCREASE THE GENERAL FUND BUDGET

REQUESTED _____

DATE _____

APPROVED...

CO MANAGER

CO COMMISSIONER-CHAIR

CLERK TO BOARD

HYDE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS 2024/2025 BUDGET REVISIONS

MEETING DATE

4/7/2025

"+" EXP BUDGET	"- " EXP BUDGET
"- " REV BUDGET	"+" REV BUDGET

(FO USE) BR # OR	DEPARTMENT	ACCOUNT #	LINE ITEM ACCOUNT NAME / EXPLANATION	DEBIT	CREDIT
	SOLID WASTE	100-50200-400-575-000000-00	SALARIES		\$ 25,000.00
		100-51400-400-575-000000-00	TRAVEL	\$ 12,000.00	
		100-51710-400-575-000000-00	CONTAINER SERVICE		\$ 274,500.00
		100-52020-400-575-000000-00	SALARIES PART-TIME	\$ 25,000.00	
		100-52201-400-575-000000-00	CONTANER RENT-MAINLAND		\$ 10,000.00
		100-52202-400-575-000000-00	CONTAINER RENT-OCRACOKE	\$ 20,000.00	
		100-52500-400-575-000000-00	DISPOSAL FEES-MAINLAND	\$ 75,000.00	
		100-52502-400-575-000000-00	DISPOSAL FEES-OCRACOKE	\$ 175,000.00	
		100-53300-400-575-000000-00	DEPARTMENTAL EXPENSE	\$ 5,000.00	
		100-54500-400-575-000000-00	CONTRACT SERVICES		\$ 5,000.00
		100-57030-400-575-000000-00	SCRAP TIRE DISPOSAL	\$ 2,000.00	
		100-57031-400-575-000000-00	MOTOR OIL DISPOSAL	\$ 500.00	
TOTAL				\$ 314,500.00	\$ 314,500.00

BUDGET REVISION DOES NOT INCREASE THE GENERAL FUND BUDGET

DATE _____

REQUESTED _____

APPROVED... CO MANAGER CO COMMISSIONER-CHAIR CLERK TO BOARD

HYDE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS 2024/2025 BUDGET REVISIONS

MEETING DATE

4/7/2025

"+" EXP BUDGET	"- " EXP BUDGET
"- " REV BUDGET	"+ " REV BUDGET

(FO USE)
BR # OR
IDT#

DEPARTMENT

ACCOUNT #

LINE ITEM ACCOUNT NAME /
EXPLANATION

DEBIT

CREDIT

UTILITIES	600-51100-000-000-000000-00	TELEPHONE	\$ 7,500.00	
UTILITIES	600-51270-000-000-000000-00	LONGEVITY	\$ 400.00	
UTILITIES	600-51501-000-000-000000-00	MAINT AND REPAIRS DIST	\$ 80,000.00	
UTILITIES	600-57425-000-000-000000-00	CAPITAL OUTLAY	\$ 7,547.00	
UTILITIES	600-42000-000-000-000000-11	FUND BALANCE UNAPPROPRIATED		\$ 95,447.00

TOTAL

\$ 95,447.00 \$ 95,447.00

BUDGET REVISION DOES INCREASE UTILITIES BUDGET

REQUESTED _____

DATE _____

APPROVED...

CO MANAGER

CO COMMISSIONER-CHAIR

CLERK TO BOARD

Hyde County Board of Commissioners
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY SHEET

Meeting Date: April 7, 2025
Presenter: Chair, Vice-Chair, Commissioners, Manager
Attachment: No

ITEM TITLE: MANAGEMENT REPORTS

SUMMARY: This is a time for each Commissioner to give reports on their work representing the County.

Additionally, Commissioners may wish to bring up issues they wish to have followed up by the Board or by the County Manager.

The County Manager will give an oral update on various projects and other administrative matters.

RECOMMEND: Receive reports. Discussion and possible action as necessary.

MOTION MADE BY: MATHEWS
 SWINDELL
 MOORE
 MIDGETTE
 BERRY

MOTION SECONDED BY: MATHEWS
 SWINDELL
 MOORE
 MIDGETTE
 BERRY

VOTE: MATHEWS
 SWINDELL
 MOORE
 MIDGETTE
 BERRY

Hyde County Board of Commissioners
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY SHEET

Meeting Date: April 7, 2025
Presenter: Citizens
Attachment: Yes

ITEM TITLE: PUBLIC COMMENTS

SUMMARY: The public is invited to use this time to make comments to the County Commissioners on items discussed during this meeting and/or matters not discussed earlier in the meeting.

RECOMMEND: Receive comments.

Supplemental Information

Soil & Water Conservation Commission (SWCC) Updates – <https://www.ncagr.gov/divisions/soil-water-conservation/commission>

- **Supplemental Allocations** – FY2025 supplemental allocations for ACSP (CS, SFR), Impaired & Impacted Stream Initiative (II) and Hurricane Helene Disaster Response (HH) were approved by the Soil & Water Conservation Commission on March 12, 2025. As a reminder, sixty percent of available cost share funds were directed to counties affected by Hurricane Helene according to the [FEMA Disaster Declaration map](#) specifically for Non-field Farm Road Repairs and Emergency Access Restoration and forty percent of available funds were allocated for regular Ag Cost Share following the standard policy to qualifying counties. Supplemental allocation of all Impaired and Impacted Stream Initiative funds followed the standard practice.
- **Next SWCC Meeting** – to be held May 20 & 21 in Mars Hill, NC. Details to be distributed via listserv in coming weeks.

Division of Soil & Water Conservation Updates – <https://www.ncagr.gov/divisions/soil-water-conservation>

- **Master Agreements** – are being circulated to local district offices... keep an eye on your Inbox for the next multi-year agreement. Key resources are available on the Division of Soil & Water Conservation Website – Master Agreement Page - Access these materials [here](#) and feel free to reach out to your Regional Coordinator with any questions.
- **Cost Share End of Year Deadlines approaching** –

Technical Assistance Billing	June 1, 2025
Strategic Plans	June 1, 2025
Impaired & Impacts Streams/Watershed Surveys	April 11, 2025
TA Requests and RFPs for Expiring Contracts (Priority deadline to process payment by June 30)	June 1, 2025
Spot Check Forms	June 30, 2025
Extension Requests	June 30, 2025
All Contracts Submitted in CS2 – END OF FISCAL YEAR	June 30, 2025

Formsite links for FY2026 Strategic Plans and FY2025 Spot Check Forms are now open. A fillable spot check form template is available, but submitting through Formsite is required. A Spot Check Update Webinar was held on Wednesday March 26, 2025 and the recording is available on the ACSP website. Information and form links are available on the ACSP [website](#). Links for Extension Requests will be posted after the May Soil & Water Conservation Commission meeting. Please contact your cost share specialist with any questions or issues accessing the forms.

- **Consider Support for Helene Response** – volunteers are needed for Hurricane Helene EWP assessments in western NC. These assessments are critical in securing much needed recovery resources for affected counties. Volunteers are asked to offer a week of time to spend in the field; travel costs will be reimbursed and accommodations will be paid. Please see the listserv email from 03.25.25 for details.
- **SWCD TA Opportunity for Helene Response** - The Division has been awarded \$2M in technical assistance funding to support Helene response through local soil and water conservation districts. A survey is being conducted for needs in eligible counties. Responses are requested by April 30.
- **Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Technical Assistance Supplement** – Master Agreements include a SWCD opportunity to claim TA payments for work supporting IRA contract activities. Work eligible for this supplement must have been completed between [October 1, 2024](#), and [January 20, 2025](#). SWCDs will be informed if there is a change that makes activities conducted after January 20 eligible for reimbursement. Those that wish to seek reimbursement for these activities between October 1 and January 20 may submit invoices to the Division through FormSite here - <https://fs3.formsite.com/ncdswc/ly1t8kglku/index>. Also note the requirement to upload relevant CPA-6 notes to SharePoint.
- **Stay connected** - for more updates, course openings, and opportunities to strengthen your skills! Visit [NCSWCTraining.org](https://www.ncswctraining.org) to learn about these opportunities and more!

▪ **Upcoming Events:**

• **Fundamentals of Conservation Planning**

Date: May 12-15, 2025 | *Location:* Mount Olive University, Mt. Olive NC

Essential training for new conservation professionals covering core soil and water conservation principles.

• **Certified Conservation & Environmental Technician (CET) Program**

Date: August 11-15, 2025 | *Location:* Harrah's Casino & Resort, Cherokee NC

A comprehensive certification program designed to advance careers in conservation.

NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Updates – www.ncaswcd.org

- **Spring Meeting Attendance** – many thanks to those supervisors that attended the 2025 round of Spring Meetings; there were several SWCDs that sent all board members to the recent meetings – Caldwell, Camden, Guilford, Haywood, Mitchell, Pasquotank, Stokes
- **NC Envirothon** – the NC Envirothon will be held in Alamance County at Cedarrock Park May 2 and 3. Volunteers are still needed! Visit www.ncenvirothon.org to support.
- **Resource Conservation Workshop** –
 - NCSU will share student applications with local districts in late April; 2025 event cost is \$625 per student and includes all meals.
 - Scholarship opportunities are available for students from underserved communities. See email to the listserv from E.McLaughlin on 03.25.25 for all details.
- **Feral Swine Trapping** – the State Vet Division is seeking assistance with getting traps they have purchased out on the landscape. Districts have a unique relationship with the landowners in their Districts and for years have proven to be a good connection point for getting issues addressed on private lands. With these relationships, the Association is asking Districts that would be willing to assist with housing and distributing the traps in their District to contact Bryan Evans and he will assist with the information on how to manage a trapping program. If your District is willing to participate in this program, or would consider participating, please email ncaswcd@gmail.com.

National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Updates – www.nacdnet.org/

Updates and opportunities are below:

- April 27 – May 4, 2025: 2025 Stewardship Week: “Home is Where the Habitat Is”
- July 20 – 26, 2025: 2025 NCF- Envirothon Annual Competition | Calgary, Alberta
- July 25 – 30, 2025: 2025 NACD Summer Conservation Forum and Tour | Milwaukee, WI
- August 2-6, 2025: 2025 SENACD Region Annual Meeting | Louisville, KY
- February 14-19, 2026: 2026 NACD Annual Meeting | San Antonio, TX
- July 17-22, 2026: 2026 NACD Summer Conservation Forum and Tour | Grand Rapids, MI
- July 19-25, 2026: 2026 NCF-Envirothon Annual Competition | Starkville, MS
- February 6- 10, 2027 – 2027 NACD Annual Meeting | Las Vegas, NV

Upcoming Events

April 11 – DEADLINE for IISI Surveys – [Survey Link](#)

April 20 – DEADLINE for RCW applications from students

April 22 – Grow More training event, Greensboro

May 2-3 – NC Envirothon, Cedar Rock Park

May 11-16 – Fundamentals of Conservation Planning, Mt. Olive

June 9-12 – Envirothon School, Blue Jay Point Park, Raleigh NC

June 15-20 – Resource Conservation Workshop, NCSU, Raleigh NC

Aug 11-14 – Conservation Employee Training, Cherokee NC

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Updates

Timothy Beard, State Conservationist Website: www.nc.nrcs.usda.gov



Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP)

Last month the State Conservationist for North Carolina signed a waiver request to extend EWP sponsor requests for assistance to April 11. That waiver has been approved by National Headquarters.

Sponsors include legal subdivisions of the State, such as a city, county, general improvement district, conservation district, or any Native American tribe or tribal organization as defined in section 4 of the Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act. If potential sponsors have any question, please reach out to Jim Kjelgaard at jim.kjelgaard@usda.gov

Local Working Groups

No one knows more about a community's natural resource problems than the people who live and work there. That's why it's so important to give local landowners and partners a voice in how best to prioritize and address these issues through the USDA-NRCS' Local Working Groups (LWG). The following are the upcoming LWGs:

Event Date: April 2, 2025

Time: 10 am to 11 am

Location: 3309 Burlington Rd, Greensboro, NC 27405

Registration Details: Amanda L. Kirby at akirby@farmland.org

Event Date: April 10, 2025

Time: 10 am to 11 am

Location: USDA Service Center, 9495 Hwy 305 N, Jackson, NC 27845

Registration Details: Michael Champion at michael.champion@usda.gov

For more upcoming local working groups contact your local service center.



To find your local service center, use our locator tool at [USDA Service Center Locator](#).

**North Carolina
Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service**

wcti12.com website

Carteret County completes property reappraisal, sees 80-90% increase in tax base

by Chloe EttingerFri, March 28th 2025 at 8:52 PM

Carteret County's Tax Administration office has completed a state-mandated property reappraisal, and has mailed notices of the new assessed value to all Carteret County property owners. Based on state law, the County is required to reappraise real property at least every eight years. This process makes sure tax values align with current market conditions and establishes new property values as of January 1, for all residential, commercial, agricultural, and industrial properties. Carteret County's last reappraisal was completed in 2020, according to a release.

Our tax team has dedicated several years of diligent work to this reappraisal process, ensuring that each property's assessed value aligns with its fair market value," said Sheila Garner, interim Tax Assessor. "This process establishes fairness and transparency across the County's tax base, using current real estate market data.

The County projects there will be a total tax base increase of approximately 80-90%, reflecting sales activity in the real estate market since the last reappraisal. However, this increase varies, with some properties seeing lower or higher adjustments, per a release.

The 80-90% increase in property value does not equate to an 80-90% increase in property taxes. Although the valuations are a factor in tax calculations, the actual tax bills are determined separately in June, when the Board of Commissioners and municipal elected officials establish jurisdictional tax rates, with the tax bills being mailed in August 2025, per a release.

All property owners will receive a notice in the mail with their updated value. You can also access your property values online. Those who agree with the new value do not need to take further action. However, property owners who wish to appeal their assessed value can file an appeal within 30 days. The deadline to appeal is Friday, May 2 by 5:00 p.m.

Carteret County offers several property tax relief options to eligible residents. These include the Elderly or Disabled Exclusion, Disabled Veteran Exclusion, and Circuit Breaker Tax Deferment Program. Applications for these programs are available online or can be requested by calling the Tax Administration office at (252) 728-8485. The deadline to apply is June 1.

Bertie DSS still struggling to hire qualified employees

By John Foley Managing Editor,
From the Bertie Ledger-Advance

Bertie County Social Services Director Daphne Little faces the same challenges as every county department head with vacancies faces, except lack of staff in her department has a direct effect on the county's most needy.

"The mission of the Bertie County Department of Social Services is to enhance the quality of life for children, families, adults, promoting well being and self sufficiency. And the department strives to protect children, the elderly and provide public assistance to the citizens of Bertie County," said Little.

The director was hired in October 2022 and tasked with stabilizing the department which had been under state oversight due to mismanagement by the previous director.

While Little has accomplished her goal, the department is still critically under-staffed raising issues for Little and other employees.

"I am leading a fiscally accountable and multi-programmed human services organization mandated by federal and state law that is locally administered. We have approximately 55 positions at my agency, which I supervise," Little said. "So, as the director, my responsibilities basically include appointing necessary personnel to the county department of social services, administering the programs of public assistance and social services and to act as the agent of the Social Services Commission.

"Along with the North Carolina Department of Human Services, we also investigate cases for adoption and supervise adoptive placements, supervise adult care homes in Bertie County under the rules and regulations of the Medical Care Commissions and we are also adult home specialists, basically monitoring adult care homes. We also perform reviews, and report fatalities," she added.

Currently, Little has 10 vacancies in her department, which is causing a strain on her current staff.

"And as you know, social workers' job is 24/7. So they work seven days a week on a rotating basis. And we work in collaboration with 911 communications in order to get that done," Little insisted. "Sometimes we're calling our sheriff department because more than likely sometimes when those social workers go out the homes, they are not safe.

"There are domestic violence situations, which means that the sheriff has to go with them," she explained. "Bertie County is one of the lowest paid for social workers, so I am training them and

they are moving on to other counties that pay more. I have had a 100 percent staff turnover in the past year and a half and we are still functioning. We are still getting the job done.”

The DSS also is charged with assisting the Department of Adult Corrections in the Division of Juvenile Justice, accepting children for placement in foster homes and supervising those placements.

Little is continually advertising and searching for staff, she also is in need of another guardianship position.

“Currently, the department is getting numerous referrals from adult services to become the guardian of the adults in Bertie County. We cannot become the guardian of them all,” said Little. “However, we are trying our best.”

Little did have positive news, on Feb. 17 Yolanda White joined the department as the new Program Manager for social work and will oversee Adult Services and Children’s Services.

Although Little is concerned about possible funding reductions due to the current Federal budget trimming, she has not received notification of any cuts yet.