



## **NORTH CAROLINA MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMISSION**

**Minutes of the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter January 19, 2021 Base Sustainability and Community Affairs  
Committee Meeting, Microsoft Teams/Conference Call #: 984-204-1487  
Conference ID 836 013 05#**

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Frank Bottorff, Chair  
Mayor David Myers  
Dr. Scott LaFevers  
Bernard Cofield

**NOT IN ATTENDANCE:**

Wesley Meredith  
Major Chuck Allen

**OTHER COMMISSION MEMBERS:**

Representative George Cleveland

**ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES:**

Ron Massey, City of Jacksonville  
Dewitt Hardee, Department of Agriculture  
Will Best, Department of Commerce  
Marc Finlayson, ACT  
Bryan Ayers, MCI-East/NCCC  
Jamie Norment, ACT  
Dennis Goodson, Deputy Commander, 4CES SJAFB  
John Nicholson, Department of Environmental Quality  
Michael Scalise, MCI-East/NCCC  
Mary Lou Addor, NC State  
Paul Friday, Defense Alliance of NC  
Ariel Aponte, Assistant Secretary DMVA  
Chris Moore, Installation Coordinator, DMVA  
Kelly Jackson, DMVA

**CALL TO ORDER, WELCOME REMARKS: CHAIRMAN FRANK BOTTORFF**

Chairman Frank Bottorff called the meeting to order at 9:30 am. He took a roll call of the attendees at the meeting. There was a quorum with 4 of the 6 members in attendance. Kelly Jackson read this statement into the recorded. This statement will be read at the beginning of each meeting for the NC Military Affairs Commission. If any member has a conflict or a potential conflict with any business coming before us today, please make us aware of it. The Act establishes ethical standards for certain public servants and prohibits public servants from: (1) using their positions for their financial benefit or for the benefit of their extended family or business, N.C.G.S. § 138A-31; and (2) participating in official actions from which they or certain associated persons might receive a reasonably foreseeable financial benefit, N.C.G.S. § 138A-36(a). Kelly Jackson asked if any member had a conflict or potential conflict to make that known to the committee now.

**CONSENT AGENDA AND MINUTES:**

Chairman Frank Bottorff said that he wanted to approve the consent agenda and draft minutes dated October 27, 2020. David Myers made a motion to approve the agenda and draft minutes and it was seconded by Dr Scott LaFevers. It passed by unanimous vote.

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**DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS (DMVA) UPDATE: KELLY JACKSON**

Kelly Jackson gave an update from the DMVA. She informed the committee that Secretary Larry Hall had left the DMVA and had been appointed to the Industrial Commission. Governor Cooper had appointed LtGen (R) Walter Gaskin as the Secretary of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA). We are happy to welcome LtGen (R) Walter Gaskin to lead the Department. Chairman Frank Bottorff asked Ariel Aponte to give Secretary Hall his appreciation for the work he had done as the Secretary of the Department of Military Affairs and wish him the best in his new position. Ariel Aponte said that he had had a conversation with Secretary Gaskin and that he was looking forward to talking to Chairman Grier Martin and Vice Chairman Bottorff in the near future. Secretary Gaskin will be on board on Thursday and receive informational briefings from Department leadership on Wednesday. Chairman Frank Bottorff said that we all look forward to working with LtGen (R) Gaskin being our partner. He said that the Secretary may want to meet with Chairman Martin alone, but he would appreciate being part of that meeting and would travel to Raleigh for that meeting. We are looking forward to the future.

**BUDGET/LOBBING/BY-LAWS: CHAIRMAN FRANK BOTTORFF**

Chairman Bottorff said that the expenditures for this fiscal year for \$221,347.00. All of the expenditures are according to the budget plan. We were given \$2M from the General Assembly which is a two year budget. We started the year with a fund balance of over \$800,000 and then given \$2M from the General Assembly. We budgeted \$1,200,000 for this year and we have spent \$221,347 so far this year. Even if we spend the entire \$1,200,000 this year we would still have the other \$1M plus over \$600,000 fund balance. We are in good shape so far.

<u>Item:</u>	<u>Spent:</u>
Cassidy and Associates (Lobbying Service)	\$ 153,000
EDPNC	\$ 60,000
Temporary Solutions (Stipend)	\$ 381.10
Strategic Plan (Employee)	\$ 5,330.26
Strategic Plan (Printing)	\$ 1,334.00
Travel	\$ 101.64
ADC Fees	\$ 1,200.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 221,347.00</b>

**GRANT STAUS: CHAIRMAN FRANK BOTTORFF**

Chairman Frank Bottorff said that the Commission had two current Community Grants that are close to being finalized. He asked Ron Massey to give an update on the Community Grant for the City of Jacksonville for the Aquifers.

Ron Massey said that the City of Jacksonville did complete all of the work and did pay all of the bills by the end date of the Grant. Now they are in the process of working with the new Project Manager to deliver all of the paperwork that they need to close out the Grant. They installed some digital monitors wells for monitoring. The information from those wells is being sent to the Division of Water Quality, Department of Environmental Quality for continual monitoring. The idea is to pay attention to the pumping machine that are used by the Base, City and County to in fact try not to interfere with the salt and freshwater interface which would impact significantly on the Base because of where they get their

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water. This is a sustainability issue that is regional, and we have done a good thing. We will get all of the paperwork in for that project so it can be officially closed. Chairman Frank Bottorff said that for the new members, we have two primary aquifers, and most of the Eastern Cities take from these two aquifers. A couple years ago, they started pulling people off of one of the aquifers because of aggressive pressure on it. Then putting them on the other aquifer. Ron Massey said that two aquifers are the Black Creek Aquifer (reduced the pumping), and the State reduced the withdrawal permits by 75%. Then everyone got forced into another aquifer which is not as deep. The Black Creek aquifer does not require any treatment. The other aquifer is the Castle Hayne aquifer and the only aquifer that Camp Lejeune operates in for its water supply. Then all of a sudden, those Black Creek users found themselves drawing from Castle Hayne which increased the pressure on that aquifer. One of the things that has come out of this monitoring is that we have demonstrated that the reduction that we had to take on the Black Creek withdrawal, did not have to be as large as it was. We have been able, with this monitoring information to request a higher pumping level in the Black Creek than what was originally approved by that reduction. That was one good thing. The more important thing is that we are paying attention to who is pumping which wells out of the Black Creek and when so that we can spread out the demand. Chairman Frank Bottorff said that the Cherry Point and the City of Havelock are also on the Castle Hayne aquifer. With the increased usage of the Castle Hayne, there was concern from the beginning that there could be too much pressure on the Castle Hayne aquifer. If the replenishment was not quick enough, then you could get saltwater intrusion. That would be a sustainability issue for both of the Installations. This is a good project to ensure that the military installations on the coast can operate without undue hinderance.

March Finlayson said their project is almost completed but he has been saying that for a long time. They do have all of the deliverables for their military influence overlay districts. Their Land Use Study from several years ago, identified a handful of projects to mitigate encroachment on Cherry Point and its outlying fields and bombing ranges. The military influence overlay districts project looked at mapping and other factors in the region and conceived sample ordinances for all of our County and Municipal partners in the region. Also, Memorandums of Agreement (MOA) that these local governments could sign with Cherry Point that would ensure that there is not incompatible development that would impede Marine Aviators ability to train. That was the project. The contractor has provided all of the deliverables per the contract. There is one small bill that remains to be paid and our fiduciary partner is Carteret County, so we are waiting for that. Then we will do a reconciliation by the contractor and the County so we can wrap things up. The deliverables are in hand and we plan to roll them out to our local government partners potentially as early as next week. We will be working with the designated person from the State to wrap this up. Ron Massey said that this particular information on the overlay districts will be helpful for the City of Jacksonville. Their Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) identified the same type of need to create the military overlay districts over the municipalities around the Base. Then we can look at that information and hopefully use that as a basis to implement that in our area. Marc Finlayson said that he would be glad to sit down Ron Massey and provide him with the information that he has.

Chairman Frank Bottorff said that with the Working Group that was behind the planning of this entire project was really the municipal staff from the different counties and this area. The next step is taking the project that was done with the collaboration of the Installations and then trying to see if what we can get the actual elected bodies to accept. He asked Marc Finlayson if that was a true statement?

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Marc Finlayson said that was correct. He said that the Consultant tried to the extent possible to conform the language in the sample to what language already exist in the counties and cities. Cities like Havelock have already done everything that has been expected of a local government in order to mitigate crisis. Craven County is in pretty good shape too but some of the smaller municipalities provide the larger challenges in terms of writing ordinances that would be helpful to the Base and helpful to the Town. We are working through that. Chairman Frank Bottorff said that some of this work is not without controversy. Trying to get the support of the elected official for limitations on property is sometimes difficult and understandable so. But it is through a collaborative effort with all of the staffs that we have gotten as far as we have with this process. This was another good project by the NC Military Affairs Commission.

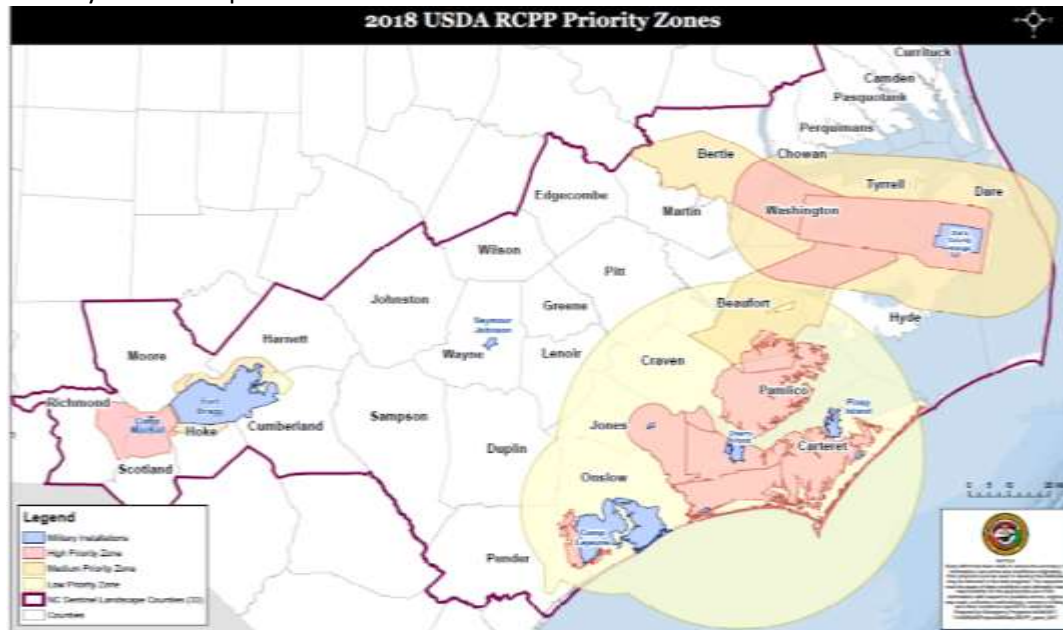
David Myers said that as a Mayor of a small municipality, he will tell everyone that they might be running into are people who have land that is already zoned for industrial or low housing. Trying to find the people who own that property and working with the planning and zoning committee to get it to the Mayor to get it approved. He is running into that issue right now. That is a tough process. He recommends that they sit down with the planning and zoning if they have not already and find out what they want to do. Then go to the municipalities and then you can back that up to the planning and zoning committee to get it through. Chairman Frank Bottorff said that he agreed. Although this grant project has only been going on for a couple of years, the reality is that the success takes a lot longer than that. We started sowing the seeds for this decades ago with Allies for Cherry Point's Tomorrow (ACT) and then the Base, and then the Air Station gets a lot of credit for having a tremendous working relationship with a wide area of communities here to set the stage for this kind of stuff. It takes years to develop the relationships so there is that level of trust between the elected officials, the planners, and the installation to get these types of things moving. This does not happen overnight. Kelly Jackson said that she is in contact with the new project manager, Bessie Dsouza and she has the contact information for both Ron Massey and Marc Finlayson. When these projects have been closed out, she will share that information with us for the files. Chairman Frank Bottorff asked if she was the project manager for the three new Community Grants? Kelly Jackson said no, only for these two grants. The three new grants do not have a project manager yet and are on hold. Kelly Jackson needs to talk to Amy Bowman, DMVA Chief Financial Officer about this matter. Whether someone in the Department can manage the new grants or will they need to reach out to another agency. That is yet to be determined. The final decision will be decided by Secretary Gaskin.

**SENTINEL LANDSCAPES: DEWITT HARDEE, NC DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

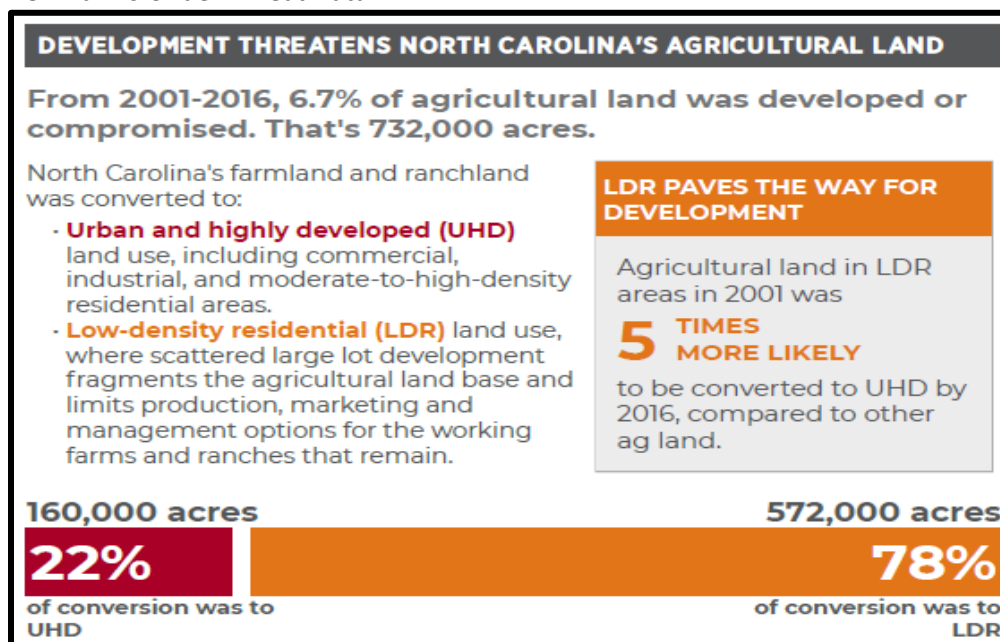
Dewitt Hardee gave the members an update on Sentinel Landscape.

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Military Partnership Conservation Focus Area



American Farmland Trust:  
 New Farms Under Threat Data



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Acres			Percent		
1	TX	1,373,000	1	NJ	8.7
2	NC	732,000	2	NC	6.7
3	TN	659,000	3	CT	6.4
4	GA	544,000	4	DE	5.8
5	CA	466,000	5	RI	5.8
6	AL	362,000	6	MA	5.2
7	PA	347,000	7	TN	5.1
8	VA	340,000	8	SC	4.5
9	MS	336,000	9	GA	4.4
10	MO	325,000	10	MD	4.3
11	OH	312,000	11	VA	4.0
12	FL	298,000	12	PA	3.8

**Table 4.** Top 12 states for agricultural land converted to UHD and LDR uses from 2001-2016, by acres and percent. Percent refers to the percent of each state's agricultural land in 2001 converted to UHD and LDR land uses by 2016.

Year to Date Expense Report:

<u>Project</u>	<u>YTD Expenses</u>	<u>Balance</u>
NCDA Outreach	\$55,155.49	\$94,844.51
NCSU Project	\$48,749.17	\$31,250.83
NCFSWC Project	\$29,361.41	\$40,638.59
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$133,266.07</b>	<b>\$166,733.93</b>

<u>NCMAC/NCDA/MOU</u>	<u>Appropriated Funding</u>
MOU dated 8/31/2018	\$150,000.00.
MOU dated 11/13/2019	\$150,000.00.
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$300,000.00</b>
Less Expenses	-\$133,266.07
<b>BALANCE 6/30/2020</b>	<b>\$166,733.93</b>

<u>Project</u>	<u>Expenses (Oct - Dec)</u>
NCSU Project	\$0.00
NCFSWC Project	\$0.00
NCDA Outreach	\$12,296.16
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$12,296.16</b>

Acronyms:

North Carolina Department of Agriculture (NCDA)  
 North Carolina State University (NCSU)  
 North Carolina Foundation of Soil & Water Conservation (NCFSWC)  
 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

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## How do we Sell the Sentinel Landscape Program?

**Ask the local what they need.**



2019-2020 Eastern North Carolina Sentinel Landscapes Working Lands Community Outreach

Lead: NC Foundation for Soil and Water Conservation

Supporting: Local Soil and Water Conservation Districts, NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation, NC State

University College of Natural Resources, Eastern NC Sentinel Landscapes partnership

Draft Executive Summary 1.2.2021

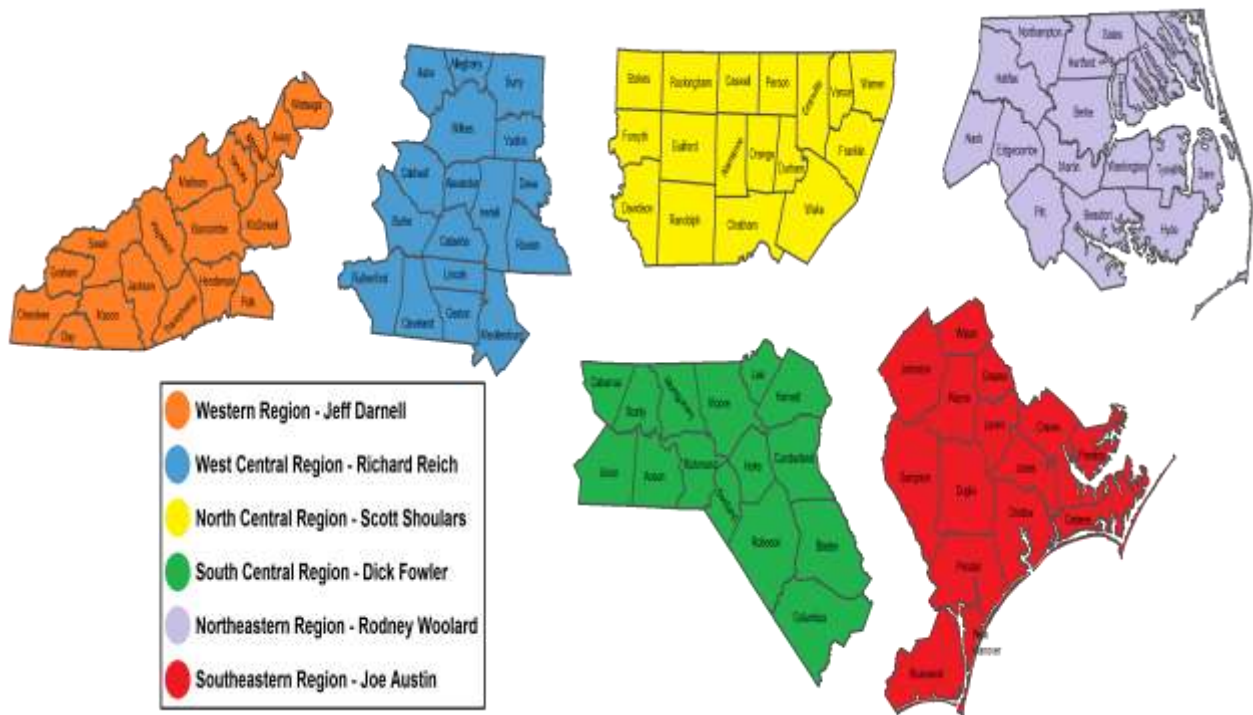
- **Report developed by Dr. Mary Lou Addor**
- NC Department of Agricultural and Consumer Affairs
- Re: NC Military Affairs Commission Progress and Budget Report Date: January 4, 2021
- **Quarterly Report for Contract 19-036-4002, Sustaining Military Readiness, Conservation, and Working Lands Through Programming and Partnerships. (North Carolina Military Affairs Commission 2019- 2020 NCSU Project)**
- **Contract Period: January 1, 2020- December 31, 2020**
- **Performance Period: October 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020**
- **Expand Coordination and Improve Shared Communication to Sustain Linking Military Readiness, Inclusion of Working Lands and Conservation.**



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**Statewide Farmland Preservation Action Plan**

- Maintain the 6 Regional Focus Area Concept
- Seek additional Partnership Funds – RCPP & REPI in 2021





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North Carolina Military Affairs Commission 2018-2020 Report  
October – December, 2020

Administrative Report

**Dick Fowler** – Dick worked with individuals inquiring about easements and had visits in Lee County involving Lee SWCD. Dick also participated in a meeting in Franklin County involving Working Lands Trust. Dick met with landowner Mary Lou Jones in Lee County and Dorothy Wilder in Franklin County. Dick also met with a County Manager and a County Attorney in Lee County regarding conservation easements and with an Assistant County Manager and Cooperative Extension Leader in Union County regarding an Agricultural Development Project. Dick worked on the Albert Shaw Easement in Bladen County.

**Rodney Woolard** – Rodney participated in roundtable discussions, video, and teleconferences with land trusts and SWCDs and spoke with Ben Simmons, Tim Midyette, and the Boyd family regarding farmland preservation. Rodney also worked with Grace Farms and Bell Farms, provided a copy of the Annual Legislative Report to Rod Gurganus, Cooperative Extension Director and Ann Williams, had a conversation with Lynn Whitehurst of Martin SWCD on the Rogers Farm application, coordinated with Paul Walker of WLT on easement monitoring, and met with Billy Barrow, Vic Thompson, and Bertie SWCD. Rodney prepared option forms for Jeremy James and family, had telephone conversations with Karl Helcamp and Kathy Dornblaser, a Zoom meeting with the Rogers Family, met with Jamin Simmons, Wade White, Tim Midyette, and James family to get options signed.

**Joe David Austin** - Joe met with landowners Quinn, Raynor, Bell, Jenkins, Cox, Lovett, Quinn, Stancil, Overman, and Pate Heirs. Joe also attended the Land Trust Rally 2020 and participated in MCI East Teleconferences

<u>NCDAs Outreach</u>	<u>Expenses (Oct-Dec)</u>	<u>Hours Worked</u>
Dick Fowler	\$1,174.62	35.50
Rodney Woolard	\$2,790.00	93.00
Joe David Austin	\$8,331.54	247.90
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$12,296.16</b>	<b>376.40</b>

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE (DOC): WILL BEST**

Will Best said that he did not have any significant or substantial update from the Department of Commerce since the last meeting. He will have more information to share at the next meeting and a detailed report.

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (DEQ): JOHN NICHOLSON**

John Nicholson said that he had missed the last quarterly meeting and there has been a few things going on with the installations and all of them on a positive note. He wanted to let everyone know that his boss Secretary Regan has been nominated by the incoming administration. Secretary Regan is working through all of the stuff for confirmation. They continue to drive on. In October they held their annual

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catch up with the Base Environmental Coordinators. That was coordinated by the Regional Environmental Coordinator out of Atlanta, Susan Gibson. It was a much shorter meeting than last year and not in person, but they knocked it out in a couple of hours. The common theme for all of them remains, open lines of communication and how do we communicate better in the current environment. We had a couple of things pop up that we identified as shortfalls for DEQ to address. The items came out of concerns from Camp Lejeune related to response time when Camp Lejeune had some issues. They invited him down for a follow-up a couple weeks after that meeting, and it was a good opportunity for him. He has not spent a lot of time at Camp Lejeune on the Installation Restoration Program, and it was an eye opener. He thought he had a good sight picture on what they were doing environmentally aboard most of the installations, but you know how it is. You get on the ground and take a look at some of these issues and his hats goes off to Marine Corps Installation-East (MCI-East) for the work that they are doing on this front. They are extremely thorough and based on science and very expensive. This covers the gamut from unexploded ordinance to hazardous materials. Very interesting drilling technology to help pump out some of the nasty stuff that is in the water system at Camp Lejeune. It was a very good visit, and his hat is off to the crew at MCI-East. They have also been working very close with the Army and Corps of Engineers on some Operation Warp Speed permitting issues. This is more at a local level and the locals were hung up and it was not a DEQ permit. DEQ brought in their Subject Matter Experts (SME) to help with the local communities and to secure some funding from the Army and Operation Warp Speed to help move that project along. This has helped a couple of our industries in the Research Triangle be able to help with their effort on the vaccine. That was big.

On our favorite topic wind, you all and especially some of the communities may have even better intelligence but we do know that the Timber Mill project is still being considered. He checked in with the clearing house, Ron Tickle, around Thanksgiving. Ron Tickle at that time was not tracking on any uptick from apex on the timber mill sight but again the other side chatter that he is hearing is that they are moving along on that front. He has not had time to check back in with Ron Tickle but will do so and believes that others on this call may have more information. The last point and since that last time that he chattered with this committee, the Governor signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) related to Offshore Wind. He said that Will Best may be able to jump in and reinforce. That is primarily a supply chain focused MOU on the offshore wind. There is talk about an Executive Order on that front following the same theme of supply chain. He knows that there are considerations on who else needs to be involved in those discussions. He throws that over to the DMVA, Ariel Aponte and his staff. If DMVA has not heard from the Governor's office on this topic, he will ensure that DMVA is included in those discussions. Ariel Aponte said that he was tracking on this. He talked to Ron Tickle from the Department of Defense (DoD) clearing house about this topic. We are in communication with them, and he is also talking to Jeremy Tar from the Governor's office. We are looking forward to collaborating on this topic. John Nicholson said that DMVA needed to be part of this discussion. David Myers asked what they meant by offshore wind. Are they talking about wind turbines? John Nicholson said that there is an approved sight out on the coast called the Kitty Hawk Sight. It has been through all of the approval processes of DoD and you name it. There is a lease on that property, but he cannot remember who owns that lease. That is the only approved sight off of the NC coast. There is another sight down towards South Carolina. No one has expressed any interest in that sight or opened a lease on that sight. This has been out there for a while. This is nothing new. The MOU between Virginia and Maryland are heavily focused on the supply chain aspect and the economics. David Myers said that he ran into this

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when he was at Marine Corps Installation-West (MCI-West) as the Deputy Commander. While they had limited sights, and eventually they started encroaching into more areas which got into the Whiskey areas. That impacted the Navy training. You are limited to 180 degrees with things down below you. Those things concern him. He knows that these things are not having an impact right now, but we worried about this up and down the coast of California. Then they started to encroach into the vital areas of training. John Nicholson said that he was training on this and he knows that Chairman Frank Bottorff is familiar with all of this from his time at MCI-East. This goes back a long way to when MCI-East and our brothers and sisters and Norfolk signed off on these particular areas. We can get you more information on this. He does not think that this is late breaking news, and this has been tracking for a while.

Chairman Frank Bottorff said that the offshore wind is an area of discussion going back to 2011 – 2012. This is when we tried to decide what areas were acceptable and not acceptable. There were fairly significant discussions including the Clearing House, Navy, Marine Corps, and the State. Chairman Frank Bottorff is going to jump ahead because in his new business area he is going to bring up our strategic implementation plan and specifically the area for this committee and some of the implementation steps. Our number one is dealing with tall structures and encroachment. All though it has been relatively quiet over the past 12-18 months, there does not seem to be a lot going on. He thinks this committee needs to start looking at getting ourselves into the discussions along with John Nicholson, Will Best and others to extract all of the things going on so we can give our opinions where appropriate. One of the committee's Due-outs is during the next quarter to set up a conference call or a series of calls to really start looking at what is going on and what we should be briefing our Commission members on so they can understand how much is happening in this area and what the potential impact are. Also, where we should be voicing our opinions. John Nicholson said that we had never permitted a wind turbine facility yet and as this Timber Mill sight continues to gain speed. We are dusting off internally what we think we need to do. So what Chairman Frank Bottorff is talking about is not a bad idea and then we can familiarize ourselves with what needs to be done based on what the current Status is. Paul Friday said that maybe the Services need to look at the maps that they put together since it has been two to three years. He does not know that anything has changed but the Services should at least acknowledge that nothing has changed or there have been changes. Chairman Frank Bottorff said that he agreed with that comment. His second item for new business was to develop a brief which would explain the training requirements and the air space requirements. This would all go into the same thing. A lot of that will start with what John Nicholson just said and that we may need a short section on what is the permitting requirements in NC. He thinks the Commission members need a refresher on that topic. We have not been through that for a long time. So first we need to find out where we are today and then we can determine if we need to be in a different spot in the future. What NC has is not bad, not perfect, but not bad. Will Best said that what John Nicholson stated, the original Request For Proposal (RFP) from the Department of Commerce under Dr. John Harden, was in fact a supply chain request for NC to develop an economic development opportunity for supply chain of parts, manufacturing, and distribution of turbine parts. That happened and then mischaracterized by proponents of Wind Energy. This was NC opening the door for the development of wind farms. That is when they ran with it and in the wrong direction. The Kitty Hawk process it is in a lower and moderate area of concerns. It is outside of some areas, but it is an impact that we should keep an eye on. Paul Friday said that we do need to be mindful that most of the movement of larger assemblies that come with wind turbine is in and around

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Port areas, it is a coordination around the Ports for military/civilian use, but that is not a new topic. Chairman Frank Bottorff said that those pieces and parts go out through Morehead. City and then through Havelock. The trailers are specially made, and two part trailers not connected. They are about a half a block long. Very limited where you can take them out of. Ariel Aponte said that he and Will Best had reached out to the Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA) last week and they talked about air use in the State of NC. They were interested in the conversation because they brought up the Offshore Wind and they do see the interest in NC from an air capability. As you know the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) talked about military aviation from the Marine Corps side. North Carolina is getting interest from DoD in DC especially air use for Military Training Route (MTR) and looking forward to working with this group moving forward. Chairman Frank Bottorff asked what the specific interest regarding MTR? Ariel Aponte said that the NDAA really discussed more of a military aviation for the Marine Corps as they will be evaluating aviation in the future so that is one of the points from the NDAA 2021. What they are really looking at from OEA, the military training routes across the State of NC on how we have Services internally and externally using our training routes and ranges and then look forward to offshore wind and efforts. How do we ensure that our training areas and air space are being protected and not being encroached? As well as when we look at civilian aircraft and drones being used in NC. We are looking at aviation from across the State. Chairman Frank Bottorff said that there are certainly a couple of topics there that may need a deep dive. David Myers said that he opened up this box and his comment is that we are all in agreement and that the most valuable assets are the Marines, Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen. The second is our training areas. We are not the only ones that use them. We have training routes used up and down the East coast. He agrees with Chairman Frank Bottorff that we need to do a check on this. We need to ensure that people are not working behind the scenes and encroaching on our air and water space. Chairman Frank Bottorff said that encroachment is multi-dimensional (air, land, sea, and spectrum). All of that comes together to make our training areas and especially in the East. We need to look at this holistically. It is important that as we go through this that we protect the areas with the priority to the areas that are local units that NC uses for training. We are taking these steps to ensure that the training that is here, stays here and potentially grows. We have to be cognizant that if we do not do this properly that we could make this easier for forces stationed other places to use our ranges while not actually protecting our own training for the forces that are stationed in NC. We do not want to be a training area for everyone else if we are not saving the training areas for our own forces within the State of NC. We need to look at this in detail. Chairman Frank Bottorff said that we will get this Committee up to date so we can get the Commission members up to date.

**NORTH CAROLINA COMMANDER'S COUNCIL (NCCC): BRYAN AYERS**

Bryan Ayers gave an update for the NC Commander's Council. He said that that NCCC would meet on Tuesday, February 16, 2021 from 9:00 – 11:30 am. The platform will be WebEx as they did for the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter meeting. One of the topics for their meeting will be the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) reference Offshore Wind. He will be reaching out to all of his SME on that topic. They want everyone to have a better understanding of the MOU. We want to ensure that the military mission is sustainable. They are all for renewable energy and new projects for technology but want to ensure that they are implemented properly and cohesive with our mission. They will also be talking about some new legislation that they have heard being talked about. Other than that, it will be a routine meeting.

**INSTALLATION UPDATE:**

Cherry Point: Chairman Frank Bottorff said that COVID has had an impact on everyone, but the Installation is still operating full speed. He did have a meeting with the Commanding Officer a couple of weeks ago. There was nothing specific that came up, but they are working on some local land issues.

Camp Lejeune/MCI-East: Mike Scalise said that he wanted to add a couple of thoughts from the topic that had just been talked about and wind turbines. He appreciates this group tracking this. If this group has not had a chance to read the MOU, it is an interesting document to read. It does lay out an agreement and how much power they are going to generate in the next few years. He said he thought there was legislation that would follow this, but it is a good documents to read and understand. The Kitty Hawk project has been around for a few years and we had concerns about mission creep on this. That is something we keep an eye on and appreciate the State keeping an eye on this too. When you talk about COVID reference Camp Lejeune and New River, the numbers are what they are. Cheery Point, Camp Lejeune and New River have begun the vaccination process. That process is moving along, and they are trying to get a phasing plan in place. The Navy is doing a great job on this process.

Seymour Johnson Air Force Base: Dr. Scott LaFevers said that they have had some constraints due to COVID but keeping readiness up. They are doing a great job and developing protocols within the community to minimize the numbers as much as possible. The big topics for them are education and looking into having a school on base. Also, trying to maximize the outreach for spousal employment. Those are the two things he is aware of.

Coast Guard: No update

**NEW BUSINESS: Chairman FRANK BOTTORFF**

Chairman Bottorff asked the committee members if there had any new business? He said that he had a couple of items. One of them was coordinating with DEQ and Commerce about Wind which we have already talked about. This will be informational and learning about what the next steps will be. The second is to develop a brief. He will start working on that brief and then reach out to the installations for help with the information. It could be difficult to get some of those maps. Chairman Frank Bottorff said that Scott LaFevers had mentioned installations and something that had come up in the NDAA was about the score card. The Air Force has a version of a score card for all of their installations on things that look at the support of families from the community side and the State. It was education and spousal licensure and things like that. We will have to find out from the NC Military Affairs Commission side how we are going to discuss the new score card. He does not think it is going to be like the Air Force score card. One of the areas that potentially DoD is looking at is the State's support to the military. We will need to look to see if we can figure out what if anything we can do from the State's side to improve our status. The Score Card will be the third item that we may need to develop a plan for.

Dennis Goodson said that he had an update for Seymour Johnson Air Force Base. Vaccinations are underway. They recently signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with Wayne County to open a school on the installation. They are working through all of the paperwork and teaching children in

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August of 2022. They are looking forward to this agreement. The last item is that they are ramping up their Agile Combat Deployment Exercises. They are using non-military airfields around NC. They may have to use some other non-airfields for landing practices. Chairman Frank Bottorff asked him about the school project. Dennis Goodson said that it would be a Wayne County School aboard the installation and looking at 50% military affiliated students and 50% local children. It will be a magnet school and competition for the seats and a local lottery. They will be using their Education Center that was used for College classes. That building will be converted to a school and the College classes will continue online and have access to the building on the weekends if necessary. This will be Middle and High school. Chairman Frank Bottorff said that was a great project.

**WRAP UP: CHAIRMAN FRANK BOTTORFF**

Chairman Bottorff asked if there was anything else for the group? Ron Massey said that he thought we needed to have the Census put on the NC Military Affairs Commission meeting in February. Things are still dynamic. The things that Bob Coats said at the last meeting keeps changing. Right now, they are looking at the beginning of March as a time when they will release the figures. That information may change. The Census director has resigned, and the Interim director will not be the director in the new administration. We all need to keep abreast of the changes and where there will be opportunities if something is significantly wrong with our counts and for us to challenge that information. Chairman Frank Bottorff asked what the dates are to challenge? Ron Massey said that there are two different challenges. One is a more near future and that will not happen until after March. There are very narrow reasons why you can challenge. The biggest things we learned from the 2010 Census was that if you do not document the information and keep a record of it at the time the Census was going on. Some of the records get lost and then it is hard to present your case. You need the facts from the information that you gathered. This is a fluid process. He said Bob Coats can update the Commission at their next meeting because information has changed since the last meeting. Chairman Frank Bottorff said that we do not want to lose focus on the ability to challenge. When the data comes out will someone look at it from the military community standpoint to see if any military community may see some issues or concerns? Ron Massey said from his perspective, he does not see the military doing that. If anyone is going to audit this information it will be the military communities. They will be the ones asking for clarification on the information from their partners on Base. The Base only has visibility on the Group Quarters and deployed personnel. The Deployed personnel should have been counted by their home station in this Census. The Base does not have visibility on the family housing stuff. They do have numbers and the Permanent Change of Station (PCS) freeze. If we can get the total occupancy rate for those months, that could be evidence. We could say that some of them did not fill out the census forms but here is the evidence of numbers in the military housing. Those are the thoughts at this time.

Chairman Bottorff asked Mike Scalise if it was possible from the Marine Corps side to figure out what those numbers are for people living in military housing for a certain period of time for Camp Lejeune, Cherry Point and New River? Mike Scalise asked Ron Massey to get with him, Joe Ramirez, and Tim McCurry to talk about the numeration for the barracks and have a discussion. He is not sure about the other information and if you can influence the Census with follow-on information at this point. He knows that the PCS did not kick the Marine Corps too much, but it seemed to impact the other Services more. He just thinks that a discussion needs to happen but he is not sure what the impact will be. Chairman Frank Bottorff said that if they can look at the proper windows now so when the Census



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releases their data we are one step ahead. Then if we can look at the counts on Base and for both of the group quarters and deployed. Then get the numbers from our partners for the family housing and then start working that process. That process could take a while and then when the Census numbers are released we can do a quick comparison. If we can get a list of what the questions are, then we can share that with the other military communities and installations and say that this is what we should all be looking at. We want all of the installations and military communities to be ready when the Census releases the data. Ron Massey said we are not sure what we can influence but his point is that we need to have copies of all of this information on where people were and when so that we have it available. He also said that Bob Coats told him that he and the State demographer are going to end up scheduling a webinar with communities to talk about what can be appealed and that will be around the April timeframe. Mike Scalise said that the barracks numbers are what they are, and they own that information. The process that they do not own is the Census process.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Chairman Frank Bottorff asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. David Myers made a motion to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Chairman Frank Bottorff. Chairman Frank Bottorff adjourned the meeting at 10:50 am.