



NORTH CAROLINA MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMISSION

Minutes of the 3rd Quarter July 21, 2020 Base Sustainability and Community Affairs

Committee Meeting, Microsoft Teams/Conference Call #: 984-204-1487

Conference ID 244 907 446#

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Frank Bottorff, Chair
Mayor David Myers
Paul Friday
Mayor Chuck Allen
Scott LaFevers

NOT IN ATTENDANCE:

Wesley Meredith

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES:

Ron Massey, City of Jacksonville
Dewitt Hardee, Department of Agriculture
Will Best, Department of Commerce
Marc Finlayson, ACT
Bryan Ayers, MCI-East
Jamie Norment, ACT
John Nicholson, Department of Environmental Quality
Gregg Fambrough, Deputy Director, 4MSG SJAFB
Mary Lou Addor, NC State University
Secretary Hall, DMVA
Ariel Aponte, DMVA
B. Norris, DMVA
Paul Berry, 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 5 of the 6 members in attendance.

CONSENT AGENDA AND MINUTES:

Chairman Frank Bottorff said that he wanted to approve the consent agenda and draft minutes dated April 21, 2020. Paul Friday made a motion to approve the agenda and it was seconded by David Myers. It passed by unanimous vote. Chairman Frank Bottorff asked for a motion to approve the draft minutes. David Myers made a motion to approve the draft minutes and seconded by Dr. Scott LaFevers. The draft minutes passed by unanimous vote.

DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS (DMVA) UPDATE: SECRETARY LARRY HALL

Secretary Hall gave an update from the DMVA. He said that the topic that is on everyone's mind is COVID-19 and the initiatives that are being started around COVID-19. We are looking at the impacts on the school systems around the installations and how they are looking at starting back to school whether it is virtual or a combination of virtual and in school. What funding they will need for that. Also, the convergence of Permanent Change of Station (PCS) orders for the families coming in and the challenges they could be facing when they try to enroll in school. We are working with the Department of Public

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Instruction (DPI) and Department of Defense (DoD) schools to ensure that we can get that done. The Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) across the board is also a challenge. We have sent out a 3rd round of Requests for Information (RFI) to see how they are progressing with their protocols and procedures in dealing with the units that deploy and return for COVID-19. Also, the specific effects on families. Many times, the spouse's revenue earning opportunities no longer exists or they have issues that need to be resolved. What quality of life services are available? Also, what community organizations are within the commands to make sure that we are taking care of the troops and their welfare. We are back on a burial schedule for our cemeteries and at our nursing homes we only have 6 positive cases at this time. Our nursing homes have taken substantial steps on that matter. Out of 4 nursing homes we have 6 positive cases, but they will be testing again so these numbers could go down. These 6 cases are all at the Fayetteville nursing home where we have double occupancy. We do not have any cases at our single occupancy nursing homes in Kinston and Black Mountain. We currently have no cases in the Salisbury nursing home. We continue to work to keep our veterans safe and a big thank you to the nursing home staff for their hard work.

GRANT STAUS: FRANK BOTTORFF

Kelly Jackson said that the current grants have 2 awardees, the City of Jacksonville for monitoring wells for the aquifers and Allies for Cherry Point's Tomorrow (ACT) for military overlay districts. These grants should be wrapping up shortly. She said that the City Of Jacksonville had requested a 90 day extension and that was being worked on. The current grant application is out and due October 5, 2020. Chairman Bottorff said that with the budget outlook improving, the next grant process looks like it is on schedule. That will be up to the NCMAC.

BUDGET/LOBBING/BY-LAWS: FRANK BOTTORFF

Chairman Bottorff said that the expenditures for the last fiscal year for \$773,633.87 and a remaining balance of \$893,665 which is what we expected. The legislature did approve adding \$2 million to our budget with Senate Bill 801. That will cover the NCMAC's expenses for the next 2 years. We should be able to go into the new year and resume our normal process. We will be reviewing this at the NCMAC meeting.

<u>Item:</u>	<u>Spent:</u>
Cassidy and Associates (Lobbying Service)	\$ 306,000
Dr. Kathy Sturgis (Facilitator Svc)	\$ 4,640
EDPNC	\$ 120,000
NC Military Foundation (Cluster Analysis)	\$ 140,000
Sentinel Landscapes	\$ 150,000
NC4ME	\$ 40,000
Temporary Solutions (Stipend)	\$ 689.70
Office Supplies	\$ 274.51
Travel	\$ 9,491.91
ADC Fees	\$ 2,096.50
Misc.	\$ 441.25
TOTAL	\$ 773,633.87

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FY 2019-2020

Starting Balance: \$ 1,667,299.75
Expenditures: \$ 773,633.87
Remaining Balance: \$ 893,665.88

Senate Bill 801:

An Act to Appropriate Funds to the Military Presence Stabilization Fund:

Section 1: By August 15, 2020, the Department of Commerce shall transfer the sum of two million dollars (\$2,000,000) in nonrecurring funds from the cash balance in the Film and Entertainment Grant Fund (Budget Code: 24609; Fund Code: 2590) to the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (Budget Code: 13050; Fund Code: 1400) for deposit in the Military Presence Stabilization Fund established in G.S. 143B-1217. The funds transferred in this act are appropriated for the 2020-2021 fiscal year and shall be used to sustain and maintain the State's military installations, updates to strategic planning, federal advocacy, and identification of measures to increase the military value of installations.

Paul Friday said that the funding from the General Assembly was a pleasant surprise. Chairman Bottorff said that showed that they do understand what we are trying to do and some of the initiatives that we are participating in. This is very good news.

CENSUS: RON MASSEY

Ron Massey said that the response rate for North Carolina is 58.3 percent compared to the national response rate which is 62.1 percent. The census bureau has hired the outreach workers they are scheduled to start knocking on doors in NC on August 11. The bases such as Camp Lejeune will be conducting training this week on the troop quarters count. They have not started that count but the people that will be in charge of the count in the various barracks are going through training and then sworn in. We hope to have a discussion at the next NC Commander's Council (NCCC) as to where all of the bases are with their barracks count. When we get through the barracks count that should help with the overall response rate for our part of NC. There are a lot of marines living in the barracks and we need to get them counted. We will get Bob Coats to give an update to the NCCC and the NCMAC meeting in August. Chairman Bottorff said that we may need to give another push and try to get a hold of all of the military communities to ensure that they are continuing to advertise this. He asked Ron Massey if he had this information broken down by locality on how we are doing. Ron Massey said that Bob Coats can give us that information. He has that information by counties. Ron Massey will get that information and share it with Kelly Jackson. We will share it as needed.

Ron Massey also talked about the Defense Communities Infrastructure Program (DCIP). There is \$50 million in funding for this program national wide. Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA) sent out the notice to apply. It went out with a suspense date of June 26, 2020. Ron Massey said that there have been 6 submission from his area. They were from the following groups. Onslow County, City of Jacksonville, Onslow County School System, Onslow Water & Sewer Authority, City of Surf City, and the City of North Topsail Beach. They are going through the review process for these applications. The funding has to be committed in a grant agreement before the end of September. He does not know of any other communities that have applied for this program. He plans to talk about this program at the

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NCCC meeting to get a feel for who is trying to get funding from the DCIP. With only \$50 million for this program, it will be very competitive. Chairman Bottorff said that there were a lot of restrictions on the money and what it could be used for. He said there seems to be hesitancy to provide a list from the commanders who had given recommendations for a project. We might be able to go through other means to get that information. We can see who wants to talk about this at the next NCCC meeting. Ron Massey said that Paul Berry, DMVA has tried to get a comprehensive list but also had some resistance.

SENTINEL LANDSCAPES: DEWITT HARDEE, NC DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Dewitt Hardee gave the members an update on Sentinel Landscape.

North Carolina Military Affairs Commission 2018-2020 Report (April – June 2020)

NC State University Project

The NC State University Project convened two coordinating committee meetings (REPI Proposal and Annual Reporting) on January 17 and conducted two coordinating committee calls on January 10 and February 14, 2020. They are also continuing to support NCDA in the development of a Readiness and Environment Protection Integration (REPI) Challenge Grant (Pre-Proposal submitted January 2020; Formal Proposal will be submitted April 24, 2020). Work is also being done with the NC Forest Service in the development of thank you letters for landowners that utilized the Prescribed Fire Program initiative (from January-February). Members from this project also attended the March 3-5, 2020 SERPPAS Meeting and are conducting follow up with the American Forest Foundation on national initiatives suitable for North Carolina.

Reporting of and accountability and evaluation of the Partnership's strategic deliverables are being done through ongoing qualitative and quantitative measures and reporting, including reporting for the NC Sentinel Landscape Committee on March 3. A meeting was held on January 17 to complete the national reporting process to the Federal Coordinating Committee of quantitative and qualitative metrics. A Building Capacity for Emerging Forests Leaders grant was also submitted to USDA.

NC Foundation for Soil and Water Conservation Project

During the 1st quarter of 2020, the NC Foundation for Soil and Water Conservation District assisted participating conservation districts. They held leadership roundtables and outreach meetings in several counties, including the following:

Hyde County – January 23 and 24

Jones County – January 27 and 28

Washington County – February 3 and 4

Craven County – February 25, 26

Due to the Coronavirus outbreak, no meetings were held in March. After each meeting, the NC Foundation for Soil and Water Conservation sought input from agency and military participants.

Administrative Report

Dick Fowler – Consulted with James Parker in Lee County, Karen Norris in Richmond County, Overman Farm in Wayne County, Garrett Buds in Robeson County, Almond Farm in Stanly County, and Correll Farm in Rowan County.

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Rodney Woolard – Consulted with the following private landowners and farms in Tyrell, Beaufort, Hyde, and Washington Counties: Rick Webb, Milton Prince, Van Johnson, Elks Farm, Dixon Farm, C Canal Farms, Bennewitz Farm, Bryan Foster, Guy Davenport, and Kevin Armstrong. Rodney also assisted Elks and Dixon farms on USDA ALE applications and attended the American Farmland Trust video conference on June 9. Rodney also participated in the Sentinel Landscape Committee Meeting on June 10.

Joe David Austin- Joe consulted with the following landowners and farms in Johnston, Beaufort, Jones, Pamlico, and Onslow counties: Foscue, Pridgeon, Hurst, Barber, Higgins, Riggs, Moore, Cox, Meadows, Sweating, Russell, Eleen, Pate, Keith Smith, and Mike Hocutt.

<u>NCD A Outreach</u>	<u>Quarter 2 Expenses</u>	<u>Hours Worked</u>
Dick Fowler	\$1,349.20	38.00
Rodney Woolard	\$2,846.60	84.00
Joe David Austin	\$4,155.15	116.00
Total	\$8,350.95	166.00

<u>Project</u>	<u>Quarter 2 Expenses</u>
NCSU Project	\$14,016.13
NCFSWC Project NCD A Outreach	\$19,018.16
	\$8,350.69
TOTAL	\$41,384.98

<u>Project</u>	<u>YTD Expenses</u>	<u>Balance</u>
NCD A Outreach	\$34,381.60	\$115,618.40
NCSU Project	\$34,096.92	\$45,903.08
NCFSWC Project	\$32,671.42	\$37,328.58
TOTAL	\$101,149.94	\$198,850.06

<u>NCMAC/NCD A MOU</u>	<u>Appropriated Funding</u>
MOU dated 7/31/2018	\$150,000
MOU dated 11/13/2019	\$150,000
TOTAL	\$300,000
Less Expenses	-\$101,149.94
Balance 6/30/2020	\$198,850.06

Questions: Paul Friday asked if there was still a remote call in session for the Fall and the Southeast Regional Partnership for Planning and Sustainability (SERPPAS) group? The SERPPAS is looking to do a dial in communication because the one on one visitations have been cancelled. Dewitt Hardee was not sure of anything that has been put in place at this time. They do have a questionnaire out there to get information on how to get around this COVID –19 situation. To figure out ways that we can continue to partner with one another to protect the Sentinel Landscape areas. Dewitt Hardee also said that they were putting together more contracts with the US Air Force and also with the Navy for the MCI-East area. There should be a series of contracts that tie up about another \$7 million worth of Sentinel Landscape funding or related state and federal REPI funds to protect another 3,000 – 4,000 acres of land.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE (DOC): WILL BEST

Will Best gave an update from the Department of Commerce (DOC). The handout is about the timeline for the Dare Bombing Range. The timeline will need to be updated. During that last meeting we had had a delay with the Secretary of State's office and the Board of Engineering and Surveying pertaining to this project and it being an engineering project. We presented to the Board of Engineering and Surveying and we were awarded the ability to move forward. They have awarded the grant to Matrix Design Group and have had a preliminary discussion about adjusting the schedule based on the delay and a number of other things. Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) and OEA have approved 2 military installations under the capability use planning and this project was extended to August 2021. There should not be a problem to acquire and obtain an extension. He anticipates one or two no cost extensions. He will be working with Matrix to reschedule this and adjust the timeline to get this kicked off. We plan to approach this as a one on one digital interaction with the partners and those communities in the study area that have opted to participate. He thinks that Beaufort County was the only one that did not opt in. But he suspects that with the digital outreach they will probable participate due to the deliverable. The deliverables range from hard copy brochures and information as well as enhance the website for the study area primarily around the Dare County Bombing Range. In the next 30 days they will be reaching out to those partners, and Seymour Johnson 4th Fighter Wing Civil Engineering Squadron. We are up and moving after a significant delay.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (DEQ): JOHN NICHOLSON

John Nicholson gave an update from DEQ. He said that since the last time they had talked the biggest couple of actions have been related to the installations. He has been working with them to maintain maximum flexibility on regulator and permitting requirements. He does not have any negative stories to pass so that is good news. They have also entered into an increased expressed permitting agreement with MCI-East and came into the future with allowing electronic payments. That is a positive step in the right direction. Chairman Bottorff said that it was good to have John Nicholson on for this meeting. He also said that in the past year he has not heard of any permitting or regulatory complaints. It has been quiet which is good news.

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

Bryan Ayers said that the NCCC would be meeting on August 18 before the NCMAC meeting via WEBEX as the platform. Microsoft Teams is not an option due to the Marine Corps Intranet. They have a myriad of topics that will be discussed. He did receive the DCIP request and working with his Community Plans and Liaison Office (CPLO) as well as his counterparts from other installations. There seems to be some hesitancy from this group as far as discussing what projects they proposed or put out just because the awards have not been determined as of yet. We may put a pin in this and bring it up at the next quarters meeting to talk about which projects were funded and which projects are still outstanding and need attention and alternative funding. DCIP funding will be doubled next year to \$100,000 million. We want to get as many of these projects funded in our area as possible that will benefit the military mission footprint. COVID is still a big issue but they are trying to get their folks back and running. The PCS season for the marine corps is up and running at this time. We do have families that are inbound to the area and they are looking at the Governor's decision on Plan B and the virtual hybrid model for school. He said that Onslow county is looking at doing full time in person classes and the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) on the installation is also planning on doing that

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option. The reason they are doing that is with a single family service member, they do not have the option to telework. Their Child Development Centers (CDC) are filling up. There is limited availability for these slots at the CDC directly impacts the service members and how they can execute their mission. We are going to discuss this more at the NCCC meeting in August. We want to talk about how this will impact various installations. Some of the other installations have not fully activated their PCS and have exceptions that are being permitted. We may want to amend or pursue legislation to allow families or dependents to attend virtual schooling without having to establish residency in the State. He knows that the DMVA is pursuing some options with that and we appreciate them getting movement on that. Chairman Bottorff asked if Onslow County was doing the Plan B option? Bryan Ayers said that his understanding was that they were looking at Plan B. He has talked to their school liaison and they are looking at all options. He said that they had had a lot of community outcry with the Plan B option and how it impacted military service members. There will be further discussions on this moving forward. Chairman Bottorff asked Brian Ayers to keep him updated and if they were going to give them priority for the military families on in class seating if the setting is limited.

David Myers said that he had a couple of items. He said that in his city, Madison, NC they are doing Plan B. He has been helping UNC-G with their Veterans program and their administrator was saying that due to COVID-19, and since the students are going to have to do classes virtual, it is taking a long time to process the money for the Post 911 GI bill and get the payment to the students. The stipend that the children receive is taking more time than normal. The other items are for the NCCC is that there is a new Major General for the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing, MajGen Mike Cederholm

INSTALLATION UPDATE:

Paul Friday said that he attended a meeting with MCI-East personnel last week. They received an update on the Census, Military Construction (MILCON), Contract awards for repair to prior storm damage, COVID-19 lessons learned and sharing that information, and REPI Challenge.

Gregg Fambrough said that they had the Department of the Air Force share with them that they are going to conduct a rating of all Air Force Installations in regard to the spousal employment environment from a legislative standpoint. As well as the State's and Counties educational support provided to Air Force Installations. They will have a website released no later than July 31, 2020 or the beginning of August. The State, County and Cities should be notified in the near future. He does not know of any other Service that is collecting that type of rating data for the communities and States around their installations. Chairman Bottorff asked if he thought that this was an Air Force initiative and not a DoD initiative? Gregg Fambrough said that this in an Air Force initiative in support of Strategic Basing. Chuck Allen also said that the bigger side of this is that we have heard this a number of times at the Association of Defense Communities (ADC) conferences is that the entire military is moving towards better schools and better things for their families. He said that this may start in the Air Force but will not stop with the Air Force. Chairman Bottorff said that he thought that on the DCIP there is a portion about that reference spousal employment and other things like that. All of the quality of life topics like education, COVID-19 and how we handle those things. He said that NC had made some great strides with spousal licensure and the transferability of certifications. Chuck Allen said that another thing that has come up is about the General Statues. We may need to get this to the legislative committee and try to change our Genera Statue 160A 311 and 312. So, we can add the Department of Defense installations and

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facilities. A city cannot go and work with them. We are running into problems there. Chairman Bottorff said that you are talking about the Intergovernmental Support Agreements (IGSA) topic. He said that he remembered discussions about this topic. We may need to get this cleared up. He said that we can get a group together to talk about this with Sally -Ann Gupta and some others and determine what needs to be clarified.

Jamie Norment gave an update from Cherry Point. He said that they were very involved in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) process that is going on in the Senate and the House. Cherry Point has several things of interest in the Authorization and Appropriations bill. We are working to get a new fitness center and pool. That has been a need for many years. The amount that the Senate Armed Services Committee has set aside is \$51.9 million, so that is a big project that we are supporting. We are working with Fleet Readiness Center-East (FRC-East) to secure money to upgrade and reconstruct their facilities because the buildings they are in are 40-70 years old. They need a new physical plant for the new generation of F-35 and other advanced aircraft. Congressman Greg Murphy toured FRC-East for the first time last week. He had an excellent tour and met with the Commanding Officer and other Civilian leadership. He was astonished at the work that was being done by the 4000 employees out there. He is going to help us get FRC-East help in terms of the upgrades and construction. We have some language in the House NDAA and the Senate NDAA that will force the Navy and the Marine Corps to address the issue on who funds and how the funding will get to FRC-East for its recapitalization. They continue to work through COVID-19. Construction continues and many hangars have been torn down on the flight line. There are giant holes in the ground where they are going to put new buildings. There is a lot going on at Cherry Point. Once COVID is over, it would be nice to have the NC Military Affairs Commission take a tour of what is happening at Cherry Point.

STRATEGIC PLAN: FRANK BOTTORFF

Chairman Bottorff talked about the strategic plan. He said that the document had been sent out to all of the members and many of the key partners. He does not think we have received a significant amount of feedback. This will be the document that is submitted to the Legislature in November which will be the NCMAC's Strategic Plan. He said that the entire document had been sent out to everyone for their review. He went over the priorities and implementation items for the BS&CA committee. Chairman Bottorff asked Kelly Jackson to send out the document to the committee one more time. Kelly Jackson asked Chairman Bottorff if there was a deadline for submission of comments and changes. She was asked to share the document with the NC National Guard and wanted to give them a deadline for comments. Chairman Bottorff said that he would get back to her with a deadline for comments and recommendations.

NEW BUSINESS: FRANK BOTTORFF

Chairman Bottorff asked the committee members if there had any new business? Paul Friday asked about some documents that have been floating around related to cost and benefit and retirement benefits. Also, the Fayetteville State University (FSU) study. Kelly Jackson said that the FSU Study was talked about at the Economic Development committee meeting. Arnold Gordon-Bray was the one that brought the study to their attention. Paul Friday said that if he had comments should he send them to David Hayden? Kelly Jackson asked him to send them to David Hayden and Kelly Jackson. Chairman Bottorff said that he had seen the document. He asked if there was an implementation document of

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what questions were asked to the contractor? It looks like a good document, but he was not sure what questions were asked. Was there a Request for Proposal (RFP)? Who paid for the study? Kelly Jackson said that she did not have those answers but could check with Arnold Gordon-Bray about those questions.

WRAP UP: CHAIRMAN FRANK BOTTORFF

Chairman Bottorff said that the priority for him is to complete this strategic plan and then as we move on we will be prioritizing the budget priorities for the current year. We have a couple priorities that we will want to continue to support but we will be reviewing everything.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Frank Bottorff adjourned the meeting at 10:27 am.