

North Carolina Military Affair Commission, Base Sustainability & Community Affairs Meeting Minutes  
November 21, 2014  
Goldsboro City Hall

Chairman Sonny Roberts  
Vice Chairman Bob Dickerson, USMC Ret.  
Col. Frank Bottorff  
Kristoff Bauer (City of Fayetteville)  
Robert Hosford (for Commissioner Troxler, NC Department of Agriculture)  
Ron Massey, City of Jacksonville  
Paul Dordal (by phone)  
Paul Friday (by phone)  
Sebastian Montagne (NC DOT) (by phone)  
Bill Meier (by phone)

9:44AM Chairman Roberts took the role, determined that a quorum was present, and called the meeting to order.

Minutes of the last Committee meeting were approved by voting members of the Committee pursuant to motion by Col. Bottorff to adopt minutes, which was seconded and unanimously adopted.

Vice Chairman Bob Dickerson will provide past meeting minutes to Mr. Bill Meier.

**DRAFT LETTERS**

Vice Chairman Dickerson addressed the draft letters, beginning with the letter on E911 Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs).

- 911 Center – Jacksonville – redundancy by working through the military installations – we have a different work up with Ft. Bragg and with Fayetteville, who are working their own approach. Onslow County has their 911, Jacksonville has their 911 and Lejeune has its 911 Center. They are working in redundancy. Cities and counties can offset some of the costs. Senator Brown is actively engaged with the 911 Board in Raleigh and Vice Chairman Dickerson has spoken with him regarding the issues. Vice Chairman Dickerson requested a motion to accept the letter as written. Col. Bottorff so moved and it was seconded by Chairman Roberts to accept the letter as written and passed by unanimous vote.
- Firefighter training fee exemption letter. Col. Bottorff briefed on the letter on Fee Exemption for Community College training for federal firefighters. This letter asks that the fee be waived for MOS-specific training. Pooled each community and installations all have some form of agree for mutual aid and firefighting, as well as EMS as applicable. The State eliminated the fee waiver some years ago. Municipal and volunteers are trained at no cost. The letter seeks support from the State to re-implement fee waivers for federal firefighters. Camp Lejeune concurs with the letter's content. Mr. Friday concurs and Kristoff Bauer concurs with the content of the letter. Col. Bottorff moved and it was seconded by Vice Chairman Dickerson to accept the letter as written and passed by unanimous vote.

- Off-base Habitat Restoration/Support for Sentinel Landscapes Program letter. Substance of letter deals with opening ranges restricted as the result of habitat and protected species, and to use natural habitat beyond the installations and external to ranges for growth areas thus building a natural barrier. The intent of the letter is to show the NC MAC's support of the efforts of all NC installations and garner State support for this to come to fruition. Vice Chairman Dickerson requested questions and discussion. Gen. Dordal offered that the final paragraph could be re-crafted for the sake of clarity on the recommendation to continue the partnership. We are asking for the NC Department of Agriculture and DENR to come up with a mitigation plan. Mr. Friday added that adding a request for the creation of a working group to engage with them to move forward would be helpful. With no further discussion offered, Vice Chair Dickerson asked for a motion and Col. Bottorff made the motion to accept the letter as written less the last paragraph for presentation to the full Commission, which motion was seconded and passed by unanimous vote.

### **HOFMANN FOREST**

Hofmann Forest: Vice chairman Dickerson spoke to Sen. Brown and others that have spoken to potential owners. We are waiting for the NC Supreme Court decision.

### **MAPPING**

Joint consolidated 3-dimensional map encroachment zone area around all installations. In theory, there is an approved 3-dimensional map, but waiting for one more service headquarters to respond before releasing the map. Per Paul Friday, whatever is provided by the date of the next full Commission meeting will be shared at that time. There are 3 maps: 1- composite mission footprint map showing training areas 2- which parts of mission footprint need protection 3 – detailed data layers which will require discussion with State. Mr. Friday believes 15 minutes per service would be needed to describe the maps in full at the full Commission meeting.

Mr. Hosford asked if NC Wildlife Commission game lands and parks were being captured in the mapping data. Mr. Friday states they should be captured. They have pulled from a larger data layer from the State, so he expects that to be incorporated. One map is attempting to do that, but may not be complete. A discussion needs to be had with the State once the maps are complete to ensure data is complete and accurate. Mr. Montagne of the NC Department of Transportation added he would like to engage in the process to be of assistance, as it is beneficial to the Agency for long-range planning for building roads. They have the largest GIS unit, there. Mr. Friday stated the goal was to share the data with State Agencies and Counties.

Vice chairman Dickerson asked for any further discussion or new business.

Mr. Ron Massey stated that the Jacksonville/Onslow County/Camp Lejeune area has begun studies of aquifers with idea of cooperatively managing water withdrawals as area installations have become dependent on the Castle Hayne aquifer. An initial study identifies areas where monitor wells should be located to better manage the aquifer, look at water levels and to monitor salt water intrusion issues. As this is a Base Sustainability issue, the question is whether there would be state support to get monitoring wells in place. Camp Lejeune has spoken to Sen. Brown and the consultant team on this

matter. Mr. Massey does not know the source of funding to continue these studies. Gen. Dordal mentioned that the consultant team has suggested a bond referendum from which funds may come. The aquifer is among the projects listed on the referendum; however, Communities are not precluded from making their requests for direct funding to the General Assembly or Sen. Brown.

Vice chair Dickerson offered to sit with Mr. Massey to develop a specific request and compare it to what the consultant team took away after their community meeting with the Onslow area.

Concern was expressed about the Hwy Bypass. Using Department of Transportation's funding approval methods, it must be reapproved this year. There is some pushback from environmental groups. The Commission's support is needed by way of a letter. This project is necessary to expedite movement of gear to and from Morehead City and open transportation of other goods, thus having a beneficial economic impact to the area. A letter will be drafted for consideration.

Gen. Dordal reiterated that a list of Department of Transportation projects to improve infrastructure on and around installations on and around bases was requested along with a prioritized list of future projects.

Mr. Montagne of DOT is creating a shape file of the needs of military communities, including StrawNet, STRACNET, and ports, which are considered strategically important to the United States, 3 of which are located in North Carolina. The Consultants recommended to Mr. Montagne including data from 2005 to show what has already occurred and improvements that have taken place since then. Department of Transportation is aware that there is a strategic impact but also an impact to families. DOT is working from various data sources to determine the size of the military footprint.

Paul Friday asked Gen. Dordal about the bond and Sentinel Landscapes. Gen. Dordal stated that Sentinel Landscapes would be characterized under REPI. Each Committee will be asked to provide a list of priority projects that relate to sustainability, quality of life, etc., that may require funding over the next five years.

Per Mr. Friday, by mid-December, SERPPAS will be sending their designations for Sentinel Landscapes for the coming year. There is no money attached but it sets the framework for where OSD intends to focus Sentinel Landscapes projects and programs. This should be discussed with Robert Hosford, as this letter should be headed to OSD by mid-December. For future REPI programs for FY 16 and beyond, REPI is beginning with Sentinel Landscape proposals of many thousands of acres versus parcel by parcel. We are well positioned to do this. Mr. Friday suggests moving away from use of the term "REPI" and toward the terminology "land protection agreements" as the programs will surpass REPI by that time. An estimate of needed funding for all installations is intended to be provided by the NCCC but will not yet be ready by next full Commission meeting. We need a broad portfolio that will do everything from contracts to perpetual easements based on the military community and landowner needs. Mr. Friday recommends assigning this letter to Bryan Gossage and the NC Working Lands Group as it is comprised of all of the State Agencies, rather than the Commission.

Gen. Dordal recommends Base Sustainability & Community Affairs Committee draft a letter. This will be discussed among Vice Chairman Dickerson, Mr. Friday and General Dordal following this meeting. Mr. Friday further suggests an advance e-mail to OSD to alert them that a letter of interest is forthcoming.

Following a request for follow-up questions and comments, Chairman Roberts moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:51 am, which motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

DRAFT