



NORTH CAROLINA MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMISSION

**Minutes of the 4th Quarter October 27, 2020 Base Sustainability and Community Affairs
Committee Meeting, Microsoft Teams/Conference Call #: 984-204-1487
Conference ID 439 759-122#**

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Frank Bottorff, Chair
Mayor David Myers
Dr. Scott LaFevers
Mayor Chuck Allen

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
Gregg Fambrough, Deputy Director, 4MSG SJAFB
Kelly Jackson, DMVA

NOT IN ATTENDANCE:

Wesley Meredith

CALL TO ORDER, WELCOME REMARKS: CHAIRMAN FRANK BOTTORFF

Chairman Frank Bottorff called the meeting to order at 9:35 am. He took a roll call of the attendees at the meeting. There was a quorum with 5 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 July 21, 2020. Dr. Scott LaFevers 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: KELLY JACKSON

Kelly Jackson gave an update from the DMVA. She informed the committee that the DMVA would be hosting the NC Governor's Virtual Military Installation Roundtable on Wednesday, October 28 from 1-2 pm. Also, Paul Berry the Department's Installation Coordinator will be leaving the DMVA to continue his

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work with a Non-Profit organization. The department will miss Paul Berry and the work that he has done for the DMVA. Chairman Bottorff asked if any of the other Committee members received an invitation to the Roundtable? He said that the invitation list was very limited because of the sensitivity of the topics. He said that he and Chairman Martin had been invited to the meeting.

GRANT STAUS: FRANK BOTTORFF

Chairman Frank Bottorff asked about the 2 current Community Grants. Ron Massey said that they had not completed their grant yet, but they are close to being done. They have the last monitoring well under contract and they have been working with the Contract Manager on extending that. We are very close. Chairman Bottorff asked Marc Finlayson if they were done with their grant? Marc Finlayson said they had received the final documents and waiting on the final invoice. Once it is paid, they will complete the paperwork with the State. The final products have been delivered.

Chairman Bottorff talked about the new Community Grant process. The Commission had received 3 grant applications. The Grant Review Committee (GRC) met on Monday, October 19 to review those 3 grant applications. They are working on a couple of questions, but they will take their recommendations to the Executive Steering Group (ESG) on Tuesday, November 3 and then taking the 3 requests to the Full Commission for approval. So, the second grant cycle is ongoing. He does not see any issues with the process.

BUDGET/LOBBING/BY-LAWS: FRANK BOTTORFF

Chairman Bottorff said that the expenditures for this fiscal year for \$163,033.12 Everything is in accordance with the spending plan. We did spend \$750 on the Association of Defense Communities (ADC) which was a series of on-line lectures or discussions. He signed up for them but was only able to get online for couple of them. There were also some pop up ones that he was able to attend. Overall, it was a pretty good series. Marc Finlayson said he also attended some of the lectures. Chairman Bottorff said that they were good, but it was not the same as attending the conference. He encouraged all of the members to attend an ADC conference if they can once they start having them again.

<u>Item:</u>	<u>Spent:</u>
Cassidy and Associates (Lobbying Service)	\$ 102,000
EDPNC	\$ 60,000
Temporary Solutions (Stipend)	\$ 181.48
Travel	\$ 101.64
ADC Fees	\$ 750.00
TOTAL	\$ 163,033.12

CENSUS: RON MASSEY

Ron Massey said that they are done counting in the field. He does not have statistics for all of the counties, but the National self-response rate was 67%, North Carolina self-response rate was 63.4%, Onslow County self-response rate was 57.9% and Jacksonville self-response rate was 58.6. The self-response rate does not include any counting other than base housing. The barracks count is not included in that count. We still do not have visibility of how close we got on the complete count. He thinks that this is important, and we should have Bob Coats talk to everyone about this at the NC

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Commander's Council (NCCC) and the NC Military Affairs Commission (NCMAC) in November. To let them know when there are opportunities in the future to challenge some of the information. There will be two opportunities in the future. One of them is called phase one and part of the count resolution. You can challenge the number of households that were reported. What we are thinking about is that we know that during the 2010 Census, we were able to work with our partners on the base to figure out the group housing counts and number of deployed. Then we could figure out how many did not get counted. When it comes to the family housing, and then there was a freeze on moving, that was an issue. We think that any reports that they have from earlier this year on the number of occupancy and estimates on population, this information is important. We want to do this as a group and not just as a community. Just having good files from this part of the year will be important to put forth any challenge or argument for a lost count. We are currently waiting on the Census Bureau to do their magic and summarizing what the census information has shown. He recommends that Bob Coats give a presentation at the NCCC and NCMAC to give us the specific details.

Chairman Bottorff said that when we started this journey in 2010, he was on staff at Marine Corps Installation-East (MCI-East). He was involved in this process at that time. He realizes the effort that has occurred and especially with the Marine Corps and their communities to try to improve the count. Clearly, at the last Census, there were some great concerns that we were undercounted and does have a directly negative impact on those military communities. It is a little concerning that here we are ten years later, and not clear yet, but that we may have been undercounted again. Ron Massey said he agreed but it might not be just the bases. He thinks that might be across the state and the Country. If we have the opportunity to challenge anything, we need to have supported documentation when required. We might be able to improve our ratio. The overall count for the State than it should be, but we might be able to be a higher percentage if we have things we can challenge and documents to support that challenge. Chairman Bottorff said that he agreed that it was important to have Bob Coats present at both of those meetings to share important information. When he was looking at some of the other states totals, they were very impressive for the self-response rates. Significantly higher than North Carolina's rate. Because the installations are counted separately, that may hurt us a little bit in the perception at this phase. Some of the states do a very good job and maybe we need to see what type of advertising they do. Ron Massey said that he would work with Bob Coats to present at the November meetings.

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 (July – September 2020)

NC State University Project

Conducted four coordinating committee meetings: preparation for remaining meeting to support involvement of Eastern North Carolina Sentinel Landscape (ENCSL) coordinating committee into the Spaces Between the Bases Project (convened March 23, 2020 and June 17, 2020; pending Nov 12, 2020). Conducted three coordinating committee calls: July 10, Aug 14, and Sept 11, 2020. Presented at Federal Coordinating Committee Meeting (July 17, 2020); attended NC Military & Veteran Base Sustainability Report developed by Dr. Mary Lou Addor two Meetings (July 21, 2020); convened Forestry Capacity

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Building Program for Emerging Natural Resource Leaders meeting (Aug 17, Sept 14, 2020); attended NC Longleaf Coalition Meeting (Sept 22, 2020). Reserves Commanders Council, Aug 7, 2020; Commanders Council, Aug 18, 2020, and SERPPAS Principals Meeting, Sept 15, 2020.

NC Foundation for Soil and Water Conservation Project

NC Foundation for Soil and Water Conservation District assisted participating conservation districts. They held leadership roundtables and outreach meetings in several counties, including Hyde, Jones, Washington, and Craven County.

After each meeting, the NC Foundation for Soil and Water Conservation sought input from agency and military participants.

Due to the Coronavirus outbreak, activity and meetings have been greatly limited.

Administrative Report

Dick Fowler – Met with Mary Dorman - Robeson Co; Charles Daniels - Bertie Co; Harbert Moore - Robeson Co.; Dorothy Wilder - Franklin Co; Albert Shaw - Bladen Co. Telephone calls to Albert Shaw regarding appraisal and Barry Hull, Fort Bragg, regarding making contact with Tim Thomas in Moore regarding property of interest to Army. Email to Moore Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) requesting telephone number for Thomas.

Rodney Woolard – Met with Jeanie Sessoms, Richard Rogers, Gene Rogers, and Jean Rogers (8/28) on Farmland Preservation in Martin County. Performed monitoring on second easement of R&M Properties of Hyde County (8/27). Obtained picture of Voluntary Agriculture District (VAD) sign for Beaufort County (8/25); Agriculture Development & Farmland Preservation (ADFP) Weekly Staff Videoconferences (8/5,12 and 26). Spoke with Jennifer Whitehurst, Beaufort County Register of Deeds (ROD) about Farmland Preservation on her homeplace (9/8); Spoke with Martin SWCD staff on potential Rogers Family application.

Joe David Austin- PC and Email contact to discuss program to landowners, Quinn, Cannady, Jones, Potter, Griffin, Lewis, Higdon, Raynor, Bell, Jenkins, Sweeing, Moore, Troy, Hurst, Benson, Pridgeon, Allen, Parrish, King, Lee, and Rossi in Jones, Onslow, Johnston, Beaufort, Pamlico, and Craven counties. Met with landowners Higdon, Butts, Guthrie, McLean, Smith, Quinn, and Paige in Craven, Johnston, Pamlico, and Onslow counties.

Acronyms:

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

<u>NCDA Outreach</u>	<u>Expenses (Aug-Sep)</u>	<u>Hours Worked</u>
Nick Fowler	\$281.88	9.00
Rodney Woolard	\$564	18.00

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Joe David Austin	\$4,835.85	154.50
TOTAL:	\$5,681.73	181.50

<u>Project</u>	<u>Expenses (Aug-Sep)</u>
NCSU Project	\$14,652.25
NCFSWC Project	\$0.00
NCDA Outreach	\$5,681.73
TOTAL:	\$20,333.98

<u>Project</u>	<u>YTD Expenses</u>	<u>Balance</u>
NCDA Outreach	\$42,849.33	\$107,140.67
NCSU Project	\$48,749.17	\$31,250.83
NCFSWC Project	\$29,361.41	\$40,638.59
TOTAL:	\$120,969.91	\$179,030.09

<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
TOTAL:	\$300,000.00
Less Expenses	-\$120,000.00
BALANCE 6/30/2020	\$179,030.09

Partnership Related Funding Overview as of 10-13-2020

Acronyms:

- Agriculture Development & Farmland Preservation Trust Fund (ADFPTF)
- General Assembly (GA)
- Regional Conservational Partnership Program (RCPP)
- Agricultural Land Easements (ALE)
- United States Air Force (USAF)
- Working Land Trust (WLT)
- Environmental Enhancement Grant (EEG)

	<u>Resource Amount</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Contracted</u>	<u>Balance</u>
<u>ADFPTF</u>				
2014-15 GA	\$1,000,000			
2015-16 GA	\$1,000,000			
2016-17 GA	\$2,000,000			
2017-18 GA	\$1,000,000			
2018-19 GA	\$1,000,000			
2018-19 GA one-time \$13 million (2018 RCPP)	\$8,128,955			
2019-20 GA	\$1,000,000			
2020-210 GA	\$1,000,000			

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	<u>Resource Amount</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Contracted</u>	<u>Balance</u>
SL 2020-44		\$1,217,088		
ADFPTF Grant Cycle XI				
ALE Projects			\$1,555,897	
ADFPTF Grant Cycle XII				
ALE Projects			\$3,113,552	
-McDonald Farm Easement		\$ 84,500		
-R&M Properties of Hyde County		\$ 409,684		
-John W & Ingrid P. McAden		\$ 388,035		
-2019 NAVY/ADFPTF Contracts			\$ 860,479	
-2018 RCPP/NAVY/ADFPTF Contracts			\$ 110,637	
-2016 RCPP/USAF/ADFPTF Contracts		\$ 892,431		
-2018 USAF/ADFPTF Contracts with WLT			\$ 133,473	
-2018 RCPP/USAF/ADFPTF Contracts			\$3,324,956	
-2019 USAF/ADFPTF Contracts			\$2,293,116	
-Shephard Land Parcel Appraisal		\$ 7,410		
-FY 2020 USAF/ADFPTF Contracts			\$1,737,698	
-FY 2020 NAVY/ADFPTF Contracts				
TOTAL:	\$16,128,955	\$2,999,147	\$13,129,807	\$0
2019 EEG Award	\$46,292			\$46,292

Military Partnership Funding as of 10-13-2020

Acronyms:

North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (NCDA&CS)
 United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service Agricultural Land
 Easements (USDA NRCS ALE)

	<u>Resource Amount</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Contracted</u>	<u>Balance</u>
USAF-NCDAACS Cooperative Agreement				
FY-15	\$1,263,000			
FY-16	\$1,766,270			
FY-17	\$3,400,000			
FY-18	\$1,500,000			
FY-19	\$ 500,000			
FY-20	\$ 750,000			
R&M Properties of Hyde County		\$409,684		
John W. & Ingrid P. McAden		\$388,035		
2016 RCPP/USAF/ADFPTF Contracts		\$2,053,646		
2019 USAF/ADFPTF Contracts			\$1,174,116	
2020 USAF/ADFPTF Contracts			\$1,737,698	
2018 RCPP/USAF/ADFPF Contracts			\$3,324,956	
TOTALS:	\$9,179,270	\$2,851,364	\$6,236,770	\$91,136

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NAVY-NCDA&CS Encroachment
Protection Agreement

FY-18 NAVY-NCDA&CS	\$1,138,101		
2018 RCPP/NAVY/ADFPTF Contracts		\$110,637	
FY-19 NAVY/ADFPTF Contracts		\$860,479	
FY-2020 NAVY/ADFPTF Contracts			
2020 Amendment 1 for Contract NC0085-18 RP-00202	\$2,770,000	\$1,576,492	
TOTALS:	\$3,908,101	\$2,547,608	\$1,360,493
Military Partnership Funding Total:	\$13,087,371	\$2,851,364	\$1,451,629

USDA NRCS RCPP Partnership Funding Overview as of 10-13-2020

Acronym:

United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service Agricultural Land Easements (USDA NRCS ALE)

	<u>Resource Amount</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Contracted</u>	<u>Balance</u>
USDA NRCS ALE				
2016 RCPP	\$1,162,570			
2018 RCPP	\$5,620,000			
	<u>Resource Amount</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Contracted</u>	<u>Balance</u>
2016 RCPP/USAF/ADFPTF Contracts		\$1,161,251		
2018 RCPP/NAVY/ADFPTF Contracts			\$164,751	
2018 RCPP/USAF/ADFPTF Contracts			\$5,388,949	
2019 RCPP (Preserving Upriver Farms)	\$8,506,494			
TOTALS:	\$15,289,064	\$1,161,215	\$5,553,700	\$8,574,149

ADFPTF Preservation Conservation Easement Stats: 10-13-2020

- Recorded easement acres – 24,631
 - Since creation in 2005
 - 20,501
 - Prior to 2005
 - 4,130
 - Acres under contract for a conservation easement
 - 20,129
 - Acres under option for a conservation easement
 - 38,129

New Military Perpetual Easement Contracts

October 1, 2020 – September 30, 2022

Project Name	Grantee	Grant Amount	Acres	County	Branch
Linden Carolina Farm	Working Lands Trust	\$1,018,489.00	737.24	Washington	USAF
Columbia NC Farms	Working Lands Trust	\$719,209.00	679.17	Washington	USAF
Spring Creek Farm 552 acre	Working Lands Trust	\$353,050.00	552	Pamlico	Navy
Spring Creek Farm 599 acre	Working Lands Trust	\$382,125.00	599	Pamlico	Navy
Spring Creek Farm 14.58 acre	Working Lands Trust	\$20,594.00	14.58	Pamlico	Navy
Spring Creek Farm 1308 acre	Working Lands Trust	\$820,723.00	1308	Pamlico	Navy

Statewide Farmland Preservation Action Plan

- Grant Cycle XIV Applications – Mid-October to Mid-December
- Maintain the 6 Regional Focus Area Concept
- Secure a USDA NRCS Program Agreement (One stop shop)
- Seek additional Partnership Funds – RCPP, REPI, EEG, etc.



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Discussion: Chairman Bottorff said that it looked like we have made some significant progress on some of the land. Is it possible to get a map that includes the protected land that we have put under easement? Dewitt said that he could get that for him. You can go on their website and goggle any region you are looking for. The areas that they are working on will definitely increase the land that they have in Eastern North Carolina and protect the training. He said to just let him know how he wants it sent to him.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE (DOC): WILL BEST

Will Best gave the Department of Commerce (DOC) update. He said that the Department of Commerce and their rural development division put out a survey for small business throughout the state for each county. He does know that every county with an installation has an impact that shop and purchase items from small business. There was 100 % feedback from those counties with installations. That has been a positive note. Matrix Design Group continues to work on the Dare County Bombing Range Compatible Use Implementation Plan. We have received a grant extension through August 2021 from (Office of The Secretary of Defense (OSD) and Office of Environmental Adjustment (OEA). We are going to proceed with the one on one interaction with the stakeholders. They will probably start this in the beginning of 2021. This is the plan to move forward. It is unlikely that we will have any group meetings. Everything will be delivered digitally. Things are moving slowing behind the scenes.

The Department of Commerce made two announcements. The Triple Aught Design or TAD Gear which is a popular clothing design and touches the military. They are expanding in Old Fort, NC. They will be adding 70 jobs in that area. This is an East Coast expansion since they are a West Coast company. This is a big move for them. The second announcement is that Pratt & Whitney made an announcement in Asheville, NC for 800 new jobs and add a \$1M square foot expansion facility for air foils mainly tied to fixed wing and some helicopters. That is a done deal but there are still some deals that he is unaware of the granularity of what they will be doing. Pratt & Whitney is a big win and offers employment opportunities for those coming out of the service. Chairman Bottorff said those were two good opportunities for NC.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (DEQ): JOHN NICHOLSON

John Nicholson was not able to attend the meeting.

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, November 17 from 9:00 – 11:30 am. The platform will be WebEx as they did for the 3rd quarter. They are currently soliciting the Commander's to provide their updates on successes and challenges. One of the more focused topics is how COVID-19 has impacted their Stop Movement Order. If there are any issues or concerns regarding the bases on how they are getting new service members and family in and out. He can speak to this for the Marine Corps, they have not had an impact. They did have a shift to the right, for their Permanent Change of Station (PCS) season, however they do have all of their Commanders coming in on schedule, to include their troops. They have seen a small spike in the COVID numbers. This is specific for Eastern NC and Onslow County. The Base is ramping up its media campaign thru COMSTRAT to re-emphasis the 3 W's. They want to ensure that the Marines are staying safe. He knows in Onslow County; the hospital is reaching near capacity for ICU. However, on Base, the

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Naval Hospital is not close to capacity. They are doing well which is a contribution to the fact that their demographic is young and healthy. So, if someone does get sick, they get over it relatively quickly. The NCCC agenda will be sent out soon.

INSTALLATION UPDATE:

Seymour Johnson Air Force Base: No update

Cherry Point/ Camp Lejeune David Myers gave an update for Camp Lejeune. He said that Congressman Walker was there last weekend. David Meyers talked to MajGen Michael Cederholm and he said the visit went very well. Chairman Bottorff said that if you have not been to Cherry Point it is a very good tour. Then they start to realize what all is happening in Eastern NC Fleet Readiness Center (FRC) is always an eye opener as the largest industrial center east of I-95. Their employment total is over 4000 and the number of Engineers is impressive.

Coast Guard: No update

NEW BUSINESS: FRANK BOTTORFF

Chairman Bottorff asked the committee members if there had any new business? This is an interesting time before an election. He knows that from the new business side there is a Wind Project that is starting to be discussed and may go through the State process. We will need to keep our eye on this Wind topic and how that will fit into compatibility. When we talk about protecting the military training areas in the State and the Congressmen may not be familiar with the military mission footprint, it will be worth our time to have a copy of that map. Then you can see between the ranges, restricted areas, whiskey areas and low levels, how much of Eastern NC is covered by a web of military training areas. Protecting that is virtually important to the future of NC.

WRAP UP: CHAIRMAN FRANK BOTTORFF

Chairman Bottorff said that we will need to start brainstorming from our standpoint what is important. Clearly Sentinel Landscape is very important and needs our support. We need to think about what else needs to be done to ensure sustainability of the installations that we want to address.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Frank Bottorff asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mayor Allen made a motion to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Dr. Scott LaFevers. Chairman Frank Bottorff adjourned the meeting at 10:20 am.