

**COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS****Monday, April 21, 2003****5:15 P.M.**

The Honorable Columbus County Commissioners met on the above stated date and at the above stated time in the Dempsey B. Herring Courthouse Annex Building located at 112 West Smith Street, Whiteville, North Carolina, for the purpose of holding two (2) scheduled Public Hearings and for their regular scheduled meeting on the third Monday.

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

C.E. "Gene" Wilson, **Chairman**  
 Bill Memory, **Vice Chairman**  
 David L. Dutton, Jr.  
 Kipling Godwin  
 Sammie Jacobs  
 Amon E. McKenzie  
 Lynwood Norris

**APPOINTEES PRESENT:**

Billy Joe Farmer, **County Administrator**  
 James E. Hill, Jr., **County Attorney**  
 Darren L. Currie, **Assistant County Administrator**  
 June B. Hall, **Clerk to Board**

**1<sup>ST</sup> PUBLIC HEARING: RURAL OPERATING ASSISTANCE (ROAP) APPLICATION**

At 5:15 P.M., Chairman Wilson called the Public Hearing to order and stated the purpose of the Public Hearing was to hear the views and comments from the public regarding the submission of this application to the North Carolina Department of Transportation. Chairman Wilson requested Charlie Patton to make a brief presentation regarding this application. Mr. Patton stated the following:

1. This is an annual grant we apply for every year; **and**
2. We have applied for additional funds for College Rides which was very successful last year.

Chairman Wilson asked if anyone had any comments they would like to make.

Commissioner McKenzie asked Charlie Patton, Director of Columbus County Transportation, to explain what did College Ride in his presentation mean. Mr. Patton replied stating that he had applied for additional monies this year to provide rides to the college for one and 00/100 (\$1.00) dollar. He stated this program had worked very well the year before. There were no other additional comments.

**CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING:**

At 5:19 P.M., Commissioner Norris made a motion to close the Public Hearing, seconded by Commissioner Memory. The motion so carried.

**5:30 P.M. - REGULAR SESSION:****MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:**

At 6:30 P.M., Chairman Wilson called to order and delivered the invocation. Everyone in attendance stood and pledged allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

**Agenda Item #3: BOARD MINUTES APPROVAL:**

Commissioner Norris made a motion to approve the following Board Minutes as recorded, seconded by Commissioner Godwin. The motion so carried.

1. April 3, 2003, **6:30 P.M.**, Public Hearing - Nakina Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department;
2. April 3, 2003, **7:00 P.M.**, Public Hearing - Nakina Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department;  
**and**
3. April 7, 2003 Regular Scheduled Board Meeting Minutes.

**Agenda Item #4: CHAF PROGRAM UPDATE:**

Floyd Adams, The Adams Company, Incorporated, presented the following update on the Columbus County CHAF Program.

## CHAF Program

Previous  
04-04-03

TOTAL HOUSES			491		
<b>Houses Inspected</b>			491		
Replacement		295			294
Repair		196			197
<b>Repair Work</b>			196		
Work Write-up	0			0	
Bids Complete, Not Awarded	0			0	
Board Awarded, No Construction	18			21	
Title Opinion NOT Requested		0			0
Waiting on Title Opinion		0			0
Waiting on Prom.Note/D.O.T.		3			3
Waiting on Contractor		15			18
Under Construction	25			25	
Complete	153			151	
<b>Replacement Work</b>			295		
Work Write-up	1			0	
Board Awarded, No Construction	26			31	
Title Opinion NOT Requested		6			6
Waiting on Title Opinion		5			5
N.O.E. Not Sent		4			4
Waiting on Client		11			16
Under Construction	86			83	
Complete	182			180	
<b>Not Visited</b>			0	0	
<b>Legal Work</b>					
Total Titles NOT Requested		6		6	
Total Titles Requested		485		485	
Titles Requested, Not Complete		5		5	
Preliminary Title Complete		70		78	
Prom. Note/D.O.T. Requested, Not Signed		34		30	
Prom. Note/D.O.T. Recorded		376		372	

**CHAF - REQUEST for FUNDS to be FORWARDED to WAKE COUNTY:**

Chairman Wilson stated that Columbus County had been contacted by Theresa Davis who states she was deemed eligible for FEMA funds at that time, but since has relocated to Wake County. She is requesting that these funds be forwarded to her for use in Wake County.

After discussion was conducted among the Board members, Commissioner Norris made a motion to disallow funds being forwarded to Theresa Davis in Wake County, seconded by Commissioner Memory. The motion so carried.

**Agenda Item #5: CDBG #03-C-1089 (CONCENTRATED NEEDS GRANT):**

Floyd Adams, The Adams Company, Incorporated, requested Board approval of the following twelve (12) documents for the continuation of the CDBG #03-C-1089 Concentrated Needs Grant:

1. Grant Project Ordinance 2003 CDBG Program County of Columbus;
2. Resolution by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Columbus; (**Administration**)
3. Resolution by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Columbus; (**Engineering**)
4. Resolution by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Columbus; (**519**)
5. Flood Plain Certification County of Columbus 2003 CDBG Project;
6. Advisory Committee Resolution by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Columbus; (**Project Advisory**)
7. Residential Anti-Displacement and Relocation Assistance Plan for the 2003 CDBG Program of the County of Columbus;
8. Community Development Block Grant Program Citizen Participation Plan County of Columbus;

9. Section 3 Plan for Employment Opportunities for Businesses and Lower Income Persons County of Columbus 2003 CDBG Program;
10. Equal Employment and Procurement Plan County of Columbus 2003 CDBG Program;
11. Program Policies 2003 CDBG Program County of Columbus; and
12. Optional Coverage Relocation Plan Community Development Program.

Commissioner Dutton made a motion to approve the above listed twelve (12) documents for the continuation of the CDBG #03-C-1089 Concentrated Needs Grant, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie. The motion so carried.

**Agenda Item #6: SHERIFF - APPROVAL of the PROPOSAL and ACCEPTANCE SUBMITTED by BILL WORLEY and SONS GENERAL CONTRACTORS:**

Gail Edwards, Administrative Assistant, requested Board approval of the Proposal and Acceptance submitted by Bill Worley and Sons General Contractors in the amount of eighty-five thousand and 00/100 (\$85,00.00) dollars for the 60' x 125' x 16' steel building at the Sheriff's Department. Ms. Edwards informed the Board that seventy-five thousand and 00/100 (\$75,000.00) dollars had been approved by the Board on February 17, 2003 and the remaining money would be derived from drug funds. The Bid Opening was held on May 27, 2003 and Bill Worley and Sons General Contractors was the low bidder.

Commissioner Norris made a motion to approve the Proposal and Acceptance submitted by Bill Worley and Sons General Contractors, seconded by Commissioner Memory. The motion so carried.

**Agenda Item #7: FARMERS MARKET - LEASE APPROVAL:**

Darren Currie, Assistant County Administrator, requested Board approval of the following Lease between Columbus County and the Columbus County Community Farmer's Market, Incorporated.

(Insert)

Commissioner Dutton made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Memory. The motion so carried.

Commissioner Kipling Godwin thanked Commissioner Memory and Commissioner McKenzie for their help in reaching a workable resolve between the two (2) parties.

**Agenda Item #8: PROCLAMATION - NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK APRIL 27 - MAY 3, 2003:**

Annie Hayes, Interim Director of CCAVE, requested Board approval and adoption of the following Proclamation.

**NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK  
April 27- May 3, 2003**

WHEREAS, the spirit of volunteerism has been a long standing tradition in America. The history of this great State of North Carolina and Columbus County reflects the efforts of men, women and youth who gave of themselves for no other reason than the satisfaction of helping others; and

WHEREAS, by putting the special needs and interest of others before their own, volunteers work to better the world and to improve the quality of life for those around them. Their tremendous endeavors help to brighten the lives and the hearts of the people they help; and

WHEREAS, volunteer centers strive to preserve and enhance the tradition of volunteerism by providing an abundance of resources to our communities; and

WHEREAS, many Columbus County organizations, including American Red Cross, CCAVE Volunteer Center, Boy & Girl Scouts, Civic Clubs, Communities in Schools, Cooperative Extension, DREAM Center, Family CHAMPIONS, Health Department, Hospice, Hospital, Literacy Council, Retired Senior Volunteer Program; Vocational Rehabilitation and many more benefit from the services rendered by volunteers; and

WHEREAS, volunteer centers help individuals, groups and others find rewarding

experiences; assist with training for volunteer management; recognize volunteer accomplishments; and assist local employers in developing dynamic workplace programs; and

THEREFORE, in special recognition of OUR VOLUNTEERS, the Columbus County Board of County Commissioners, does hereby proclaim the week of **April 27- May 3, 2003** as the special week for VOLUNTEERS in Columbus County in celebration of NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK. We encourage all county citizens to join us in honoring these outstanding volunteers for their many distinguished achievements.

**ADOPTED** this 21<sup>st</sup> day of April, 2003.

**COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**BY: /s/ C.E. Wilson, Chairman**

**ATTESTED BY:**

**/s/ JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board**

Commissioner Godwin made a motion to approve and adopt the National Volunteer Week April 27 - May 3, 2003 Proclamation, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie. The motion so carried.

**Agenda Item #9: APPOINTMENT - SOUTHEASTERN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION:**

Pamela Bostic, Research Analyst for Southeastern Economic Development Commission, requested reappointment and/or appointment for Zone 1 on this committee. Commissioner Amon E. McKenzie reappointed Leo Mercer for a four (4) year term with term expiring April 1, 2007.

**Agenda Item #10: TAX - APPROVAL of REQUEST for the DEVELOPMENT of TAX COLLECTION COMPREHENSIVE PLAN:**

Commissioner Kipling Godwin requested Board approval to request Richard Gore, Columbus County Tax Administrator, to develop a comprehensive plan to increase the property tax and motor vehicle tax collection rates to the State average.

Commissioner Godwin informed the Board he had spoken to Richard Gore, Tax Administrator, regarding this matter and that Richard Gore was preparing a report to present to the Board at the May 19, 2003 Meeting. I have provided information regarding some things to do to improve collection rates relative to the following: specific targets, specific ideas and for property tax and vehicle tax.

Commissioner McKenzie asked if the Board had appointed Commissioner Godwin to execute this task. The response from the Board was no. Commissioner McKenzie stated that it was his opinion the Board should discuss matters of this nature before time.

Commissioner Godwin made a motion to approve the request for the development of a Tax Collection Comprehensive Plan, seconded by Commissioner Memory.

After lengthy discussion was conducted among the Board members, a role call vote was taken with the following results:

**AYES:** Commissioners Jacobs, Norris, Wilson, Memory, Godwin and Dutton  
**NAYS:** Commissioner McKenzie

**Agenda Item #11: CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:**

Commissioner Norris made a motion to approve the following Consent Agenda Items, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie. The motion so carried.

## A. Budget Amendments:

TYPE	ACCOUNT	DETAILS	AMOUNT
Expenditure	10-690-9515	Lumber River COG	\$5,000
	10-660-9999	Contingency	(\$5,000)
Expenditure	10-611-1300	Medicaid	(\$171,755)
	10-610-7400	Capital Outlay	\$171,155
	10-610-3200	Office Supplies	\$600
Expenditure	10-700-9610	Adoption Incentive	\$27,595
Revenue	10-399-0000	Fund Balance Appropriation	\$27,595
Expenditure	10-430-7400	Capital Outlay	(\$1,500)
	10-599-4500	Contract Services	(\$800)
	10-599-3600	Uniforms	(\$500)
	10-599-2600	Advertising	(\$200)
	10-613-3570	M/R Communication Equipment	(\$200)
	10-506-7300	Improvements	(\$5,700)
	10-506-7400	Capital Outlay	\$8,900
Expenditure (Agenda Add-on)	10-520-1600	M/R Equipment	(\$5,000)
	10-510-0400	Professional Services	(\$12,000)
	10-510-0900	Unemployment Insurance	(\$5,000)
	10-510-1100	Telephone	(\$2,000)
	10-510-1600	M/R Equipment	(\$2,000)
	10-510-1800	M/R Radios	(\$2,500)
	10-510-3200	Office Supplies	(\$2,000)
	10-510-3300	Departmental Supplies	(\$5,000)
	10-520-4600	Medical & Drug Expense	30,000
	10-520-4700	Safekeeping - Raleigh	\$43,500
Revenue	10-358-0000	Jail Fees - Raleigh	\$38,000

## B. Tax Refunds and Releases:

**TAX REFUNDS (as submitted to Administration from the Tax Office):**  
**April 21, 2003**

Request a refund in the name of Brown, Alfred L., 3910 Old Stage Rd., Riegelwood,, NC 28456. Refund the property value and the Acme Delco Fire fee that is double listed in the name of Phoebe Brown. Amount \$26.90, Value \$3,300.00, Year 1998, Account # 15-04620, Bill # 40703.

Request a refund in the name of Brown, Alfred L., 3910 Old Stage Rd., Riegelwood,, NC 28456. Refund the property value and the Acme Delco Fire fee that is double listed in the name of Phoebe Brown. Amount \$26.90, Value \$3,300.00, Year 1999, Account # 15-04620, Bill # 2205.

Request a refund in the name of Brown, Alfred L., 3910 Old Stage Rd., Riegelwood,, NC 28456. Refund the property value and the Acme Delco Fire fee that is double listed in the name of Phoebe Brown. Amount \$27.72, Value \$3,300.00, Year 2000, Account # 15-04620, Bill # 83064.

Request a refund in the name of Brown, Alfred L., 3910 Old Stage Rd., Riegelwood,, NC 28456.

Refund the property value, the Acme Delco Fire fee (3.96) and the Columbus Rescue fee (.66). Property is double listed in the name of Phoebe Brown. Amount \$30.36, Value \$3,300.00, Year 2001, Account # 15-04620, Bill # 83105.

Request a refund in the name of Brown, Alfred L., 3910 Old Stage Rd., Riegelwood, NC 28456. Refund the property value, the Acme Delco Fire fee (3.96) and the Columbus Rescue fee (.66). The property is double listed in the name of Phoebe Brown. Amount \$30.36, Value \$3,300.00, Year 2002, Account # 15-04620, Bill # 60638.

**TAX RELEASES (as submitted to Administration from the Tax Office):  
April 21, 2003**

Release the Property Value in the name of Pridgen, Jennifer. Release the value of a boat and the Columbus Rescue fee. The boat was sold in 1998. Amount \$24.13, Value \$2,742.00, Year 2002, Account # 10-02348, Bill # 86660.

Release the Property Value in the name of Powell, Kale M.. Release the value of a mobile home for the town of Cerro Gordo. The home is outside the town limits of Cerro Gordo. Amount \$13.31, Value \$6,048.00, Year 2002, Account # 16-12340, Bill # 4592.

Release the Property Value in the name of Nobles, Gary B.. Release a portion of the boat value and a portion of the Columbus Rescue fee. The boat was billed with the incorrect value. Amount \$22.96, Value \$2,871.00, Year 2002, Account # 01-02521, Bill # 84080.

Release the Property Value in the name of Moore, Jack. Release the value of a mobile home that was listed in the name of Jack Moore in error. Amount \$224.23, Value \$16,250.00, Year 1997, Account # 15-27651, Bill # 67365.

Release the Property Value in the name of Mitchell, Richard W.. Release the value of a mobile home, the St. James Fire fee (5.17) and the Columbus Rescue fee (1.72). Home was traded for a double wide and it has been listed. Amount \$258.54, Value \$8,620.00, Year 2002, Account # 08-13297, Bill # 82817.

Release the Property Value in the name of Mitchell, Richard W.. Release the value of a mobile home and the Columbus Rescue fee. Home was traded for a double wide and it has been listed. Amount \$245.61, Value \$9,160.00, Year 2001, Account # 08-13297, Bill # 4882.

Release the Property Value in the name of McPherson, Hugh Jr.. Release the value of a mobile home, the North Whiteville Fire fee (25.00) and the Columbus Rescue fee (1.34). Home is double listed in the name of Jason Dorsey. Amount \$261.14, Value \$6,720.00, Year 2002, Account # 05-04279, Bill # 81740.

Release the Property Value in the name of Lewis, Joe. Release the value of an old house and the Whiteville Rescue fee. The house was removed from the property in 2000. Amount \$201.00, Value \$3,000.00, Year 2002, Account # 03-13200, Bill # 79124.

Release the Property Value in the name of Evans, Joyce B.. Release the value of a mobile home that was destroyed by a hurricane prior to 2000. Amount \$257.61, Value \$9,160.00, Year 2002, Account # 03-06675, Bill # 67725.

Release the Property Value in the name of Carroll, Robert R. Jr.. Release the value of a mobile home that was turned into Greenpoint in November 2001. Amount \$295.36, Value \$13,450.00, Year 2002, Account # 15-08841, Bill # 62802.

Release the Property Value in the name of Butler, Eddie C.. Release the value of a boat and the Columbus Rescue fee. The boat burned in 1997. Amount \$5.59, Value \$634.00, Year 2002, Account # 13-06035, Bill # 62008.

Release the Property Value in the name of Brown, Agnes W.. Release the value of a house that burned prior to 2002. Amount \$173.68, Value \$22,267.00, Year 2002, Account # 15-04920, Bill # 60632.

**Agenda Item #12: COMMENTS:**

**A. Public:**

Bobby Sessions extended thanks to the County Commissioners for endorsing the Farmer's Market.

**B. Board of Commissioners:**

Commissioner Wilson requested the Board to set a dollar amount to be expended for the strawberry auction. After discussion was conducted among the board members, it was the general consensus of the Board to set three hundred fifty and 00/100 (\$350.00) dollars to be expended at the strawberry auction and to appoint Commissioner David L. Dutton, Jr. to bid on the strawberries.

**Agenda Item #12: ADJOURNMENT:**

At 5:55 P.M., Commissioner Norris made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Jacobs. The motion so carried.

**2<sup>nd</sup> PUBLIC HEARING: REQUEST for a VARIANCE to the COLUMBUS COUNTY FLOOD DAMAGE PREVENTION ORDINANCE:**

At 6:30 P.M., Chairman Wilson called the Public Hearing to order which was recessed at the March 17, 2003 Public Hearing and scheduled for completion on April 21, 2003, and stated the purpose of the Public Hearing was to hear orderly comments from the public regarding the request for a variance to the Columbus County Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance. Chairman Wilson requested James E. Hill, Jr., Columbus County Attorney, give a brief refresher on how this public hearing would be conducted. Mr. Hill stated the following:

1. The persons who signed up at the March 17, 2003 Public Hearing and did not get a chance to speak will be allowed four (4) minutes to make their presentation.
2. The persons speaking will be taken in the order in which they signed up.
3. This Public Hearing will be conducted in an orderly manner.
4. The subject matter in your presentation must address one (1) or all of the four (4) conditions listed below:
  - A. The use serves a critical need in the community;
  - B. No feasible location exists for the use outside the area of special flood hazard;
  - C. The lowest floor of any structure is elevated above the base flood elevation or is designed to be watertight with walls substantially impermeable to the passage of water and with structural components capable of resisting hydrostatic and hydrodynamic loads and the effects of buoyancy; **and**
  - D. The use complies with all other applicable laws and regulations.

After Attorney Hill completed the instructions of how the Public Hearing was to be conducted, the following citizens made their presentations.

1. **Gean Seay (Signup #14):** I am co-founder of Swamp Watch and I am here to discuss your allowing this unbelievable mountain of garbage to be constructed, not only in a wetland over unprotected aquifers but now, to construct it in a floodplain. I would like to speak to those of you who continue to endorse this landfill as follows:
  - A. You did not care about the impact to wildlife;
  - B. You did not care about the impact to Lake Waccamaw and its outstanding resource water;
  - C. You did not care about the wetlands; **and**
  - D. You did not care about contaminating the Waccamaw River and the groundwater of Columbus, Brunswick and Horry Counties.

I would like to inform each and everyone of you that elected officials within a state may be sued personally and individually for abuses committed during and in the capacity of their tenure in office - and taxpayers' money may NOT be used by the official in his or her defense. Each of you should consider the significance of our valuable natural resources and try to preserve them.

2. **Melba Edwards (Signup #15):** I am president of the Carolina's Commercial Fisherman's Association and a member of the Brunswick County Marine Fisheries Advisory Board. I am also a commercial fisherman and a farmer. The run-off from the waste site will end up in Lockwood Folly and the Shallotte and Waccamaw River acturaries which will directly affect shell fish in Brunswick County. Many of our residents depend on this type fishing for their livelihood. I am asking you to not grant this variance and start recycling. Columbus County is a beautiful county and I do not think you want to damage that image. I am asking you to please reconsider.

3. **David Jones (Signup #18):** As Mayor of Wilmington, I know each of you have been placed in a difficult position in making this decision. Columbus County is a beautiful place and I have chosen to make several investments in the Lake Waccamaw area. I know that the pressure is on economically but please everyone know that Columbus County is not for sale. I would hate to see Columbus County become a dumping ground for the eastern part of North Carolina. I truly believe each and everyone of you will dwell on this matter and make the right decision.
4. **Cindy Evans (Signup #16):** I reside in Brunswick County which is downstream from the proposed site. Each one of you took oaths of office to defend and uphold the law and this certainly is neither. There are other means to handle garbage. If you should choose to grant this variance, you will certainly defile the water which is against the law. In the handouts I have provided to you, it states that State officers may be held personally liable for damage under 42 U.S.C. 1983 based upon actions taken in their official capacity, whether they act in accordance with their authority or misuse it. I am asking you to give this matter careful consideration and deny this variance.
5. **Lonnie Fox (Signup #19):** I am a resident of Lake Waccamaw. The conditions that are stipulated in G.S. 143-215.54 will not have been met if this variance is granted. We have access to Sampson County's Landfill and will continue to have access long after this proposed landfill has to close. The answer is not a regional landfill. If the decision is to build a landfill, it needs to be a county landfill. I have seen no scientific evidence to support the legitimate granting of this variance. I am asking each of you to please reconsider granting this variance.
6. **Jack Council (Signup #21):** Riegel Ridge has asked for and been given permission to build a very large trash dump in the Green Swamp and in addition, asking the Commissioners to grant a Floodplain Variance. If this is executed, it would lead to more traffic congestion and contamination to our natural resources. A landfill of this magnitude is not needed in Columbus County. If a landfill is to be built, we need a county landfill with one (1) or two (2) neighboring counties joining in and to be operated by them. We do not need trash from hundreds of miles away being transported into Columbus County and destroying our natural resources. I am asking you to deny the floodplain variance and to look into building our own landfill.
7. **Mason B. Malpass (Signup #22):** Riegel Ridge has not and cannot produce evidence to justify construction of a Regional Landfill in a flood plain. I have detected many discrepancies in the information that has been supplied by the engineering firm and the information supplied by Mr. Coffey of the Solid Waste Section. Commissioners do not assume the identity of office, therefore, you are open to being sued individually and thus not defended at taxpayer's expense.
8. **Graves Lewis (Signup #23):** I wish to thank you for allowing me to speak at this Public Hearing. I would like for you Commissioners to answer the questions in the letter that was sent to you and published in The News Reporter and made available to the citizens of Columbus County before you make your final decision on this variance. In view of the possible disasters that could occur from heavy rains, numerous hog lagoons located throughout Columbus County and the placement of Riegel Ridge Landfill, I am asking you to deny the granting of this request for a Flood Plain Variance by Riegel Ridge.
9. **Virginia F. Lewis (Signup #24):** I am a lifetime resident of Columbus County and a long time resident of Lake Waccamaw and would like to express my concern in regards to the location of a regional landfill in the Green Swamp area. In 1999, a law was passed to prohibit the placing of a landfill in a floodplain area and then later a law was passed giving the public officials in office the authority to grant a variance for such if deemed appropriate. I am requesting you to deny this request for the following reasons:
  - A. Common sense teaches you that this is not an appropriate location;
  - B. Columbus County needs a landfill but not a regional landfill which would attract unnecessary problems;
  - C. If a regional landfill is allowed to be developed, this would lead to many environmental problems;
  - D. You should preserve and maintain the natural beauty and rare species of plants and animals located in the Green Swamp;
  - E. You should not be fooled by the dollars this would bring to Columbus County which



- would lead to greater costs for cleanup in the future; and  
 F. This is not a practical and good environmental thing to do.

I am requesting that you, as a Board, to go to the drawing board and reconsider.

10. **Shelia Moore (Signup #25):** I live downstream and I would like for all of you to realize what a detrimental effect the placing of a regional landfill would have on the Green Swamp. It is our source of water and if preserved like it should be, could easily make Columbus County richer. If this regional landfill is allowed to be constructed, it will definitely compromise our air quality, our transportation means will be challenged to the limits, the tourist level will be compromised and our ancestral burial grounds. Two (2) states and the surrounding counties will be affected by this action. I have requested the Attorney General to launch an investigation as to why you, as a Board, are not listening to the numerous citizens which have expressed major concern. I am asking you to not allow greed and power come into play when making your decision.
11. **Reverend Mac Legerton (Signup #28):** I am the Executive Director of the Center for Community Action in Robeson County. I am submitting a two (2) page concept for the record entitled "The Economic Future of Southeastern North Carolina" which reads as follows:

### **The Economic Future of Southeastern NC.**

#### **A Concept Paper Published by the Center For Community Action**

The economic future of Southeastern N.C is directly tied to the promotion and protection of its greatest resource -the significant biodiversity of the region that is grounded in the presence of its massive wetlands and river basins. Our rivers and swamplands are our greatest resources on which to build a new, sustainable economy in Southeastern N.C: that supports the present and future of our people, our communities, and the places in which we live in this special part of N. C. If our hundreds of swamps were mountains with our rivers running through them, we would more readily see their natural support for economic strategies of eco-tourism, environmental education, outdoor adventure, and a craft industry based on the utilization of our natural and cultural diversity.

#### **Economic Issues and Solid Waste Management**

Many reasons have been given to support the regional landfill proposal. One major reason has been the present cost of waste management services in Columbus County and the county's need for new and additional revenues. Rural communities across N.C., the nation and the world are struggling with these same issues and many others that are placing more financial burdens and pressures on local governments. For many reasons, the most successful and demonstrated solution to lowering the present cost of waste management Columbus County would be to develop a landfill that would also utilize creative strategies to reduce waste management costs and generate additional income. Many communities across the nation are recycling waste products and re-selling them, reducing landfill costs and providing additional income. New plans and experiments in methane gas collection at landfills in South Carolina and across the nation are resulting in additional income being provided by the byproduct of landfill themselves, resulting in funds from the sale of the methane gas as a source of alternative energy. A planned landfill that is also a demonstration project for experimental and creative solid waste management practices would be eligible for major funding from state, federal, and private sources that support new solutions to the growing problem of the cost of solid waste management problem in financially-strapped, rural areas.

#### **Economic Development Issues and Alternatives**

A second reason that has been raised in support of the regional landfill proposal has been the need for additional income for the county. Many rural counties that are losing manufacturing and agricultural jobs and income are asking the same question. In Robeson County, where we have lost more jobs in the last 10 years than any other N.C. county, we are utilizing many new long-term strategies, including the well-known CoinTech, a 500-acre business and educational development center. We are also in the planning phase for the 2003 development of an EcoTourism Committee to develop strategies on how to utilize our 50 swamps and river to expand local recreational use and broaden the tourism-base of our county's economy. The Center For Community Action, in which I serve as Executive Director, has purchased 4 acres of land directly on the Lumber River and has started "River Way", an environmental center and youth camp with kayaking and nature studies of the Lumber River Basin. In the field of economic development, a plan that protects and promotes local natural and human resources is now being called sustainable development. A plan to develop a regional landfill, irregardless of its location (but particularly given the proposed Columbus County

site in a swamp) falls into the category of unsustainable, under-development.

With the interest already expressed throughout the Southeastern Region, our hope is that we can develop a Southeastern Regional Eco-Tourism Committee with representation throughout the Region. With its locations near Wilmington and Myrtle Beach, Columbus County is in a prime position to review its ecological assets and resources, including Lake Waccamaw - the largest Carolina Bay on earth - and build new economic strategies to responsibly utilize, develop, and publicize its natural resources while supporting its people at the same time. Combined with other strategies such as small business development and affordable housing initiatives, Columbus County can grow and develop its economy without placing either its place or people at risk.

### **One County Landfills**

There are demonstrated social, political, economic, environmental, and ethical grounds and issues that support the standard governmental policy and practice of having local county governments manage their own solid waste and only their own solid waste. The rationale is that those who produce the waste need to be responsible for managing their own waste. This position is based on these demonstrated outcomes:

The more localized the level of responsibility, the more possibility that citizens will develop waste management policies and practices that are safe and protect their people and the place where they live.

When communities and counties are allowed to export their waste, they are less likely to develop responsible waste management procedures to "reduce, reuse, and recycle" and they are less likely to care about the harm that a larger facility will have on a community and environment that is not their own.

### **The Local, State, and National Precedent**

The proposal of a landfill of any size in a swamp is retrogressive and neglectful of the scientific and ethical knowledge that humans have gained across the earth about our potential to destroy our local habitats. The siting of any landfill in a swamp, and particularly a landfill on the massive scale as proposed in Columbus County, is setting a very bad precedent and model for development for local communities and communities across our state and nation. Others know us by the way in which we live and the models of life and living that we promote. The dumping of even one bag of trash -no matter how non-toxic we believe it to be -in a swamp is not a very honorable or respectful model of living to exemplify and promote. The building of a solid waste landfill in such a site makes such a model of living even more reprehensible.

For more information, contact the Center For Community Action, P.O. Box 723, Lumberton, N. C. 28359 Telephone: 910-739-7851; email: [cca@carolina.net](mailto:cca@carolina.net)

12. **Susan Council (Signup #30):** I grew up at Lake Waccamaw and also reside there today and we have a great eco-system which needs to be preserved. I am in great opposition of this variance. This project does not meet the legal tests imposed by the General Assembly. To grant a variance would not be in the best interest of the public. The Green Swamp and its partners - Lake Waccamaw, the Lumber River and Waccamaw Rivers are our greatest economic resource and we should all try and preserve this great natural resource. The public interest will be met by preserving a beautiful place as a magnet for small business and for tourists. I am urging you to deny this request for a variance.
13. **Grady Simmons (Signup #32):** I live on the edge of the Green Swamp and have resided in this same area my entire life. I know the Green Swamp well and have traveled through the area on many occasions. The underlying surface of earth is unstable and is in layers and it will shift. When the heavy mounds of soil are placed in the Green Swamp by the contractors erecting this landfill, no one has been able to determine how much it will sink and at what point it will cease to sink. In addition to the mounding of soil will be the buildings, paving of roads, weigh scale system and the ever increasing mounds of garbage. At this point, no engineer has been able to determine the stability of the foundation of this location and to what degree shifting may occur. I truly believe this is not a feasible location for a landfill to be located and we need to preserve one of the greatest natural resources that is in the State.
14. **Virginia Lane (Signup #33):** I was born in 1932 and have been a lifelong resident of Columbus County. I have six (6) children and twenty-five (25) grandchildren who reside in

Columbus County. I have done some calculations based on the figures Mr. Drietzler supplied at the last hearing that was held. Based on 1500 tons of trash per day and 5 days a week, the tonnage was of a staggering magnitude. This amount of garbage placed on an unstable foundation such as what is located in the Green Swamp could have unpredictable results. Riegel Ridge is the only one who would agree to supply Columbus County with a Host Agreement. If you should decide to go along with allowing this landfill to be placed in the Green Swamp, you will definitely be challenged. In the past, our garbage needs have been met. We presently have nearby counties who are competing for our garbage business. The Sampson County Landfill will still be in operation long after the life of the proposed Riegel Ridge Landfill. Riegel Ridge has stated losses if this project is not completed, but they gambled on a possibility and if they are not pleased with the law that has been established, then they should take this matter up with the public officials on a higher level.

15. **Stephen Smith (Signup #35):** I am a property owner on the northeast shore of Lake Waccamaw. I urge you not to grant a variance to the Floodplains Ordinance to Riegel Ridge, LLC which would move them closer to developing their proposed solid waste regional landfill in the Green Swamp. This project does not meet a critical need. According to the North Carolina Division of Waste Management, Columbus County actually has seen a twenty-three (23%) decrease in our trash tonnage since 1992. How can one set of County Commissioners identify a critical regional need, when other counties have gone on record as being opposed to the project? I have lived in Columbus County nearly thirty (30) years and I have never heard as much about developing the ecotourism aspects of Columbus County as I have during this past year. The Waccamaw Drainage Basin, comprised of the Green Swamp, Lake Waccamaw, the Waccamaw River and other tributaries, will be the focal point of any serious ecotourism economic development in Columbus County. This proposed regional solid waste landfill runs totally counter to ecotourism. The Green Swamp is not the only feasible site for this landfill. In 1994, it was determined to be unsuitable and how can it be suitable at this point in time. I urge you to consider an alternative plan such as a much smaller local landfill located elsewhere, but not in the Green Swamp. I understand you have a difficult decision to make, but the local citizens and public officials downstream have made it clear they do not support you in locating this landfill in the Green Swamp. I urge you to not grant this project a variance to the Floodplains Ordinance.
16. **Margie Jacobs (Signup #36):** I am a member of the Waccamaw Siouan Tribe. I have not brought any statistical information with me tonight. I am here speaking up for the truth which is uncommon among our tribe. I would like for each one of you to take the information that has been supplied to you and render a sound decision for the citizens of Columbus County. I have discovered that the whole truth regarding this matter has not been told. The information is not being supplied to the local citizens. I am here tonight to speak on behalf of the disabled elderly citizens and any other citizens who could not be present at this meeting. I would like to be able to pass onto my children and grandchildren our most precious heritage of which I am proud. I do not want our future children to ride through the Green Swamp and see tremendous mounds of garbage. I would like for you as County Commissioners to take the information and facts that you have been provided and make a honest and fair decision for the citizens of Columbus County and I feel sure that you will do just that.
17. **Yvonne Miller (Signup #37):** I would like to voice my concerns in regard to the variance being sought by Riegel Ridge in their quest to circumvent the fact that part of their proposed site will inevitably fall within the North Carolina Flood Plain district. Of the four (4) conditions that will have to be met in order for this county to grant this variance, two (2) have yet to be convincingly addressed by you, the County Commissioners. Secondly, there is the subject of the engineering and design of a landfill on this site. Last, but not least, I would like to leave you with a few new items to think about. By asking us to condone the placement of a regional landfill at the proposed Green Swamp site, you are asking us to quietly sit by and allow a potentially huge Weapon of Mass Destruction to be placed in our home area. You are also asking us to meekly accept the fact that this landfill may very well be waging chemical and biological warfare on our water sources, hunting and fishing grounds, and recreational areas by placing millions of tons of solid waste in the middle of our Green Swamp. I am a resident of Lake Waccamaw in Columbus County and I will not sit by quietly while this environmental farce is attempted.

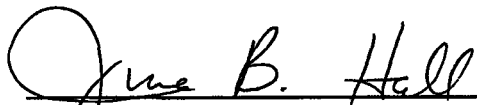
**NOTE:** Of the twenty-eight people who had signed up to speak at this Public Hearing, seventeen (17) people spoke and we had eleven (11) people who were no shows. They were as follows:

<u>SIGNUP #</u>	<u>NAME</u>
12	Fuzzy Spivey
13	Alexis Spivey
17	Dale Little
20	Peggy Meinzer
26	Lynn Cain
27	C.C. Russ
29	Mike Smith
31	Sabrina Jacobs
34	Clarence Ward
38	Doug Lewis
39	James D. Sutherland

**CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING:**

After all the people had spoken who had signed up to speak and who were present, at 7:40 P.M. the Public Hearing was closed.

**APPROVED:**

  
JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

  
C.E. WILSON, Chairman