

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**Monday, September 15, 2014****6:30 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 conducting their regularly scheduled meeting on the third Monday.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

P. Edwin Russ, **Chairman**
 Trent Burroughs, **Vice Chairman**
 Amon E. McKenzie
 James E. Prevatte
 Giles E. Byrd
 Ricky Bullard
 Charles T. McDowell

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

William S. Clark, **County Manager**
 Mike Stephens, **County Attorney**
 June B. Hall, **Clerk to Board**
 Bobbie Faircloth, **Finance Officer**

Agenda Items #1, #2 and #3:**MEETING CALLED to ORDER, INVOCATION and PLEDGE of ALLEGIANCE:**

At 6:30 P.M., Chairman P. Edwin Russ called the September 15, 2014 Columbus County Board of Commissioners Regular Session Meeting to order. The invocation was delivered by Commissioner Ricky Bullard. Everyone in attendance stood and pledged Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America which was led by Commissioner Charles T. McDowell.

AGENDA ADD-ON:

Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to approve the following Agenda Add-on to be Agenda Item #4-A, seconded by Commissioner Bullard. The motion unanimously passed.

Economic Development - Public Hearing Date and Time: Gary Lanier, Economic Development / Planning Director, is requesting the Board to establish October 06, 2014, at 7:00 P.M., for a Public Hearing to be held on a Economic Development Grant to assist in the purchase of Carolina Southern Railroad.

Agenda Item #4: PRESENTATION - RETIREMENT PLAQUE:

In the absence of Barbara McLaughlin, Chairman Russ orally read the following retirement plaque for her many years of employment with Columbus County.

PRESENTED TO***BARBARA McLAUGHLIN***

***IN GRATEFUL APPRECIATION
 FOR YOUR DEDICATION AND LOYALTY
 TO
 COLUMBUS COUNTY DEPARTMENTS
 OF
 SOCIAL SERVICES & AGING***

8-23-1993 - 8-20-2014

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COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Agenda Item #4A: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - PUBLIC HEARING DATE and TIME:

Gary Lanier, Economic Development / Planning Director, requested the Board to establish October 06, 2014, at 7:00 P.M., for a Public Hearing to be held on a Economic Development Grant to assist in the purchase of Carolina Southern Railroad.

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to establish October 06, 2014, at 7:00 P.M., for a Public Hearing to be held on an Economic Development Grant to assist in the purchase of Carolina Southern Railroad, seconded by Commissioner McDowell. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #5: BOARD MINUTES APPROVAL:

Commissioner McDowell made a motion to approve the September 02, 2014 Regular Session Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, seconded by Commissioner Prevatte. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #6: PUBLIC INPUT:

Chairman Russ opened the floor for public input. The following spoke.

Jennifer Holcomb, 605 Hickman Road, Tabor City, NC 28463: stated the following:

1. I am here first to thank you for tabling a motion to purchase vehicles and for looking deeper into that action;
2. I also want to encourage you to set the example for all the people that you represent in Columbus County;
3. I also represent almost four hundred (400) members of the Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Bureau;
4. In that capacity, I have the responsibility of speaking for our business community, and I am also a member of this community;
5. It is important to see our community flourish, and supporting our business community is a way that we can make sure that happens;
6. There are a lot of different factors that go into keeping our money here by shopping local, and one of these factors is the tax base;
7. Keeping our money here has a great impact on being able to provide the needed services for our citizens;
8. One important aspect is community support, and we have a very generous business community in Columbus County, and what they do and they really don't have to;
9. Numerous organizations in Columbus County look to our business community for donations;
10. There is one (1) buzz word that everyone can grab hold of and that is jobs;
11. The citizens look to you, and almost require you, to create jobs in Columbus County, and I know how challenging that is;
12. Keeping your money here is helping to create a job here and saving a job here;
13. Our Chamber is almost ready to launch a hash tag called "Keep It Columbus Campaign" which will speak to a younger demographic about the importance of what happens when they keep their money here;
14. This cannot be done in all situations, but when it can be, you need to do this;
15. If this practice starts from the top, it trickles down; **and**
16. If we can change the spending habits of our citizens, then we can change our county more than anything.

Agenda Item #7: FINANCE - APPROVAL OF REVISION TO INVESTMENT POLICY:

Bobbie Faircloth, Finance Director, requested Board approval of the following revision to the Investment Policy which was duly approved and adopted at the September 21, 2009 Board Meeting.

2. Maximum Maturities

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Present Reading:

To the extent possible, the County shall attempt to match its investments with anticipated cash flow requirements. Unless matched to a specific cash flow, the County will not directly invest in securities maturing more than five (5) years from the date of purchase. The County shall adopt weighted average maturity limitations (which often range from 90 days to 3 years), consistent with the investment objectives.

Revised Reading:

To the extent possible, the County shall attempt to match its investments with anticipated cash flow requirements. Unless matched to a specific cash flow, the County will not directly invest in **fixed rate or adjustable rate** securities maturing more than five (5) years from the date of purchase. **However, for adjustable rate securities, the time to coupon reset will be used in place of maturity, for the purpose of the maturity restriction.** The County shall adopt weighted average maturity limitations (which often range from 90 days to 3 years), consistent with the investment objectives.

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Commissioner Prevatte made a motion to approve the revision to the Investment Policy, on its first reading, seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #8: CAPE FEAR COUNCIL of GOVERNMENTS - PRESENTATION of COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN for TOWN of TABOR CITY:

Allen Serkin, Chief Planner, Cape Fear COG, presented the Transportation Planning for Tabor City to the Board for information. Mr. Serkin stated the following:

1. We have been working on the Tabor City Comprehensive Transportation Plan;
2. D.O.T. has a policy that when they do transportation plans, the old policy was that if you have a thoroughfare plan, then we exclude it from county-wide plan;
3. The county-wide plan which was adopted in 2007 does not include Tabor City or most of the municipalities in Columbus County;
4. To help remedy that, we are going back and we are working with the Town of Tabor City on the new Comprehensive Transportation Plan; **and**
5. I have with me several people from the Department of Transportation, and Suzette Morales will do the bulk of the presentation.

Suzette Morales NCDOT TPB, delivered the following presentation:

1. I have provided to you an information packet for you to look at, at your leisure;
2. I will talk about the process and what we have done so far, and what is going to be coming up;
3. What we want from this Board is a consensus to go and have a public involvement so everyone will know what is going on in the Town of Tabor City;
4. What is a CTP?
 - A CTP identifies future transportation deficiencies, and generates recommendations that decision makers can use to guide future transportation decisions;
 - Long-range fiscally unconstrained, "needs list" for year 2040;
 - Typically takes about eighteen (18) to twenty-four (24) months to complete;
 - Adopted/endorsed at 4 levels:
 - Local (Tabor City)
 - County (Columbus)
 - Regional (RPO)
 - State (NCDOT)
 - Relationship between plans
5. Typical CTP Schedule:
 - Current Year Data
 - Analysis
 - Project Data
 - Analysis/Deficiencies
 - Develop Alternatives
 - Recommended Plan
 - Adoption (Stage we are at now)

- Technical Report
 - Corridor Protection
 - Programming
6. Benefits of CTP:
- Developed cooperatively with Tabor City, Cape Fear RPO and NCDOT
 - Emphasizes incorporating local land use plans and community and statewide goals and objectives
 - NCDOT has implemented a project prioritization process which removes politics from decision making and relies on objective, data-driven analysis and local input for scoring projects
 - Better transportation planning process and project delivery
 - Improved community buyin with a more informed public
 - \$\$ cost savings \$\$
7. What's Next?
- Tabor City Council - review and comments (9/09)
 - Columbus County - review and comments (9/15)
 - Public involvement - review and comments (10/14)
 - Tabor City Council - plan adoption (10/14)
 - Columbus County - plan adoption (10/06 or 10/20)
 - Cape Fear TCC/TAC - review and endorse plan (10/01 and 10/10)
 - NCDOT Board - review and adopt plan (11/06)

Allen Serkin stated the following:

1. On the maps, the gray lines are the planning areas of the CTP, and goes beyond the city limits and the ETJ jurisdictions;
2. That is why we are here before you tonight; **and**
3. We did reference the adopted Comprehensive Transportation Plan for the County, and we have reflected the elements of the County's Transportation Plan into the pieces as they enter the planning boundaries.

MOTION:

Vice Chairman Burroughs made a motion ro proceed with the Tabor City Comprehensive Transportation Plan, seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #9: FIRE and RESCUE - RE-ZONING of OLD DOCK FIRE DISTRICT:

Ryan Williamson requested Board approval to re-zone the following four (4) addresses to the Old Dock Fire District from the Nakina Fire District.

1095 Ervin T. Richardson Road	Ray and Linda Stocks
1197 Ervin T. Richardson Road	Ray and Linda Stocks
1254 Ervin T. Richardson Road	Ray and Linda Stocks
1180 Ervin T. Richardson Road	Ryan and Raven Williamson

Commissioner McDowell made a motion to approve to re-zone four (4) addresses (1095, 1197, 1254 and 1180 Ervin T. Richardson Road) to the Old Dock Fire and Rescue District from the Nakina Fire and Rescue District, seconded by Vice Chairman Burroughs. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #10: SHERIFF - GOVERNOR'S HIGHWAY SAFETY PROGRAM:

Sheriff Lewis L. Hatcher requested Board approval of the following Local Governmental Resolution for \$45,009.

**North Carolina Governor's Highway Safety Program
Local Governmental Resolution**

WHEREAS, the Columbus County Sheriff's Office (herein called the "Agency") has completed an application contract for traffic safety funding, and that County of Columbus (herein called the "Governing Body") has thoroughly considered the problem identified and has reviewed the project as described in the contract.

THEREFORE, NOW BE IT RESOLVED by the County of Columbus, in open meeting

assembled in the City of Whiteville, North Carolina, this 15th day of September, 2014, as follows:

1. That the project referenced above is in the best interest of the Governing Body and the general public; **and**
2. That Sheriff Lewis Hatcher is authorized to file, on behalf of the Governing Body, an application contract in the form prescribed by the Governor's Highway Safety Program for federal funding in the amount of \$45,009.00 to be made to the Governing Body to assist in defraying the cost of the project described in the contract application; **and**
3. That the Governing Body has formally appropriated the cash contribution of \$45,009.00 as required by the project contract; **and**
4. That the Project Director designated in the application contract shall furnish or make arrangement for other appropriate persons to furnish such information, data, documents and reports as required by the contract, if approved, or as may be required by the Governor's Highway Safety Program; **and**
5. That certified copies of this resolution be included as part of the contract referenced above; **and**
6. That this resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

DONE AND ORDERED in open meeting by /s/ **P. EDWIN RUSS, Chairman.**

ATTESTED BY: /s/ **JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to the Board**

(SEAL)

DATE: September 15, 2014

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve the North Carolina Governor's Highway Safety Program Local Governmental Resolution, seconded by Commissioner Bullard. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #11: SHERIFF - GOVERNOR'S HIGHWAY SAFETY PROGRAM:

Sheriff Lewis L. Hatcher requested Board approval of the following Local Governmental Resolution for \$16,000.

**North Carolina Governor's Highway Safety Program
Local Governmental Resolution**

WHEREAS, the Columbus County Sheriff's Office (herein called the "Agency") has completed an application contract for traffic safety funding, and that County of Columbus (herein called the "Governing Body") has thoroughly considered the problem identified and has reviewed the project as described in the contract.

THEREFORE, NOW BE IT RESOLVED by the County of Columbus, in open meeting assembled in the City of Whiteville, North Carolina, this 15th day of September, 2014, as follows:

1. That the project referenced above is in the best interest of the Governing Body and the general public; **and**
2. That Sheriff Lewis Hatcher is authorized to file, on behalf of the Governing Body, an application contract in the form prescribed by the Governor's Highway Safety Program for federal funding in the amount of \$16,000.00 to be made to the Governing Body to assist in defraying the cost of the project described in the contract application; **and**
3. That the Governing Body has formally appropriated the cash contribution of \$ 00.00 as required by the project contract; **and**
4. That the Project Director designated in the application contract shall furnish or make arrangement for other appropriate persons to furnish such information, data, documents and reports as required by the contract, if approved, or as may be required by the Governor's Highway Safety Program; **and**
5. That certified copies of this resolution be included as part of the contract referenced above; **and**
6. That this resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

DONE AND ORDERED in open meeting by /s/ **P. EDWIN RUSS, Chairman.**

ATTESTED BY: /s/ **JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to the Board**

(SEAL)

DATE: September 15, 2014

Commissioner McDowell made a motion to approve the North Carolina Governor's Highway Safety Program Local Governmental Resolution, seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #12: PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION - ESTABLISH DATE and TIME for PUBLIC HEARING on ROAP:

Charles Patton, Public Transportation Director, requested the Board to establish October 06, 2014, at 6:30 P.M., as the date and time for a Public Hearing on ROAP.

Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to establish October 06, 2014, at 6:30 P.M., as the date and time for a Public Hearing on ROAP, seconded by Commissioner Prevatte. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #13: EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT - APPROVAL of REVISED RESOLUTIONS and REVISED FIRE INSURANCE MAPS:

Kay Worley, Emergency Management Director, requested Board approval of seventeen (17) **revised** Resolutions Approving Insurance District Boundaries and **revised** fire insurance district maps for the following seventeen (17) fire districts:

Acme Delco 6 Mile Fire District	Brunswick 6 Mile Fire District
Bolton 6 Mile Fire District	Buckhead 6 Mile Fire District
Cerro Gordo 5 Mile Fire District	Coles 5 Mile Fire District
Evergreen 6 Mile Fire District	Hallsboro 6 Mile Fire District
Klondyke 6 Mile Fire District	Nakina 6 Mile Fire District
North Whiteville 6 Mile Fire District	Old Dock/Cypress Creek 6 Mile Fire District
Roseland 6 Mile Fire District	St James 6 Mile Fire District
Welches Creek 6 Mile Fire District	Williams Township 6 Mile Fire District
Yam City 5 Mile Fire District.	

Ms. Worley stated the following:

1. When the original maps and resolutions were created, they were created in the name of the actual name of the fire department;
2. Our State Fire Marshall has requested to us that these names be changed to reflect the actual name of the fire insurance district and not the name of the fire department;
3. The State Fire Marshall Office is coming out next year to do their inspections and that is one thing they have stated that needs to be changed; **and**
4. There is no changes to any of the district boundary lines, only the name of the fire insurance district.

Vice Chairman Burroughs made a motion to approve the seventeen (17) **revised** Resolutions Approving Insurance District Boundaries and **revised** fire insurance district maps for the above listed fire departments, seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed. The original copies of the **revised** resolutions and **revised** fire insurance district maps will be on file in the Emergency Management office, and copies of the **revised** resolutions and the **revised** fire insurance district maps will be on file in the Clerk to the Board's Office, for review.

Agenda Item #14: SOCIAL SERVICES - APPROVAL of ENERGY PROGRAMS PLAN:

Algernon McKenzie, Social Services Director, requested Board approval of the Energy Programs Outreach Plan.

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve the Energy Programs Outreach Plan for the Columbus County Department of Social Services, seconded by Commissioner Prevatte. The motion unanimously passed. A copy of the Energy Programs Outreach Plan will be marked as Exhibit "C", and kept on file in the Minute Book Attachments, Book Number 5, in the Clerk to the Board's Office, for review.

Agenda Item #15: SOCIAL SERVICES - MONTHLY ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE:

Algernon McKenzie, Social Services Director, presented the following Monthly

Administrative Update.

On August 7, 2014, our monthly agency staff meeting was held. During the meeting, a representative from Families First and Cape Fear Hospice was presented with funds from dress down days.

Staff was reminded the Wellness Screenings would begin this week at DSS. I also reminded staff of the purpose and use of county vehicles during work hours. Make sure they are where they are supposed to be when working.

Staff was also encouraged to continue to work as a team to get the work done and follow program policies.

The Child Support Unit was recognized for meeting all of their State goals for the 2013-2014 fiscal year.

On August 5, 2014, Mrs. Sheila Hendrix and I presented information about the Food & Nutrition and Day Care Subsidy Programs. This event was requested by Circles of Hope held at First Presbyterian Church of Whiteville. The group had lots of questions about the services.

On August 14, 2014, I attended the Executive Board Meeting in Raleigh. The Directors were given updates on NCFAST, Drug Testing and the Medicaid backlog.

On August 21 and 22, I attended the Eastern Regional Directors Meeting at Atlantic Beach, NC. DHHS Director, Wayne Black informed us the State plans to work with counties by providing support staff who will visit counties to offer help with NCFAST and the Medicaid backlog. Counties are working hard and we have made great progress, but we must continue, because open enrollment for Health Care will happen November 2014 and continue each year.

We were told the Social Services Commission is working on draft rules for the Work First Drug Testing; and they are considering a statewide provider for these tests.

Money has been allotted to look at ways to improve Child Welfare Services in the State. A team of nine will work with counties across the State on Child Welfare Practices.

On August 26, 2014, a Supervisors Meeting was held with agency Supervisors. We welcomed three new Supervisors who were promoted. I asked Supervisors to make sure workers are trained properly and they are following policy.

Information about the County's Annual Safety Training Classes was shared. Each Supervisor will make sure units are scheduled to attend.

I also informed the Supervisors of the dates for the Social Services Institute in October. The State will be providing some training for Income Maintenance Supervisors on managing reports and work in NCFAST.

We continue to work on our Medicaid backlog. Workers have processed over 400 overdue Medicaid applications as of August 28, 2014. Workers are also taking new applications daily. There are some vacancies in the Food & Nutrition and Medicaid Units; which make it hard for us to keep up; in addition to system issues.

Our agency lost a very dedicated employee, who had been with the agency almost 31 years. Mr. Garrie Dennis passed away on August 28, 2014. He will be missed greatly.

August 2014 Economic Services

PROGRAM	STATISTICS
Food & Nutrition	Applications Taken: 620 Applications Approved: 245 Active Cases: 6,548 Benefits Issued: 1,568,996.00 Participants Served: 13,833

Adult Medicaid	Applications Taken: 126 Individuals Receiving: 5,542 Cases Terminated: 63
Family & Children's Medicaid	Applications Taken: 136 Individuals Receiving: 10,970 Applications Processed: 214
Child Support	Absent Parents Located: 137 Orders Enforced: 995 Active Cases: 4,218 Collections: \$476,326.36

**August 2014
Human Services**

PROGRAM	STATISTICS
Adult Services (APS)	APS Reports Accepted: 13 County Wards: 20 Adults Served via Guardianship: 17 Adults Served APS: 33 Number of Medicaid Transportation Trips: figure not available at time of report Amount Requested for Reimbursement: figure not available at time of report
Children's Protective Services (CPS)	Reports Accepted: 37 Reports Screened out: 16 Families Receiving In-Home Services: 50 Children Served: 110 Contacts with Families Monthly: 174 Assessments: 29
Foster Care	Foster Children in Foster Homes: 61 Children Placed Outside County: 10 Agency Adoptions: 6 Pending Adoptions: 7 Total Foster Homes Licensed: 11
Work First Employment (TANF)	Applications Taken: 34 Applications Approved: 44 Individuals Receiving Benefits: 627 Entered Employment: 2 Number in Non-Paid Work Experience: 4
Program Integrity	Collections for Fraud: \$4,497.00 New Referrals: 22 Cases Established: 7
Day Care	Children Receiving Day Care Assistance: 542 Children on the Waiting List: 225 Amount Spent on Day Care Services: \$211,640.85

HUMAN SERVICES BOARD REPORT

Children's Protective Services/Intake/Investigation/Assessment

Children's Protective Services/In-Home Services

Children's Protective Services/Foster Care/Adoptions

Adult Services

Work First Employment

Child Day Care

Program Integrity

Melinda H. Lane, Program Manager

Vacancies/Updates/News for August 2014

Intake/Investigation/Assessment:

The Intake/Investigation/Assessment Unit continues to have a Social Worker on limited duty. This Unit is currently fully staffed. Numbers have jumped back up and a full staff will be an even bigger help to caseloads.

In-Home Services:

The In-Home Services Unit welcomed a new Social Worker, Chante Clark, who began with the agency August 25th. Chante will not begin working with a caseload until completing Pre-Service training. However, this Unit is again short-staffed due to a Social Worker being on maternity leave.

Foster Care/Adoptions:

The Foster Care/Adoptions Unit welcomed Nicole Oxendine as a new Social Worker to the Unit on August 25th. Nicole will begin Pre-Service training soon and will not have the responsibility of a caseload until afterwards.

Adult Services:

This Unit continues to be fully staffed. The Supervisor plans to conduct an Adult Protective Services refresher for her staff in September. Caseload numbers are up, but the Supervisor is reorganizing types of cases to hopefully better assist staff.

Work First Employment:

The Work First Employment Unit welcomed Lisa Williams as their new Supervisor August 25th. Lisa was a Work First Employment Social Worker within the Unit. Plans are to begin planning to fill the position she vacated very soon.

Child Day Care:

The Child Day Care Unit also welcomes Lisa since this Unit shares the same Supervisor with Work First Employment.

Program Integrity:

Program Integrity continues to diligently to process fraud cases as it prepares for Energy Assistance season later in the fall. Since these same staff greatly assist with Energy Assistance, their time with Program Integrity will be affected when applications for energy assistance begin.

Economic Services Program Narrative

Universal Intake, Processing and Triage Unit

Food and Nutrition Program and Adult and Family and Children's Medicaid

Rest Home and Nursing Home/Community Alternatives Program (CAP)

Work First Family Assistance/Cash/Medicaid Transportation & Supportive Services

Child Support & Paralegal

Submitted by Cyndi Hammonds, Income Maintenance Administrator

Reporting Month: August 2014

News/Updates/Vacancies

Universal Intake, Triage and Processing/Adult Medicaid, Family and Children's Medicaid and Food and Nutrition

The Intake/Processing Team continues to work down the overdue applications and try to keep the current ones from going overdue. This is extremely hard with staff leaving. We continue to have 242 applications that are overdue. Interviews with clients continue to take longer than what they used to due to the many questions that have to be answered and the numerous steps that have to be completed. It became mandatory effective August 1st for all Adult Medicaid applications to be entered in NC FAST. This will increase the wait time for our clients. This team currently has 2 vacancies and one of these being the lead worker position who was promoted to a supervisor.

The Triage team has seen a steady flow of clients; they assisted 664 walk-in clients for August. The worker we had thru Telemon was helping this team see clients however his contract ended due to having to go back to school on August 15th. This team has one vacancy.

Food and Nutrition/Adult Medicaid/Family and Children's Medicaid/Review Team

The Food and Nutrition Team is having overdue recerts again due to 3 vacancies in that team and 1 still in training. We have interviewed and filled one vacancy. It becomes very stressful for the

rest of the workers to keep up with this extra work they have to carry along with the problems they continue to have with NC FAST.

The Adult and Family and Children's Medicaid Review team continues to work on reports that are sent in preparation for the conversion of their cases to go in NC FAST in November. The Family and Children's lead worker retired August 20th and has been replaced with a long time employee within that team. This leaves a vacancy in this team.

Work First Family Assistance/Cash//Medicaid Transportation & Supportive Services

We welcome Cathy Jeremiah as the new supervisor over Work First/Cash, Medicaid Transportation, Housekeeping and Maintenance. Cathy was the lead worker in the Universal Intake/Triage Team.

August 1st was the mandatory deadline for all Work First Cash applications to be entered into NCFAST. This is causing longer wait times for clients and longer interviewing time due to completing so many steps in the system.

Medicaid Transportation remains constant in its service to the public. The staff still struggles to keep all the paperwork current and up to date.

Child Support

Some of the Child Support Team along with the attorney, the paralegal and the Income Maintenance Administrator attended the Child Support Conference that was held in Concord in August. Classes were very helpful and informative. Columbus County was awarded a plaque for their outstanding accomplishment of obtaining all self assessment and incentive goals for the fiscal year 2013 - 2014.

Child Support prepared 362 cases for court. They continue to have 4 workers in training and have one vacant position; interviews have been completed and a recommendation will soon be made.

Paralegal

Our paralegal completed 202 Orders and 121 Certificates of Service for Child Support Court and reviewed 7 Orders and 12 Certificates of Service that were completed by the Attorney.

Agenda Item #16: DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE - AIRPORT:

Phil Edwards, Airport Manager, delivered the following departmental update to the Board.

1. I am happy to report the Airport is doing well;
2. We fuel a lot of interesting aircraft and meet a variety of people;
3. A TBM 900 Aircraft which was made in France made a landing at the Columbus County Airport;
4. We had an emergency landing at the airport on Friday. The plane was flying at 18,000 feet and a door came off;
5. Andrew Register, a recent graduate of South Columbus High School, chose to come to the Airport as part of a class project when he was in the seventh grade, and is currently seeking a degree in aviation;
6. Craig Patton was at the Airport last week;
7. The AWOS system at the airport transmits weather reports to pilots 24/7;
8. Our current safety project is the parallel taxiway which is 5,500 feet and should be open in 4-6 weeks if weather permits;
9. An economic impact study performed by NCDOT, Aviation Division, revealed that Columbus County Airport has an economic impact of over \$15 million to our region;
10. Since the last update, over 10,000 pilots, passengers and their guests have been welcomed at the airport;
11. Our Airport serves as a vital link in serving and connecting citizens in rural areas, as well as larger cities; **and**
12. The Airport staff strives to deliver good service and I would like to thank you for all of your support.

Agenda Item #17: PURCHASING - APPROVAL of VENDOR for SHERIFFS DEPARTMENT VEHICLES:

Stuart Carroll, Purchasing Director, requested Board approval of the vendor for the purchase of ten (10) new vehicles for the Sheriffs Department. (This item was tabled at the September 02, 2014 Board Meeting until September 15, 2014.)

VENDOR	SEDAN	SUV
Quality Ford, Whiteville	09-02-2014 - \$23,649.01 09-15-2014 - \$23,397.00	09-02-2014 - \$25,917.10 09-15-2014 - \$25,747.00
Capital Ford, Wilmington (State Contract)		\$25,747.00
Capital Ford, Raleigh (State Contract)	\$23,397.00	
DIFFERENCE:	\$252.00	\$170.10

Quality Ford information:

-There will be a \$99.00 each delivery fee. This will take the place of your need to provide transportation from Raleigh or Wilmington.

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to accept the Quality Ford bid for the ten (10) new vehicles for the Sheriff's Department, seconded by Commissioner Prevatte. The motion unanimously passed.

RECESS REGULAR SESSION and enter into COMBINATION MEETING of COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V BOARD MEETING:

At 7:25 P.M., Commissioner Byrd made a motion to recess Regular Session and enter into a **combination meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #18: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

September 02, 2014 **Combination Meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting

This information will be recorded in Minute Book Number 2 for Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I and II, and Minute Book Number 1 for Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts III, IV and V.

Agenda Item #19: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of ADJUSTMENTS to the AUGUST, 2014 MONTHLY WATER BILLS:

Danny Fowler, Public Utilities Director, requested Board approval of the adjustments to the August, 2014 monthly water bills

This information will be recorded in Minute Book Number 2 for Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I and II, and Minute Book Number 1 for Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts III, IV and V.

Agenda Item #20: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of WATER LOSS REDUCTION PROGRAM:

Danny Fowler, Public Utilities Director, requested Board approval of the Water Loss Reduction Program.

This information will be recorded in Minute Book Number 2 for Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I and II, and Minute Book Number 1 for Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts III, IV and V.

Agenda Item #21: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN:

Danny Fowler, Public Utilities Director, requested Board approval of the following Capital Improvement Plan.

This information will be recorded in Minute Book Number 2 for Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I and II, and Minute Book Number 1 for Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts III, IV and V.

Agenda Item #22: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN:

Danny Fowler, Public Utilities Director, requested Board approval of the Asset Management Plan.

This information will be recorded in Minute Book Number 2 for Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I and II, and Minute Book Number 1 for Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts III, IV and V.

ADJOURN COMBINATION MEETING of COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III IV and V BOARD MEETING and resume REGULAR SESSION:

At 7:30 P.M., Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to adjourn the combination meeting of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting, and resume Regular Session, seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #23: CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

Commissioner McDowell made a motion to approve the following Consent Agenda Items, seconded by Vice Chairman Burroughs. The motion unanimously passed.

A. Budget Amendments:

TYPE	ACCOUNT	DETAILS	AMOUNT
Expenditures	10-5301-549986	Crisis Intervention	241,314
	10-5301-533001	CP&L Energy	1,906
Revenues	10-3530-430068	Crisis Intervention	241,314
	10-3530-430076	CP&L Energy	1,906
Expenditures	10-4310-535300	M&E Vehicles	8,036
Revenues	10-3431-489000	Miscellaneous Revenues-Sheriff	8,036
Expenditures	10-5180-549924	Mosquito Control	(5,000)
	10-5180-549924	Mosquito Control	7,500
Revenues	10-3510-430061	Mosquito Control Health State	(5,000)
	10-39910499101	Fund Balance Appropriated	7,500

B. Tax Refunds and Releases:

<i>Property Value</i>		Amount:	\$106.16
Bass, Ben	PROPERTY: 93708	Total:	\$114.40
Value: \$6,400.00	Year: 2014	Account: 11-04139	Bill#: 59111
Release value of mobile home. Transferred to Prop#93720 act# 11-01949. Release Columbus Rescue(2.64) release late list(5.60)			
<i>Property Value</i>		Amount:	\$280.14
Britt, James & Wanda J.	PROPERTY: 85125	Total:	\$552.08

Value: \$34,800.00	Year: 2014	Account: 01-05637	Bill#: 61543
Release value of DW M/H. Was moved out of the county in 2013 without a permit.			
Release North Whiteville(27.84) release Whiteville Rescue(6.96) release water District III (19.14)			
<i>Property Value</i>			Amount: \$226.85
Butts, Lula		PROPERTY: 00000	Total: \$386.74
Value: \$28,180.00	Year: 2014	Account: 06-03557	Bill#: 63243
Release value of S/W DBL Act#06-01660. Release Columbus Rescue(5.64) release late list(23.25)			
<i>Property Value</i>			Amount: \$13.62
Davis, Brett Lynn		PROPERTY: 00000	Total: \$16.48
Value: \$1,692.00	Year: 2014	Account: 01-06833	Bill#: 67190
Release value of boat. Sold 3-5-13. Billed Act#03-01216. Release Williams Fire(1.02) release Whiteville Rescue(.34) release late list (1.50)			
<i>Property Value</i>			Amount: \$373.12
Edgar, Dean W. (II) & Linda Sievers		PROPERTY: 11714	Total: \$382.39
Value: \$92,700.00	Year: 2014	Account: 06-00663	Bill#: 68720
Release portion of taxes for SCE. Billed without getting the exemption. Release Columbus Rescue(9.27)			
<i>Property Value</i>			Amount: \$27.85
Gore, Joseph Alton		PROPERTY: 15923	Total: \$30.62
Value: \$4,635.00	Year: 2014	Account: 09-11481	Bill#: 73481
Release value of S/W. Released and rebilled Act# 09-03573. Release Roseland Fire(2.08) release Columbus Rescue(.69)			
<i>Property Value</i>			Amount: \$52.41
Hewett, Fabian		PROPERTY: 00000	Total: \$281.38
Value: \$6,510.00	Year: 2014	Account: 01-39581	Bill#: 76820
Release value of mobile home. Sold and listed to Act#01-07460. release Roseland Fire(3.91) release Columbus Rescue(1.30) release late list(5.76)			
<i>Property Value</i>			Amount: \$36.67
Lennon, Alicia Michelle		PROPERTY: 00000	Total: \$40.77
Value: \$4,555.00	Year: 2014	Account: 01-06146	Bill#: 82104
Release value of boat. DBL Act#01-06355. Release Brunswick Fire(3.19) release Whiteville Rescue(.91)			
<i>Property Value</i>			Amount: \$933.80
Nance, Edwin Richard (ETALS)		PROPERTY: 25089	Total: \$1,088.00
Value: \$116,000.00	Year: 2014	Account: 13-02323	Bill#: 87691
Release value of dwelling. Rebilled Act#13-02942. Release Columbus Rescue(23.20)			
<i>Property Value</i>			Amount: \$32.52
Reaves, Dale		PROPERTY: 00000	Total: \$253.75
Value: \$15,143.00	Year: 2014	Account: 01-01484	Bill#: 91947
Release value of mobile home and user fee. DBL Act# 09-01420 to correct billing. Release Roseland Fire(2.42) release Whiteville Rescue(.81)			
<i>Property Value</i>			Amount: \$21.01
Ricoh USA Inc		PROPERTY: 00000	Total: \$24.66
Value: \$2,610.00	Year: 2014	Account: 15-03002	Bill#: 92560
Release portion of value on business equipment. Charged with wrong value typed incorrectly. Release Acme Delco (3.65)			
<i>Property Value</i>			Amount: \$757.32
Sellers, Gregory		PROPERTY: 00000	Total: \$2,532.10
Value: \$9,260.00	Year: 05-	Account: 01-00919	Bill#: 99999
Release value of mobile home. Repoed 2001. Release Williams Fire(57.48) release Columbus Rescue(19.16) release late list(83.40)			
<i>Property Value</i>			Amount: \$4.03
Simmons, Vera		PROPERTY: 16777	Total: \$4.87
Value: \$500.00	Year: 2014	Account: 09-01737	Bill#: 95219
Release value of barn. Release Roseland Fire(.40) release late list(.44)			
<i>Property Value</i>			Amount: \$0.00
Whiteville Mission Church		PROPERTY: 61380	Total: \$192.50
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2014	Account: 14-02305	Bill#: 3776
Release value of church. Should be tax exempt. Release Welches Creek (154.00) release Whiteville Rescue(38.50)			
<i>Property Value</i>			Amount: \$741.46

Williams, James Ray	PROPERTY: 00000	Total:	\$927.86
Value: \$4,757.00 Year: 04-14	Account: 04-03642	Bill#:	99999
Release value of boat. Sold in 2014. List to Act#15-02253. Release Bolton(83.31) release Columbus Rescue(18.74) release late list(84.35)			
<i>Refunds</i>		Amount:	\$32.04
Reaves, Dale	PROPERTY: 00000	Total:	\$256.75
Value: Year: 2013	Account: 01-01484	Bill#:	41830
Refund value of mobile home and user fee. Paid twice in 2013 Refund Roseland Fire (2.59) refund Whiteville Rescue(.60) refund late list (3.52)			
<i>Refunds</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
Sanderson, Janice P.	PROPERTY: 22396	Total:	\$218.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2014	Account: 12-03653	Bill#:	93551
Refund user fee. Can picked up 4/16/13			
<i>Refunds</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
Wilson, Betty Ann & Carolyn Hayes	PROPERTY: 26032	Total:	\$131.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2014	Account: 13-45200	Bill#:	4903
Refund user fee. Dwelling vacant.			
<i>User Fee</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
Bolton Church of God	PROPERTY: 00000	Total:	\$131.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2014	Account: 18-00442	Bill#:	6187
Release user fee. Building torn down years ago.			
<i>User Fee</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
Boswell, Tracy	PROPERTY: 00000	Total:	\$218.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2013	Account: 02-05535	Bill#:	11014
Release user fee. Dwelling vacant.			
<i>User Fee</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
Brown, Fearil G (Heirs)	PROPERTY: 26295	Total:	\$218.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2014	Account: 14-02460	Bill#:	61895
Release user fee. Not liveable. Can picked up 2005.			
<i>User Fee</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
Bruno, Mark	PROPERTY: 26086	Total:	\$218.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2014	Account: 13-05439	Bill#:	62303
Release user fee. Dwelling vacant. Can picked up 8/10/09			
<i>User Fee</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
Bryant, David Jr.	PROPERTY: 89596	Total:	\$218.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2014	Account: 14-02611	Bill#:	62365
Release user fee. Dwelling vacant.			
<i>User Fee</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
Caines, Howell E.	PROPERTY: 89995	Total:	\$218.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2014	Account: 07-01220	Bill#:	63512
Release user fee. Dwelling vacant.			
<i>User Fee</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
Clarida, James Cliff (Heirs) & Allene	PROPERTY: 12782	Total:	\$218.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2014	Account: 07-01940	Bill#:	65017
Release user fee. Dwelling vacant.			
<i>User Fee</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
Clewis, Neil Edison (Heirs)	PROPERTY: 6601	Total:	\$218.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2014	Account: 03-03520	Bill#:	65210
Release user fee. Can picked up 6/23/11			
<i>User Fee</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
Cornwell, Shawn & Carrie	PROPERTY: 95314	Total:	\$436.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 12-	Account: 07-00430	Bill#:	99999
Release user fee. Dwelling vacant.			
<i>User Fee</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
Csiky, Charita Y	PROPERTY: 83763	Total:	\$108.98
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2014	Account: 03-05937	Bill#:	66777
Release portion of user fee. 1 can picked up 7/1/14			
<i>User Fee</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
Davis, Willie L. & Marilyn	PROPERTY: 17709	Total:	\$131.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2014	Account: 10-03294	Bill#:	67453

Release user fee. Dwelling vacant. Sold at tax sale.

<i>User Fee</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
Dudley, Elisha P (Heirs)	PROPERTY: 19011	Total:	\$218.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2014	Account: 11-08140	Bill#:	68195
Release user fee. Dwelling vacant.		Amount:	\$0.00
<i>User Fee</i>		Total:	\$218.00
Dudney, William	PROPERTY: 10503	Bill#:	68253
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2014	Account: 06-02107	Amount:	\$0.00
Release user fee. Dwelling vacant.		Total:	\$218.00
<i>User Fee</i>		Bill#:	68332
Duncan, C W	PROPERTY: 12875	Amount:	\$0.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2014	Account: 07-03500	Total:	\$218.00
Release user fee. Dwelling vacant.		Bill#:	68332
<i>User Fee</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
Elliott, Margaret Joan	PROPERTY: 24105	Total:	\$131.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2014	Account: 13-11980	Bill#:	69159
Release user fee. Dwelling vacant.		Amount:	\$0.00
<i>User Fee</i>		Total:	\$131.00
Ellison, Ethel Mae	PROPERTY: 1408	Bill#:	69281
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2014	Account: 01-24280	Amount:	\$0.00
Release user fee. Vacant.		Total:	\$218.00
<i>User Fee</i>		Bill#:	69700
Evans, Timothy & Supreeya Evans	PROPERTY: 15436	Amount:	\$0.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2014	Account: 09-00432	Total:	\$218.00
Release user fee. Dwelling vacant. Can picked up 9/22/08		Bill#:	69700
<i>User Fee</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
Floyd, Vickie Rhea	PROPERTY: 1645	Total:	\$218.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2014	Account: 01-28202	Bill#:	70736
Release user fee. Dwelling vacant.		Amount:	\$0.00
<i>User Fee</i>		Total:	\$218.00
Floyd, Wilbur	PROPERTY: 401	Bill#:	70738
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2014	Account: 01-28200	Amount:	\$0.00
Release user fee. Dwelling vacant. Can picked up 8/7/12		Total:	\$218.00
<i>User Fee</i>		Bill#:	71325
Fowler, William Ray	PROPERTY: 17666	Amount:	\$0.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2014	Account: 10-03551	Total:	\$218.00
Release user fee. Uses a commercial hauler.		Bill#:	71325
<i>User Fee</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
Gaskin, Polly R.	PROPERTY: 15819	Total:	\$218.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2014	Account: 09-09700	Bill#:	72185
Release user fee. Dwelling vacant. Can picked up 10-6-11		Amount:	\$0.00
<i>User Fee</i>		Total:	\$218.00
George, Richard Jr. ETALS	PROPERTY: 26536	Bill#:	22418
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2013	Account: 14-05232	Amount:	\$0.00
Release user fee. Dwelling vacant.		Total:	\$218.00
<i>User Fee</i>		Bill#:	73048
Goins, Tommy	PROPERTY: 00000	Amount:	\$0.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2014	Account: 03-01748	Total:	\$218.00
Release user fee. Can picked up 1/10/13		Bill#:	73048
<i>User Fee</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
Graham, William O & Naomi	PROPERTY: 28384	Total:	\$218.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2014	Account: 15-16580	Bill#:	74206
Release user fee. Dwelling vacant. Can picked up 2008		Amount:	\$0.00
<i>User Fee</i>		Total:	\$218.00
Herring, Diane Page	PROPERTY: 30529	Bill#:	76725
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2014	Account: 16-04431	Amount:	\$0.00
Release user fee. Dwelling vacant.		Total:	\$218.00
<i>User Fee</i>		Bill#:	76725
Hodge, Lamont	PROPERTY: 00000	Amount:	\$0.00
		Total:	\$218.00

Value: \$0.00	Year: 2014	Account: 09-01346	Bill#: 77734
Release user fee. Dwelling vacant.			
<i>User Fee</i>			Amount: \$0.00
Inman, Gene A. & Frances B.		PROPERTY: 1008	Total: \$436.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2014	Account: 01-04045	Bill#: 78670
Release user fee. Has commercial hauler.			
<i>User Fee</i>			Amount: \$0.00
Johnson, Donald B. & Hilda G.		PROPERTY: 13462	Total: \$218.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2014	Account: 07-05149	Bill#: 79906
Release user fee. Dwelling vacant.			
<i>User Fee</i>			Amount: \$0.00
Long, Betsy Nance & Christopher Nance		PROPERTY: 25089	Total: \$87.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2014	Account: 13-02942	Bill#: 17929
Release portion of user fee.			
<i>User Fee</i>			Amount: \$0.00
Long, John Delbert & Betty Jo		PROPERTY: 13396	Total: \$218.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2014	Account: 07-10740	Bill#: 83071
Release user fee. Dwelling vacant. Can picked up 4/3/13			
<i>User Fee</i>			Amount: \$0.00
Maldonado, Lloyd Angel		PROPERTY: 00000	Total: \$90.81
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2014	Account: 03-02103	Bill#: 83663
Release portion of user fee. Can picked up 7/29/14			
<i>User Fee</i>			Amount: \$0.00
Massengill, Zelma Ellen		PROPERTY: 3290	Total: \$218.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2014	Account: 01-59901	Bill#: 84267
Release user fee. Dwelling vacant.			
<i>User Fee</i>			Amount: \$0.00
McDaniel, G Scott		PROPERTY: 00000	Total: \$109.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2014	Account: 12-17180	Bill#: 84709
Release portion of user fee. Can picked up 7/2/14			
<i>User Fee</i>			Amount: \$0.00
McKeithan, Jackie		PROPERTY: 7474	Total: \$218.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2014	Account: 03-15799	Bill#: 85020
Release user fee. Can picked up 1-9-07			
<i>User Fee</i>			Amount: \$0.00
McPherson, Terry W. & Aaron T.		PROPERTY: 16432	Total: \$218.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2014	Account: 09-02031	Bill#: 85868
Release user fee. Dwelling vacant. Can picked up 1/17/14			
<i>User Fee</i>			Amount: \$0.00
Mitchell, Marion Elizabeth ETAL		PROPERTY: 18710	Total: \$218.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2014	Account: 11-17637	Bill#: 86805
Release user fee. Dwelling vacant. Can picked up 1-19-11			
<i>User Fee</i>			Amount: \$0.00
NC Forest Services		PROPERTY: 00000	Total: \$218.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2014	Account: 18-01013	Bill#: 6201
Release user fee. No can at house.			
<i>User Fee</i>			Amount: \$0.00
Norris, Harold Lee		PROPERTY: 11615	Total: \$218.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2014	Account: 06-27760	Bill#: 88574
Release user fee. Dwelling vacant. Can picked up			
<i>User Fee</i>			Amount: \$0.00
Omkar Group Whiteville,LLC		PROPERTY: 2976	Total: \$218.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2014	Account: 01-06801	Bill#: 88974
Release user fee. Has commercial hauler			
<i>User Fee</i>			Amount: \$0.00
Page, Mark		PROPERTY: 9853	Total: \$218.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2014	Account: 05-01614	Bill#: 89146
Release user fee. Can picked up 8/18/09			
<i>User Fee</i>			Amount: \$0.00

Peterson, D J & Joyce H	PROPERTY: 78201	Total:	\$218.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2014	Account: 15-05122	Bill#:	89798
Release user fee. Dwelling vacant.			
<i>User Fee</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
Piecha, Sylvia	PROPERTY: 4757	Total:	\$218.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2014	Account: 01-69724	Bill#:	89987
Release user fee. Dwelling vacant. Can picked up 9/27/12			
<i>User Fee</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
Rickard Vealer Jearlean N	PROPERTY: 16697	Total:	\$218.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2014	Account: 09-24860	Bill#:	92554
Release user fee. Dwelling vacant.			
<i>User Fee</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
Robinson, David W. & Joyce	PROPERTY: 14914	Total:	\$218.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2014	Account: 08-15837	Bill#:	92758
Release user fee. Dwelling vacant.			
<i>User Fee</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
Sanderson, George Allen	PROPERTY: 22398	Total:	\$218.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2014	Account: 12-23863	Bill#:	93547
Release user fee. Dwelling vacant. Can picked up 9/14/11			
<i>User Fee</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
Sellers, Betty Gore	PROPERTY: 13175	Total:	\$218.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2014	Account: 07-14293	Bill#:	94069
Release user fee. Dwelling vacant. Can picked up 1/11/13			
<i>User Fee</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
Simon, Carolyn H.	PROPERTY: 17822	Total:	\$218.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2014	Account: 10-00355	Bill#:	95243
Release user fee Dwelling vacant.			
<i>User Fee</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
Smith, Donnie A.	PROPERTY: 29482	Total:	\$218.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2014	Account: 15-02474	Bill#:	95801
Release user fee. Dwelling vacant.			
<i>User Fee</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
Smith, Leo Heirs & Sarah Lee	PROPERTY: 4940	Total:	\$131.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2014	Account: 01-85880	Bill#:	96117
Release user fee. Dwelling vacant.			
<i>User Fee</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
Soles, Sallie Mae (Mrs.)	PROPERTY: 25571	Total:	\$218.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2014	Account: 13-37460	Bill#:	96721
Release user fee. Dwelling vacant. Can picked up 1/12/07			
<i>User Fee</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
Spauding, Lila	PROPERTY: 80016	Total:	\$436.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2014	Account: 08-17660	Bill#:	99999
Release user fee. Cans picked up 4/3/13			
<i>User Fee</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
Strickland, Betty M.	PROPERTY: 21684	Total:	\$218.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2014	Account: 12-00457	Bill#:	98481
Release user fee. Dwelling vacant.			
<i>User Fee</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
Sumpter, Mildred Sharlean & Joseph	PROPERTY: 3454	Total:	\$218.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2014	Account: 01-06989	Bill#:	99100
Release user fee.			
<i>User Fee</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
Sumpter, Susie Vernel	PROPERTY: 25665	Total:	\$262.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2014	Account: 13-39146	Bill#:	99110
Release user fee. Dwelling vacant.			
<i>User Fee</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
Todd, Myrtle Watkins	PROPERTY: 17048	Total:	\$436.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2014	Account: 09-30540	Bill#:	374
Release 2 user fees. Vacant.			
<i>User Fee</i>		Amount:	\$0.00

Todd, Regina S & Windell A. Value: \$0.00 Year: 2014 Release user fee. Only 1 can.	PROPERTY: 30578 Account: 16-01755	Total: \$218.00 Bill#: 383
<i>User Fee</i>		Amount: \$0.00
Turbeville Taft & Beulah Jane Value: \$0.00 Year: 2014 Release user fee. Can picked up 3/9/11	PROPERTY: 17063 Account: 09-30880	Total: \$218.00 Bill#: 758
<i>User Fee</i>		Amount: \$0.00
Turbeville, Taft & Beulah Value: \$0.00 Year: 2014 Release user fee. Dwelling vacant. Can picked up 8/31/10	PROPERTY: 754 Account: 09-04523	Total: \$218.00 Bill#: 754
<i>User Fee</i>		Amount: \$0.00
Ward Station Church of God Value: \$0.00 Year: 2014 Release user fee. Dwelling vacant.	PROPERTY: 00000 Account: 18-00196	Total: \$218.00 Bill#: 6033
<i>User Fee</i>		Amount: \$0.00
Ward, W Howard (Jr) & Dulah B Heirs Value: \$0.00 Year: 2014 Release user fee. Dwelling vacant. Can picked up 9/3/09	PROPERTY: 17186 Account: 09-32708	Total: \$218.00 Bill#: 2669
<i>User Fee</i>		Amount: \$0.00
Ward, W Howard Jr. & Gwen M. Value: \$0.00 Year: 2014 Release user fee. Can picked up 9/3/09	PROPERTY: 17147 Account: 09-01058	Total: \$218.00 Bill#: 2665
<i>User Fee</i>		Amount: \$0.00
Williams, Wade Lenwood Value: \$0.00 Year: 2014 Release user fee. Dwelling vacant. Can picked up	PROPERTY: 17222 Account: 09-33713	Total: \$218.00 Bill#: 4394
<i>User Fee</i>		Amount: \$0.00
Wilson, Eloise J. Value: \$0.00 Year: 2014 Release user fees. Dwellings vacant.	PROPERTY: 9916 Account: 05-07613	Total: \$436.00 Bill#: 99999
<i>User Fee</i>		Amount: \$0.00
Woodford Plantation LLC Value: \$0.00 Year: 2014 Release user fee. Dwelling vacant.	PROPERTY: 91532 Account: 15-05618	Total: \$218.00 Bill#: 5141
<i>User Fee</i>		Amount: \$0.00
Worley, Roger Dale Value: \$0.00 Year: 2014 Release user fee. Dwelling vacant. Can picked up 9/5/06	PROPERTY: 77797 Account: 09-34600	Total: \$218.00 Bill#: 5358
<i>User Fee</i>		Amount: \$0.00
Worrell, Richard (Heirs) Value: \$0.00 Year: 2013 Release user fee. Dwelling vacant.	PROPERTY: 19004 Account: 11-02942	Total: \$218.00 Bill#: 55360

Agenda Item #24: COMMENTS:

Chairman Russ opened the floor for comments. The following spoke.

A. Department Managers:

1. **Edward Davis (Soil and Water Conservation Director):** stated I would like to remind you of an invitation that was forwarded to each of you for a Farmland Preservation Celebration on October 09, 2014, at 4:00 P.M., on the farm of R.W. and U.G. Yates, and Steve Troxler, Commissioner of Agriculture, will be there.
2. **Gary Lanier, Economic Development/Planning Director:** What was the time for the Public Hearing for Agenda Item #4A? Reply was 7:00 P.M.
3. **Dalton Dockery, Cooperative Extension Director:** stated the following:
 - a. A question was presented relative to a farmer pulling large amounts of water from the aquifer in the Williams Township area, and from the

sources of information accessible to me, there is nothing legally wrong with this action; **and**

- b. The Farm-City Week Banquet will be held on November 18, 2014, Bob Etheridge, head of the State Farm Service Agency, will be the speaker, and I will let you know the time and location.
4. **Kay Worley, Emergency Services Director:** stated the following:
- a. I will give you an update on where we are at with the County radio system, and in particular with the tower sites;
 - b. We have three (3) tower sites that have passed the structural analysis and have been approved;
 - c. We have three tower sites that failed the structural analysis, and they are the Chadbourn site, the Nakina site and the 9-1-1 Center site;
 - d. We are waiting to get the structural analysis information back from the engineer on the Lake Waccamaw water tank site;
 - e. We are reviewing ways that we can improve the County's paging system
 - f. Our next Communications Committee Meeting is scheduled for September 18, 2014, at 12:00 Noon; **and**
 - g. We have a Fire and Rescue Association Meeting on September 17, 2014, at 7:30 P.M., at Lake Waccamaw Boys and Girls Home, and you are invited to attend.

Discussion was conducted about the inability for our emergency communication system to communicate with the State Highway Patrol, and possible avenues to take to improve on this.

B. Board of Commissioners:

- 1. **Commissioner Byrd:** stated the following:
 - a. South Carolina has a Safe Home Program that states if the house is valued at no more than \$300,000, and the owner is over 65 years old, they will pay one half of the cost to put a new roof on the house; **and**
 - b. After the September 18, 2014 Board Meeting, I gave much thought to the naming of the Department of Aging Building, and the unlimited sacrifices Ed Worley gave to help the senior citizens of Columbus County, above and beyond the call of duty, and I will make the following motion.

MOTION:

To name the Department of Aging Building the Worley Building, and to have a ceremony before the end of December, 2014 which would entail the presence of Congressman Mike McIntyre, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie.

Commissioner Prevatte requested that an oral vote be taken on the motion.

An oral vote was taken by Chairman Russ with the following results:

AYES: Chairman Russ, Vice Chairman Burroughs, Commissioners Byrd, McKenzie and McDowell; **and**

NAYS: Commissioners Bullard and Prevatte.

The motion passes on a five (5) to two (2) vote.

- 2. **Commissioner McKenzie:** stated the following:
 - a. We have a very competent and courageous staff which I greatly appreciate, and I would like to say thank you;
 - b. I would like to thank the merchants in the County; **and**
 - c. I am very proud to serve as a County Commissioner.
- 3. **Commissioner Prevatte:** stated the following:
 - a. I am living in a flood area;
 - b. I need help from this Board in getting this flooding problem resolved;
 - c. I am asking for any available help to alleviate the flooding problem in my area; **and**

- d. There is drainage problems on Red Store Road.
4. **Commissioner Bullard:** stated the following:
 - a. I am asking this Board to keep the important items on the Agenda instead of bringing them up at a meeting; **and**
 - b. I would like to invite everyone to the stumping on Saturday night at 6:30 P.M.
 5. **Vice Chairman Burroughs:** stated the following:
 - a. The time to register for the Steering Committees for the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners is about to run out; **and**
 - b. I would like to encourage all of us to serve on any of the seven (7) committees; **and**
 - c. The association is our advocacy and we need to have input.
 6. **Chairman Russ:** Algernon McKenzie spoke about the drug testing for the applicants that are receiving services from Social Services, and it is my opinion that this drug testing should have been required of the applicants a long time ago.
- C. **County Manager (William S. Clark):** stated the following:
1. The North Carolina Association of County Commissioners sent everyone an e-mail about Legislative Goals;
 2. The submission date for any Legislative Goals is September 19, 2014;
 3. In discussion with Vice Chairman Burroughs, he was interested in making sure we got some goals submitted;
 4. I have come up with two (2) Legislative Goals that I feel are important as follows:
 1. State-wide bond referendum to finance replacement for aging school facilities in rural counties ; **and**
 2. Basic Tools for economic development to include job investment development grants; **and**
 5. These are two (2) goals I am recommending that we send, and if any of you have any other goals, just let me know by Friday, September 19, 2014.
- D. **County Attorney (Michael H. Stephens):** stated the following:
1. Last week, we conducted a public auction on some county-owned property;
 2. This property was acquired through a tax foreclosure;
 3. A couple of months ago, we rejected a bid for \$3,100;
 4. Last week, we had a high bid of \$4,000, and I need to know from this Board whether you accept or reject this bid; **and**
 5. This is the tract of land near Five Points at Grice Road.

MOTION:

Commissioner Bullard made a motion to accept the high bid of four thousand and 00/100 (\$4,000.00) dollars for the county-owned property near Five Points, at Grice Road, seconded by Commissioner Prevatte. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #25: ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:14 P.M., Commissioner McDowell made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

P. EDWIN RUSS, Chairman

**COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V
COMBINATION BOARD MEETING
Monday, September 15, 2014
7:25 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, to act as the Columbus County Water and Sewer District I Board.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

P. Edwin Russ, **Chairman**
Trent Burroughs, **Vice Chairman**
Amon E. McKenzie
James E. Prevatte
Giles E. Byrd
Ricky Bullard
Charles T. McDowell

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

William S. Clark, **County Manager**
Mike Stephens, **County Attorney**
June B. Hall, **Clerk to Board**
Bobbie Faircloth, **Finance Officer**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

At 7:25 P.M., Chairman P. Edwin Russ called the **combination meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting to order.

Agenda Item #18: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

September 02, 2014 **Combination Meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting

Commissioner Bullard made a motion to approve the Columbus County Water and Sewer District I Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #19: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of ADJUSTMENTS to the AUGUST, 2014 MONTHLY WATER BILLS:

Danny Fowler, Public Utilities Director, requested Board approval of the following adjustments to the August, 2014 monthly water bills for Columbus County Water and Sewer District I.

August 2014 Adjustments for Water District I

DATE	ACCT #	ACCT NAME	ADJ AMT	REASON FOR ADJUSTMENT
8/22/2014	604140.00 97	JAMES FUSSELL	\$(145.93)	LEAK ADJUSTMENT
8/19/2014	101020.00 98	INEZ GRAINGER	\$(74.53)	LEAK ADJUSTMENT

DATE	ACCT #	ACCT NAME	ADJ AMT	REASON FOR ADJUSTMENT
8/19/2014	200148.00 98	MIRANDA A BUCK	\$(0.07)	BILLING ERROR
8/15/2014	303016.00 94	WILLIAM COX	\$(30.00)	POSTING ERROR
8/15/2014	302220.00 97	LEANNA KING	\$(0.21)	BILLING ERROR
8/15/2014	302175.00 97	LOUELLA TODD	\$(0.45)	BILLING ERROR
8/15/2014	302200.00 98	ELIZABETH EHFLIN	\$(0.76)	BILLING ERROR
8/15/2014	403380.00 98	DELANE KITCHENS	\$(71.69)	LEAK ADJUSTMENT

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve the adjustments to the August, 2014 monthly water bills for Columbus County Water and Sewer District I, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #20: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of WATER LOSS REDUCTION PROGRAM:

Danny Fowler, Public Utilities Director, requested Board approval of the following Water Loss Reduction Program for Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V.

**Water Loss Reduction Program
For Columbus County Public Utilities
Fiscal Year 2014-2015**

I. Water Audit

Each monthly billing cycle, the Columbus County Public Utilities Department will conduct an in house audit on the following components:

- A. Amount of water consumed in gallons
- B. Percent of total water produced
- C. Graph showing the trends in time of the monthly consumption and production
- D. Number of days wells are operated and total hours each well is operated per month
- E. Total cost of water loss for each billing period
- F. Total gallons of water accounted for in thousands will be multiplied by the lowest retail rate in the rate schedule as adopted by the Columbus County Board of Commissioners

II. Metering

- A. As of July 1, 2014, the Columbus County Public Water Supply System had a total of 5,447 connections that were metered. A total of 5,061 connections were active; and, a total of 386 connections were inactive. All connections to the Columbus County Public Water Supply System are metered. This represents 100% of all metered connections.
- B. All connections to the Columbus County Public Water Supply are metered.

1. Local fire departments are responsible for submitting Water Usage Report forms to the Columbus County Public Utilities Department on a monthly basis. This report shows the gallons of water that were used while filling up their equipment after fires and training events as well as filling up swimming pools for the general public. Meters must be obtained from the department to ensure that the gallons of usage are correctly documented.
2. The Utility System Operator that is responsible for all water quality issues within the public water supply system keeps a log of all line flushing sites and the gallons of water that are flushed in order to keep the system clean.
3. All irrigation systems that are connected to the Columbus County Public Water Supply are metered.
4. Contractors are required to obtain meters from the Public Utilities Department to track the gallons of water that are used during project installations. Bulk water sales are provided in the event of an emergency.

C. Meter Replacement Policy:

1. Meters are replaced when they do not meet the minimum AWWA performance standard of 98.5% accuracy or when they have stopped measuring the gallons of water that were used by the customer.
2. Meters with a fifteen (15) year field age are randomly pulled for testing to insure that they meet the minimum AWWA standard. Those found with below substandard performance are replaced.
3. Approximately 2% are replaced per year. This is an estimated figure.

D. Large Meter Calibration Program:

All meters four (4) inches or larger will be calibrated every two (2) years to ensure they meet the current AWWA standard. Any meter found operating below such standard will be repaired in the field or replaced within sixty (60) days of the recalibration or as soon as they are found defective.

E. Water system audits are scheduled for all five (5) water districts.

In January 2015, Water District I will undergo an audit. This district was selected due to the apparent discrepancies in water sold versus water purchased. Water District I was the first water system to be established in Columbus County.

III. Hidden Leak Detection and Repair

- A. In Fiscal Year 2013/2014, approximately 95.7 labor hours were involved in identifying, locating, and repairing leaks.

Hours/12 Billing Cycles = Hours per Billing Cycle

(95.7 / 12 = 7.98 Hours per Billing Cycle for Leak Repairs)

- B. In October 2014, the Columbus County Public Utilities Department will begin conducting water system audits as part of a system evaluation process. The last three

(3) fiscal years of water records will be reviewed to quantify the unaccounted for water loss over that period of time. This evaluation process will assist staff in looking for apparent losses such as excessive tank over flows due to inadequate telemetry controls, lack of tank altitude valves, pressure problems due to repetitive line breaks, and imbalances in the system from large customer meter calibrations and well production meters. The current telemetry system is incapable of providing daily production logs.

Once the system is within a 15% variance, the department will engage hidden leak detection services from the North Carolina Rural Water Association and/or private contractors.

- C. The Columbus County GIS Department prepared a map of the Columbus County Public Water Supply System showing the number of leaks that were found and repaired during Fiscal Year 2013/2014. (See attached map)
- D. All leaks that are found or reported are repaired as soon as possible. Repairs are usually completed within one (1) business day unless it is determined to be major and service to the general public is interrupted. Service interruption leaks are repaired as soon as they are reported.

Effective October 2014, all water line segment leak repairs will be tracked. The cost of materials and labor to repair each leak will be logged in a spreadsheet to use as a database to determine if and when a line should be replaced. These records will be used to justify line replacement in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). The current CIP has a 5 year planning horizon. Each year the CIP is updated and one additional year is added.

- E. Estimates were not kept on the amount of water that was lost or the leak repairs that were made during Fiscal Year 2013-2014. Effective October 2014, the Columbus County Public Utilities Department will begin tracking and managing this item. The adoption of the Water Loss Reduction Program (WLRP) by the Columbus County Board of Commissioners will require a full account of water loss and the associated expenses incurred by the loss as well as the materials and labor that were used to restore proper service. Approximately nine (9) leaks were repaired during Fiscal Year 2013-2014. These leaks were small service line breaks, hydrants hit by vehicles, blow off valve damages, and tank overflows. (See attached leak map)

Total estimate of repair cost to date for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 is approximately \$3,375.

Total estimated water saved in dollars for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 budget was approximately \$5,746.

- F. Water Loss Budget Planning:
 - 1. The Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) calls for a revised SCADA system. Two significant water loss events over the last three (3) years have been major line breaks resulting from lightning strikes and from contractor errors.

2. Funds have been appropriated in the 2014 budget to check large commercial meters for accuracy.
3. The Columbus County Public Utilities Department is in the process of updating the current billing software to alert the billing staff of low range usage and zero read activity each billing cycle. Handheld meter reading devices require triple entry for abnormal readings to ensure that the information entered into the system is accurate.
4. Part of the Water Loss Reduction Program (WLRP) is additional field staff training to become more aware of how water can be unaccounted for through membership with the North Carolina Rural Water Association (NCRWA).
5. The Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) requests \$10,000 in the current budget to install some new altitude valves.

IV. Line Location Services

- A. A total of 100% of all water lines installed in the Columbus County Public Water Supply System are recorded in the Columbus County GIS database. (See attached map)
- B. Engineers are required to submit as-built drawings to the Columbus County GIS Department for all water line extensions that are approved by the Columbus County Board of Commissioners.

V. Valve Exercising Program

A. Inventory

1.	Total Gate Valves in Water System	1,772
2.	Total Blow-off Valves in Water System	100
3.	Total Fire Hydrants in Water System	792
4.	Total Check Valve Vaults in Water System	5

B. Exercise Goal

Due to current staffing, our valve exercising goal is to exercise approximately 2% of all system valves per billing cycle with a complete rotation over a five year period. This equates to approximately 50 valves per month (600 per year) averaging approximately 2.5 valves per working day.

Only 58% of the existing valves were exercised in 2012-2013 budgets due to work load, holidays, vacations, sick leave, and operational contingencies.

DULY ADOPTED this the 15th day of September 2014, upon motion made by Commissioner Ricky Bullard, seconded by Commissioner Charles T. McDowell, and adopted by the following vote:

Ayes: -7- Noes: -0- Absent: -0-

By: /s/ **P. EDWIN RUSS**
Edwin Russ, Chairman
Columbus County Board of Commissioners
Governing Body of Columbus County Water Districts

Attested By:
/s/ **JUNE B. HALL**, Clerk to the Board

Commissioner Bullard made a motion to approve the Water Loss Reduction Program for Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V, seconded by Commissioner McDowell. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #21: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN:

Danny Fowler, Public Utilities Director, requested Board approval of the following Capital Improvement Plan for Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V.

**Capital Improvement Plan
For Columbus County Public Utilities
Fiscal Year 2014/2015**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Capital Improvement Plan attached herewith is a working tool developed by the Public Utilities Department staff to give guidance toward the Columbus County water and sewer infrastructure development and capital needs program. It consists of an assessment of the current water and wastewater systems and projects these capital needs over a five year period. This plan is offered to the Columbus County Board of Commissioners to seek their guidance and input as they look toward Columbus County's future. This plan should be a helpful fiscal planning tool that will allow the County to forecast capital demands on revenues and borrowing power to help avoid overextending itself financially during the next five years and beyond. Columbus County Public Utilities recommends that the review and approval of this Capital Improvement Plan be accomplished annually as part of the budget process. General approval of this document by resolution does not commit the Columbus County Board of Commissioners to specific approval of any one project or expenditure, nor does it appropriate money for any project. This would still be accomplished through separate capital project ordinances. The approval by resolution from the Columbus County Board of Commissioners simply approves the Capital Improvement Plan as a plan for the forecast period.

DESCRIPTION OF COUNTY

Demographics

Columbus County, established in 1808, is a rural county located in the southeastern portion of North Carolina. It is bordered by Robeson County to the northwest, Brunswick County to the southeast, Bladen and Pender Counties to the north, and Horry County, South Carolina to the south. Columbus County, the namesake of Christopher Columbus, is the third largest county in land area in North Carolina. The total land area is 954 square miles, with an estimated population of 58,078 residents. Columbus County at the northern boundary joins Bladen County and its southern boundary joins the northern boundary of Brunswick County. The most eastern edge of Columbus County joins the Cape Fear River which is the boundary between Pender County and Brunswick County. Robeson

County joins the northwest corner of Columbus County. The western boundary of Columbus County is the state line of North and South Carolina bound by Horry County. Columbus County has ten incorporated towns: Boardman, Bolton, Brunswick, Cerro Gordo, Chadbourn, Fair Bluff, Tabor City, Lake Waccamaw, Sandyfield, and Whiteville. In addition, there are nine townships: Bogue, Bug Hill, Lees, Ransom, South Williams, Tatum, Welches Creek, Western Prong and Williams. The City of Whiteville is the county seat.

Land Area Configurations

Columbus County is located in the southeastern portion of North Carolina and lies in the Coastal Plain Region. This region experiences an average of forty four inches of rainfall per year. Topography is very flat with elevation range of a low of two feet above sea level to sixty feet above sea level.

Description of Existing Facilities

The Columbus County Public Utilities Department provides water services to approximately 15,183 Columbus County residents. The Columbus County Public Water Supply System supplies water to its rural citizens and has emergency interconnections with five of the nine towns within the County and one sanitary district. It supplies water to the Tabor City Correctional Facilities, Acme Delco Elementary School, Acme Delco Middle School and the Columbus Charter School. The Columbus County Public Utilities Department also has water purchase contracts with the Town of Tabor City and the Town of Northwest in Brunswick County. The Columbus County Public Water Supply System utilizes the Black Creek, Pee Dee, and Upper Cape Fear Aquifers as the source for the system's drinking water and currently has pumping capacity of two million gallons a day. The Columbus County Public Water Supply System is made up of five County water and sewer districts. Each of these districts exists as a separate legal entity pursuant to Chapter 162A of the North Carolina General Statutes. The County maintains and operates the districts for a fee equal to the districts' debt service amount. This amount is paid from general revenues received from water and/or wastewater sales from the various districts. The County established a "Columbus County Public Utilities Fund" in Fiscal Year 2014/2015 that consolidated accounting for the operation of these districts. This allowed the department to budget revenues and expenditures in a consolidated manner rather than five individual district budgets. The Columbus County Public Utilities Department was established in 1989. We have grown in the last twenty-four years to approximately 5,061 water accounts, 50 sewer accounts, and 14 employees. The Columbus County Public Water Supply System consists of approximately 658 miles of water mains, 15 miles of sewer collection mains, 6 elevated water storage tanks, one booster pump station, and totals over 31.8 million dollars in assets. Approximately 70% of the County residents now have access to public water. As is apparent from the above history, this department has experienced tremendous growth and accomplishment through the efforts and foresight of past and present Columbus County Commissioners and staff. Their dedication to a countywide water and strategically located sanitary sewer system is the reason for this department's success.

WATER SYSTEM

Water Supply Facilities

It is believed that based upon the North Carolina Division of Water Resources database information that the ground water supply for Columbus County should be reliable through 2050. This is based upon the current levels of water in the three primary aquifers that are presently serving the County and municipal use, which are the Upper Cape Fear (western two-thirds of the County), Black Creek

(almost the entire County), and the Pee Dee (entire County). Because the quality of water in the Black Creek is of high quality, there is little to no treatment required to meet public health drinking water standards other than disinfection. Currently there are no disinfection by-product issues with the Upper Cape Fear, so there is a heavier demand for these strata of water. The State continues to monitor the ground water levels in Columbus County and there are presently seven monitoring wells maintained ranging from 330 feet below the earth's surface to 1,028 feet. These test wells interface with five different aquifers with constant monitoring for developing a robust database.

Columbus County's well supply provides a safe yield of 2.097 MGD (million gallons per day). The production facility is comprised of eight wells throughout the five water districts. The ground water quality is superior for the region and requires no treatment other than disinfection. The distribution system is comprised of 657 miles of pipe ranging from 3/4 inch to 16 inch transmission comprised primarily of PVC and Ductile Iron. There is approximately 2,000,000 gallons of overhead storage for emergency reserves providing adequate pressure for service.

Water Supply Plan

The State of North Carolina requires that all water systems submit an approved Local Water Supply Plan annually. This plan is updated by the Columbus County Public Utilities Department staff and must be submitted to the state by April 1st of each year. The purpose of this plan is to provide evidence to the State that the water system is providing adequate planning for the supply of water through a designated planning period.

Water Conservation Measures

Columbus County is planning to adopt its Water Shortage & Conservation Ordinance in the fall of 2014. The ordinance is in response to the drought conditions in our area over the last several years. The ordinance will more clearly define the stages of water conservation and what triggers their enactment. It will also help establish a normal irrigation schedule and increase the department's enforcement authority during emergencies. Our water supply is a critical resource that must be protected at all costs. This ordinance change is also critical to infrastructure funding with federal and state agencies.

Water Distribution System

Currently five water districts are in operation and provide water service to the general public. However, several communities still do not have access to this service. Currently there are plans to extend service in the Hallsboro area in Water District IV. The Columbus County Public Utilities Department is currently under contract with Green Engineering, PLLC to develop an infrastructure master plan to address un-served areas of the County and to develop policy and plans to connect the eastern part of the system to the western part that supports the majority of the industrial expansion.

Regional Interconnects

The Columbus County Public Utilities Department recognizes the importance of interconnects on both a local and regional basis and its role to serve other systems during mutual aid needs. These interconnections are also part of the department's risk management goals. The Columbus County Public Water Supply System is currently connected to the Town of Tabor City, the City of Northwest, the City of Whiteville, and the Town of Boardman.

These connections are of a vital importance in the event of emergency water shortage conditions. The ability to provide and receive additional water from these various sources reduces risk and

provides for sound regional planning. As the Columbus County Public Water Supply System continues to grow, there will be additional interconnections with the County's various neighbors.

WASTEWATER SYSTEM

Wastewater Treatment

Columbus County currently owns a 125,000 GPD (gallon per day) facility on Livingston Creek in the Riegelwood Community that serves the Momentive Corporation. Discharge from this plant is permitted to the Cape Fear River Basin.

Columbus County has entered into a contract with Grand Strand Water and Sewer Authority for wastewater services in parts of Water and Sewer District V. The County contracts for treatment and Operation & Maintenance service for this collection system. Columbus County's ownership will be transferred to the Grand Strand Water and Sewer Authority in accordance with the current contract as a pre-agreed arrangement. This stipulation was part of the agreement to influence Grand Strand Water and Sewer Authority's interest to provide wastewater services inside Columbus County Water and Sewer District V.

FINANCIAL PLANNING

Revenue Projections

Revenue projections for the next five years are difficult, if not impossible, to correctly predict. Revenues are tied to a myriad of factors including residential and commercial growth in Columbus County, local and regional economic conditions, and the ability of the Columbus County Public Utilities Department to meet all future water and sewer needs throughout the County and region. Before future revenues can be predicted, current revenue trends need to be reviewed for the last ten fiscal years

CCPUD Operating Revenues

Financial Period	Operating Revenues
Fiscal Year 2003-2004	\$2,472,230 *
Fiscal Year 2004-2005	\$1,672,292
Fiscal Year 2005-2006	2,352,930 **
Fiscal Year 2006-2007	2,086,341
Fiscal Year 2007-2008	2,189,797
Fiscal Year 2008-2009	2,720,582
Fiscal Year 2009-2010	2,822,571
Fiscal Year 2010-2011	\$3,049,987
Fiscal Year 2011-2012	\$3,034,465
Fiscal Year 2012-2013	\$3,118,239

* Includes contributions from the General Fund of \$744,000 to Water Districts II and III, and a donation of \$125,300 to Water District IV

** Includes a \$427,000 capital contribution from the General Fund

The Operating Revenue Table illustrates the revenue generated for the last ten years. You can see from these figures that revenues increased by over \$1,000,000. This represents a 55% increase in operating revenues during that time span. The majority of this increase is due to annual inflationary based increases in water and sewer rates and the growth of water and wastewater infrastructure throughout the County. The lone exception was FY 09-10 when rates were not adjusted due to the severe national economic condition. The overall financial strategy of the Public Utilities Department is to continue to maximize revenues consistent with an even pace of residential and commercial growth within the County. Expenditures will be kept in line while adequately maintaining treatment for the distribution systems and emphasizing regulatory compliance in all areas. The Columbus County Public Utilities Department is at a historical crossroads in the sense that 70% of all County residents have access to water. Additional access to water has been the primary source of a growing revenue base in the past. However, there are still areas within the county that require water. Because the population density in these areas is less than the current county average customers per mile, their financing options will be much more challenging. A Long Range Financial Plan has been developed, as part of the Consolidated Business Plan, to assist Columbus County with future financing options. Future revenue growth will be directly correlated to the department's ever increasingly important role as a regional water provider to surrounding municipalities.

RIVERBASIN STEWARDSHIP

Columbus County is a member of the Cape Fear River Assembly. This Assembly was organized to protect water quality and monitor the activity within the Basin, which could have a negative impact on our current and future drinking water supply. The Basin has now been organized into three sections, the Lower, the Middle, and the Upper Basin. Columbus County belongs to the Lower Basin. The Cape Fear River Assembly is taking a proactive approach to the long-range interest of the basin through the establishment of a comprehensive monitoring program. The Assembly just received a major grant from the State of North Carolina to study the entire basin. In addition to this, each of the three subsections is now forming monitoring coalitions. Each water system will be asked to participate financially in this program as well as to contract out specific monitoring tests that will provide each system, the Cape Fear River Assembly, and the State with vital data for activity impact and assessment. This information will play an important role in our ability to withdraw and discharge into the basin. Columbus County does not take any water from the river basin for its residential service; however, private industrial use is currently being served. Columbus County's Publicly Owned Treatment Works Facility discharges its treated effluent to the basin.

Environmental Education

In July of each year all Columbus County Public Utilities Department customers are provided with the annual Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) that outlines the water quality delivered to its customers. This educational document was posted on the Columbus County web page for the first time in Fiscal Year 2013-2014. Consumer Confidence Reports are required by the 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA).

These reports give customers information about their water quality. This report must be delivered to all Columbus County Public Water Supply customers by July 1st of each year. Most customers want to be better informed about the quality and safety of their tap water. By providing them with this information, we have an important opportunity to increase public confidence in the quality and safety of their drinking water.

Capital Project Budget Summary

This Capital Project Budget Summary combines all the proposed capital projects discussed earlier in this report. It provides a snapshot of anticipated capital needs over the next five years. The expenditures section shows each projects total budget. The revenue section shows the expected funding sources for each year.

Capital Improvement Plan Budget

This Page will be marked as Exhibit “A” and kept on file in the Minute Book Attachments, Book Number 5, in the Clerk to the Board’s Office, for review,

DULY ADOPTED this the 15th day of September 2014, upon motion made by Commissioner James R. Prevatte, seconded by Commissioner Trent Burroughs, and adopted by the following vote:

Ayes: -7- Noes: -0- Absent: -0-

Board of Commissioners of the County of Columbus

By: /s/ **P. EDWIN RUSS**

EDWIN RUSS, Chairman of the Board

Governing Body of Columbus County

Water and Sewer Districts

ATTEST:

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

Commissioner Prevatte made a motion to approve the Capital Improvement Plan for Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V, seconded by Vice Chairman Burroughs. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #22: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN:

Danny Fowler, Public Utilities Director, requesting Board approval of the Asset Management Plan for Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V.

Commissioner Bullard made a motion to approve the Asset Management Plan for Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V, seconded Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed. A copy of this document will be marked as Exhibit “B”, and kept on file in the Minute Book Attachments, Book Number 5, in the Clerk to the Board’s Office, for review.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:30 P.M., Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

P. EDWIN RUSS, Chairman

**COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V
COMBINATION BOARD MEETING
Monday, September 15, 2014
7:25 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, to act as the Columbus County Water and Sewer District II Board.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

P. Edwin Russ, **Chairman**
Trent Burroughs, **Vice Chairman**
Amon E. McKenzie
James E. Prevatte
Giles E. Byrd
Ricky Bullard
Charles T. McDowell

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

William S. Clark, **County Manager**
Mike Stephens, **County Attorney**
June B. Hall, **Clerk to Board**
Bobbie Faircloth, **Finance Officer**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

At 7:25 P.M., Chairman P. Edwin Russ called the **combination meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting to order.

Agenda Item #18: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

September 02, 2014 **Combination Meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting

Commissioner Bullard made a motion to approve the Columbus County Water and Sewer District II Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #19: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of ADJUSTMENTS to the AUGUST, 2014 MONTHLY WATER BILLS:

Danny Fowler, Public Utilities Director, requested Board approval of the following adjustments to the August, 2014 monthly water bills for Columbus County Water and Sewer District II.

August 2014 Adjustments for Water District II

DATE	ACCT #	ACCT NAME	ADJ AMT	REASON FOR ADJUSTMENT
8/19/2014	143210.00 97	DRENA BARNHILL	\$(66.24)	LEAK ADJUSTMENT
8/15/2014	112551.00 98	REGINA WARD	\$(23.00)	POSTING ERROR

DATE	ACCT #	ACCT NAME	ADJ AMT	REASON FOR ADJUSTMENT
8/15/2014	144150.00 98	JUIE RATTLELY JR	\$(30.00)	POSTING ERROR
8/15/2014	110210.00 97	TOMMY KENNDY	\$(18,557.98)	BILLING ERROR
8/15/2014	140182.00 98	PATRICIA SMITH	\$(30.00)	POSTING ERROR
8/15/2014	110960.00 98	ELTON BOWEN	\$(1.52)	BILLING ERROR
8/15/2014	142510.00 96	CRYSTAL BRITT	\$50.00	METER TAMPERING FEE
8/15/2014	131642.00 98	JOHN CALLIHAN	\$100.00	METER TAMPERING FEE - 2ND OFFENSE
8/15/2014	140115.00 95	PAULA DICICCO	\$50.00	METER TAMPERING FEE
8/15/2014	141697.00 93	SHEILA NEALEY	\$50.00	METER TAMPERING FEE
8/15/2014	111630.00 92	DEVON BLACKWELL	\$50.00	METER TAMPERING FEE
8/29/2014	142950.00 98	EVERGREEN VOL FIRE DEPT	\$(82.53)	LEAK ADJUSTMENT
8/20/2014	144460.00 98	JOSEPH JABLONOWSKIE	\$(386.36)	LEAK ADJUSTMENT

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve the adjustments to the August, 2014 monthly water bills for Columbus County Water and Sewer District II, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #20: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of WATER LOSS REDUCTION PROGRAM:

Danny Fowler, Public Utilities Director, requested Board approval of the following Water Loss Reduction Program for Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V.

**Water Loss Reduction Program
For Columbus County Public Utilities
Fiscal Year 2014-2015**

I. Water Audit

Each monthly billing cycle, the Columbus County Public Utilities Department will conduct an in house audit on the following components:

- A. Amount of water consumed in gallons
- B. Percent of total water produced
- C. Graph showing the trends in time of the monthly consumption and production
- D. Number of days wells are operated and total hours each well is operated per month
- E. Total cost of water loss for each billing period
- F. Total gallons of water accounted for in thousands will be multiplied by the lowest retail rate in the rate schedule as adopted by the Columbus County Board of Commissioners

II. Metering

- A. As of July 1, 2014, the Columbus County Public Water Supply System had a total of 5,447 connections that were metered. A total of 5,061 connections were active; and, a total of 386 connections were inactive. All connections to the Columbus County Public Water Supply System are metered. This represents 100% of all metered connections.
- B. All connections to the Columbus County Public Water Supply are metered.
1. Local fire departments are responsible for submitting Water Usage Report forms to the Columbus County Public Utilities Department on a monthly basis. This report shows the gallons of water that were used while filling up their equipment after fires and training events as well as filling up swimming pools for the general public. Meters must be obtained from the department to ensure that the gallons of usage are correctly documented.
 2. The Utility System Operator that is responsible for all water quality issues within the public water supply system keeps a log of all line flushing sites and the gallons of water that are flushed in order to keep the system clean.
 3. All irrigation systems that are connected to the Columbus County Public Water Supply are metered.
 4. Contractors are required to obtain meters from the Public Utilities Department to track the gallons of water that are used during project installations. Bulk water sales are provided in the event of an emergency.
- C. Meter Replacement Policy:
1. Meters are replaced when they do not meet the minimum AWWA performance standard of 98.5% accuracy or when they have stopped measuring the gallons of water that were used by the customer.
 2. Meters with a fifteen (15) year field age are randomly pulled for testing to insure that they meet the minimum AWWA standard. Those found with below substandard performance are replaced.
 3. Approximately 2% are replaced per year. This is an estimated figure.
- D. Large Meter Calibration Program:
- All meters four (4) inches or larger will be calibrated every two (2) years to ensure they meet the current AWWA standard. Any meter found operating below such standard will be repaired in the field or replaced within sixty (60) days of the recalibration or as soon as they are found defective.
- E. Water system audits are scheduled for all five (5) water districts.
- In January 2015, Water District I will undergo an audit. This district was selected due to the apparent discrepancies in water sold versus water purchased. Water District I was the first water system to be established in Columbus County.

III. Hidden Leak Detection and Repair

- A. In Fiscal Year 2013/2014, approximately 95.7 labor hours were involved in identifying, locating, and repairing leaks.

Hours/12 Billing Cycles = Hours per Billing Cycle

(95.7 / 12 = 7.98 Hours per Billing Cycle for Leak Repairs)

- B. In October 2014, the Columbus County Public Utilities Department will begin conducting water system audits as part of a system evaluation process. The last three (3) fiscal years of water records will be reviewed to quantify the unaccounted for water loss over that period of time. This evaluation process will assist staff in looking for apparent losses such as excessive tank over flows due to inadequate telemetry controls, lack of tank altitude valves, pressure problems due to repetitive line breaks, and imbalances in the system from large customer meter calibrations and well production meters. The current telemetry system is incapable of providing daily production logs.

Once the system is within a 15% variance, the department will engage hidden leak detection services from the North Carolina Rural Water Association and/or private contractors.

- C. The Columbus County GIS Department prepared a map of the Columbus County Public Water Supply System showing the number of leaks that were found and repaired during Fiscal Year 2013/2014. (See attached map)

- D. All leaks that are found or reported are repaired as soon as possible. Repairs are usually completed within one (1) business day unless it is determined to be major and service to the general public is interrupted. Service interruption leaks are repaired as soon as they are reported.

Effective October 2014, all water line segment leak repairs will be tracked. The cost of materials and labor to repair each leak will be logged in a spreadsheet to use as a database to determine if and when a line should be replaced. These records will be used to justify line replacement in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). The current CIP has a 5 year planning horizon. Each year the CIP is updated and one additional year is added.

- E. Estimates were not kept on the amount of water that was lost or the leak repairs that were made during Fiscal Year 2013-2014. Effective October 2014, the Columbus County Public Utilities Department will begin tracking and managing this item. The adoption of the Water Loss Reduction Program (WLRP) by the Columbus County Board of Commissioners will require a full account of water loss and the associated expenses incurred by the loss as well as the materials and labor that were used to restore proper service. Approximately nine (9) leaks were repaired during Fiscal Year 2013-2014. These leaks were small service line breaks, hydrants hit by vehicles, blow off valve damages, and tank overflows. (See attached leak map)

Total estimate of repair cost to date for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 is approximately \$3,375.

Total estimated water saved in dollars for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 budget was approximately \$5,746.

F. Water Loss Budget Planning:

1. The Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) calls for a revised SCADA system. Two significant water loss events over the last three (3) years have been major line breaks resulting from lightning strikes and from contractor errors.
2. Funds have been appropriated in the 2014 budget to check large commercial meters for accuracy.
3. The Columbus County Public Utilities Department is in the process of updating the current billing software to alert the billing staff of low range usage and zero read activity each billing cycle. Handheld meter reading devices require triple entry for abnormal readings to ensure that the information entered into the system is accurate.
4. Part of the Water Loss Reduction Program (WLRP) is additional field staff training to become more aware of how water can be unaccounted for through membership with the North Carolina Rural Water Association (NCRWA).
5. The Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) requests \$10,000 in the current budget to install some new altitude valves.

IV. Line Location Services

- A. A total of 100% of all water lines installed in the Columbus County Public Water Supply System are recorded in the Columbus County GIS database. (See attached map)
- B. Engineers are required to submit as-built drawings to the Columbus County GIS Department for all water line extensions that are approved by the Columbus County Board of Commissioners.

V. Valve Exercising Program

A. Inventory

1.	Total Gate Valves in Water System	1,772
2.	Total Blow-off Valves in Water System	100
3.	Total Fire Hydrants in Water System	792
4.	Total Check Valve Vaults in Water System	5

B. Exercise Goal

Due to current staffing, our valve exercising goal is to exercise approximately 2% of all system valves per billing cycle with a complete rotation over a five year period. This equates to approximately 50 valves per month (600 per year) averaging approximately 2.5 valves per working day.

Only 58% of the existing valves were exercised in 2012-2013 budgets due to work load, holidays, vacations, sick leave, and operational contingencies.

DULY ADOPTED this the 15th day of September 2014, upon motion made by Commissioner Ricky Bullard, seconded by Commissioner Charles T. McDowell, and adopted by the following vote:

Ayes: -7- Noes: -0- Absent: -0-

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Board of Commissioners of the County of Columbus
By: /s/ **P. EDWIN RUSS**
Edwin Russ, Chairman
Columbus County Board of Commissioners
Governing Body of Columbus County Water Districts

Attested By:
/s/ **JUNE B. HALL**, Clerk to the Board

Commissioner Bullard made a motion to approve the Water Loss Reduction Program for Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V, seconded by Commissioner McDowell. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #21: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN:

Danny Fowler, Public Utilities Director, requested Board approval of the following Capital Improvement Plan for Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V.

Capital Improvement Plan For Columbus County Public Utilities Fiscal Year 2014/2015

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Capital Improvement Plan attached herewith is a working tool developed by the Public Utilities Department staff to give guidance toward the Columbus County water and sewer infrastructure development and capital needs program. It consists of an assessment of the current water and wastewater systems and projects these capital needs over a five year period. This plan is offered to the Columbus County Board of Commissioners to seek their guidance and input as they look toward Columbus County's future. This plan should be a helpful fiscal planning tool that will allow the County to forecast capital demands on revenues and borrowing power to help avoid overextending itself financially during the next five years and beyond. Columbus County Public Utilities recommends that the review and approval of this Capital Improvement Plan be accomplished annually as part of the budget process. General approval of this document by resolution does not commit the Columbus County Board of Commissioners to specific approval of any one project or expenditure, nor does it appropriate money for any project. This would still be accomplished through separate capital project ordinances. The approval by resolution from the Columbus County Board of Commissioners simply approves the Capital Improvement Plan as a plan for the forecast period.

DESCRIPTION OF COUNTY

Demographics

Columbus County, established in 1808, is a rural county located in the southeastern portion of North Carolina. It is bordered by Robeson County to the northwest, Brunswick County to the southeast, Bladen and Pender Counties to the north, and Horry County, South Carolina to the south. Columbus County, the namesake of Christopher Columbus, is the third largest county in land area in North Carolina. The total land area is 954 square miles, with an estimated population of 58,078 residents. Columbus County at the northern boundary joins Bladen County and its southern boundary joins the northern boundary of Brunswick County. The most eastern edge of Columbus County joins the Cape Fear River which is the boundary between Pender County and Brunswick County. Robeson County joins the northwest corner of Columbus County.

The western boundary of Columbus County is the state line of North and South Carolina bound by Horry County. Columbus County has ten incorporated towns: Boardman, Bolton, Brunswick, Cerro Gordo, Chadbourn, Fair Bluff, Tabor City, Lake Waccamaw, Sandyfield, and Whiteville. In addition, there are nine townships: Bogue, Bug Hill, Lees, Ransom, South Williams, Tatum, Welches Creek, Western Prong and Williams. The City of Whiteville is the county seat.

Land Area Configurations

Columbus County is located in the southeastern portion of North Carolina and lies in the Coastal Plain Region. This region experiences an average of forty four inches of rainfall per year. Topography is very flat with elevation range of a low of two feet above sea level to sixty feet above sea level.

Description of Existing Facilities

The Columbus County Public Utilities Department provides water services to approximately 15,183 Columbus County residents. The Columbus County Public Water Supply System supplies water to its rural citizens and has emergency interconnections with five of the nine towns within the County and one sanitary district. It supplies water to the Tabor City Correctional Facilities, Acme Delco Elementary School, Acme Delco Middle School and the Columbus Charter School. The Columbus County Public Utilities Department also has water purchase contracts with the Town of Tabor City and the Town of Northwest in Brunswick County. The Columbus County Public Water Supply System utilizes the Black Creek, Pee Dee, and Upper Cape Fear Aquifers as the source for the system's drinking water and currently has pumping capacity of two million gallons a day. The Columbus County Public Water Supply System is made up of five County water and sewer districts. Each of these districts exists as a separate legal entity pursuant to Chapter 162A of the North Carolina General Statutes. The County maintains and operates the districts for a fee equal to the districts' debt service amount. This amount is paid from general revenues received from water and/or wastewater sales from the various districts. The County established a "Columbus County Public Utilities Fund" in Fiscal Year 2014/2015 that consolidated accounting for the operation of these districts. This allowed the department to budget revenues and expenditures in a consolidated manner rather than five individual district budgets. The Columbus County Public Utilities Department was established in 1989. We have grown in the last twenty-four years to approximately 5,061 water accounts, 50 sewer accounts, and 14 employees. The Columbus County Public Water Supply System consists of approximately 658 miles of water mains, 15 miles of sewer collection mains, 6 elevated water storage tanks, one booster pump station, and totals over 31.8 million dollars in assets. Approximately 70% of the County residents now have access to public water. As is apparent from the above history, this department has experienced tremendous growth and accomplishment through the efforts and foresight of past and present Columbus County Commissioners and staff. Their dedication to a countywide water and strategically located sanitary sewer system is the reason for this department's success.

WATER SYSTEM

Water Supply Facilities

It is believed that based upon the North Carolina Division of Water Resources database information that the ground water supply for Columbus County should be reliable through 2050. This is based upon the current levels of water in the three primary aquifers that are presently serving the County and municipal use, which are the Upper Cape Fear (western two-thirds of the County), Black Creek (almost the entire County), and the Pee Dee (entire County). Because the quality of water in the Black Creek is of high quality, there is little to no treatment required to meet public health drinking water standards other than disinfection. Currently there are no disinfection by-product issues with the Upper Cape Fear, so there is a heavier demand for these strata of water. The State continues to monitor the ground water levels in Columbus County and

there are presently seven monitoring wells maintained ranging from 330 feet below the earth's surface to 1,028 feet. These test wells interface with five different aquifers with constant monitoring for developing a robust database.

Columbus County's well supply provides a safe yield of 2.097 MGD (million gallons per day). The production facility is comprised of eight wells throughout the five water districts. The ground water quality is superior for the region and requires no treatment other than disinfection. The distribution system is comprised of 657 miles of pipe ranging from 3/4 inch to 16 inch transmission comprised primarily of PVC and Ductile Iron. There is approximately 2,000,000 gallons of overhead storage for emergency reserves providing adequate pressure for service.

Water Supply Plan

The State of North Carolina requires that all water systems submit an approved Local Water Supply Plan annually. This plan is updated by the Columbus County Public Utilities Department staff and must be submitted to the state by April 1st of each year. The purpose of this plan is to provide evidence to the State that the water system is providing adequate planning for the supply of water through a designated planning period.

Water Conservation Measures

Columbus County is planning to adopt its Water Shortage & Conservation Ordinance in the fall of 2014. The ordinance is in response to the drought conditions in our area over the last several years. The ordinance will more clearly define the stages of water conservation and what triggers their enactment. It will also help establish a normal irrigation schedule and increase the department's enforcement authority during emergencies. Our water supply is a critical resource that must be protected at all costs. This ordinance change is also critical to infrastructure funding with federal and state agencies.

Water Distribution System

Currently five water districts are in operation and provide water service to the general public. However, several communities still do not have access to this service. Currently there are plans to extend service in the Hallsboro area in Water District IV. The Columbus County Public Utilities Department is currently under contract with Green Engineering, PLLC to develop an infrastructure master plan to address un-served areas of the County and to develop policy and plans to connect the eastern part of the system to the western part that supports the majority of the industrial expansion.

Regional Interconnects

The Columbus County Public Utilities Department recognizes the importance of interconnects on both a local and regional basis and its role to serve other systems during mutual aid needs. These interconnections are also part of the department's risk management goals. The Columbus County Public Water Supply System is currently connected to the Town of Tabor City, the City of Northwest, the City of Whiteville, and the Town of Boardman.

These connections are of a vital importance in the event of emergency water shortage conditions. The ability to provide and receive additional water from these various sources reduces risk and provides for sound regional planning. As the Columbus County Public Water Supply System continues to grow, there will be additional interconnections with the County's various neighbors.

WASTEWATER SYSTEM

Wastewater Treatment

Columbus County currently owns a 125,000 GPD (gallon per day) facility on Livingston Creek in the Riegelwood Community that serves the Momentive Corporation. Discharge from this plant is permitted to the Cape Fear River Basin.

Columbus County has entered into a contract with Grand Strand Water and Sewer Authority for wastewater services in parts of Water and Sewer District V. The County contracts for treatment and Operation & Maintenance service for this collection system. Columbus County's ownership will be transferred to the Grand Strand Water and Sewer Authority in accordance with the current contract as a pre-agreed arrangement. This stipulation was part of the agreement to influence Grand Strand Water and Sewer Authority's interest to provide wastewater services inside Columbus County Water and Sewer District V.

FINANCIAL PLANNING

Revenue Projections

Revenue projections for the next five years are difficult, if not impossible, to correctly predict. Revenues are tied to a myriad of factors including residential and commercial growth in Columbus County, local and regional economic conditions, and the ability of the Columbus County Public Utilities Department to meet all future water and sewer needs throughout the County and region. Before future revenues can be predicted, current revenue trends need to be reviewed for the last ten fiscal years

CCPUD Operating Revenues

Financial Period	Operating Revenues
Fiscal Year 2003-2004	\$2,472,230 *
Fiscal Year 2004-2005	\$1,672,292
Fiscal Year 2005-2006	2,352,930 **
Fiscal Year 2006-2007	2,086,341
Fiscal Year 2007-2008	2,189,797
Fiscal Year 2008-2009	2,720,582
Fiscal Year 2009-2010	2,822,571
Fiscal Year 2010-2011	\$3,049,987
Fiscal Year 2011-2012	\$3,034,465
Fiscal Year 2012-2013	\$3,118,239

* Includes contributions from the General Fund of \$744,000 to Water Districts II and III, and a donation of \$125,300 to Water District IV

** Includes a \$427,000 capital contribution from the General Fund

The Operating Revenue Table illustrates the revenue generated for the last ten years. You can see from these figures that revenues increased by over \$1,000,000. This represents a 55% increase in operating revenues during that time span. The majority of this increase is due to annual inflationary based increases in water and sewer rates and the growth of water and wastewater infrastructure throughout the County. The

lone exception was FY 09-10 when rates were not adjusted due to the severe national economic condition. The overall financial strategy of the Public Utilities Department is to continue to maximize revenues consistent with an even pace of residential and commercial growth within the County. Expenditures will be kept in line while adequately maintaining treatment for the distribution systems and emphasizing regulatory compliance in all areas. The Columbus County Public Utilities Department is at a historical crossroads in the sense that 70% of all County residents have access to water. Additional access to water has been the primary source of a growing revenue base in the past. However, there are still areas within the county that require water. Because the population density in these areas is less than the current county average customers per mile, their financing options will be much more challenging. A Long Range Financial Plan has been developed, as part of the Consolidated Business Plan, to assist Columbus County with future financing options. Future revenue growth will be directly correlated to the department's ever increasingly important role as a regional water provider to surrounding municipalities.

RIVERBASIN STEWARDSHIP

Columbus County is a member of the Cape Fear River Assembly. This Assembly was organized to protect water quality and monitor the activity within the Basin, which could have a negative impact on our current and future drinking water supply. The Basin has now been organized into three sections, the Lower, the Middle, and the Upper Basin. Columbus County belongs to the Lower Basin. The Cape Fear River Assembly is taking a proactive approach to the long-range interest of the basin through the establishment of a comprehensive monitoring program. The Assembly just received a major grant from the State of North Carolina to study the entire basin. In addition to this, each of the three subsections is now forming monitoring coalitions. Each water system will be asked to participate financially in this program as well as to contract out specific monitoring tests that will provide each system, the Cape Fear River Assembly, and the State with vital data for activity impact and assessment. This information will play an important role in our ability to withdraw and discharge into the basin. Columbus County does not take any water from the river basin for its residential service; however, private industrial use is currently being served. Columbus County's Publicly Owned Treatment Works Facility discharges its treated effluent to the basin.

Environmental Education

In July of each year all Columbus County Public Utilities Department customers are provided with the annual Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) that outlines the water quality delivered to its customers. This educational document was posted on the Columbus County web page for the first time in Fiscal Year 2013-2014. Consumer Confidence Reports are required by the 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA).

These reports give customers information about their water quality. This report must be delivered to all Columbus County Public Water Supply customers by July 1st of each year. Most customers want to be better informed about the quality and safety of their tap water. By providing them with this information, we have an important opportunity to increase public confidence in the quality and safety of their drinking water.

Capital Project Budget Summary

This Capital Project Budget Summary combines all the proposed capital projects discussed earlier in this report. It provides a snapshot of anticipated capital needs over the next five years. The expenditures section shows each projects total budget. The revenue section shows the expected funding sources for each year.

Capital Improvement Plan Budget

This Page will be marked as Exhibit “A” and kept on file in the Minute Book Attachments, Book Number 5, in the Clerk to the Board’s Office, for review,

DULY ADOPTED this the 15th day of September 2014, upon motion made by Commissioner James R. Prevatte, seconded by Commissioner Trent Burroughs, and adopted by the following vote:

Ayes: -7- Noes: -0- Absent: -0-

Board of Commissioners of the County of Columbus

By: /s/ **P. EDWIN RUSS**

EDWIN RUSS, Chairman of the Board

Governing Body of Columbus County

Water and Sewer Districts

ATTEST:

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

Commissioner Prevatte made a motion to approve the Capital Improvement Plan for Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V, seconded by Vice Chairman Burroughs. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #22: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN:

Danny Fowler, Public Utilities Director, requesting Board approval of the Asset Management Plan for Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V.

Commissioner Bullard made a motion to approve the Asset Management Plan for Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V, seconded Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed. A copy of this document will be marked as Exhibit “B”, and kept on file in the Minute Book Attachments, Book Number 5, in the Clerk to the Board’s Office, for review.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:30 P.M., Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

P. EDWIN RUSS, Chairman

**COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V
COMBINATION BOARD MEETING
Monday, September 15, 2014
7:25 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, to act as the Columbus County Water and Sewer District III Board.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

P. Edwin Russ, **Chairman**
Trent Burroughs, **Vice Chairman**
Amon E. McKenzie
James E. Prevatte
Giles E. Byrd
Ricky Bullard
Charles T. McDowell

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

William S. Clark, **County Manager**
Mike Stephens, **County Attorney**
June B. Hall, **Clerk to Board**
Bobbie Faircloth, **Finance Officer**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

At 7:25 P.M., Chairman P. Edwin Russ called the **combination meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting to order.

Agenda Item #18: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

September 02, 2014 **Combination Meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting

Commissioner Bullard made a motion to approve the Columbus County Water and Sewer District III Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #19: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of ADJUSTMENTS to the AUGUST, 2014 MONTHLY WATER BILLS:

Danny Fowler, Public Utilities Director, requested Board approval of the following adjustments to the August, 2014 monthly water bills for Columbus County Water and Sewer District III.

August 2014 Adjustments for Water District III

DATE	ACCT #	ACCT NAME	ADJ AMT	REASON FOR ADJUSTMENT
8/15/2014	381240.00.98	Myrtle Starnes	(\$2.35)	Billing Error

DATE	ACCT #	ACCT NAME	ADJ AMT	REASON FOR ADJUSTMENT
8/15/2014	340035.00.97	Selma Merritt	(\$3.28)	Billing Error

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve the adjustments to the August, 2014 monthly water bills for Columbus County Water and Sewer District III, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #20: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of WATER LOSS REDUCTION PROGRAM:

Danny Fowler, Public Utilities Director, requested Board approval of the following Water Loss Reduction Program for Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V.

**Water Loss Reduction Program
For Columbus County Public Utilities
Fiscal Year 2014-2015**

I. Water Audit

Each monthly billing cycle, the Columbus County Public Utilities Department will conduct an in house audit on the following components:

- A. Amount of water consumed in gallons
- B. Percent of total water produced
- C. Graph showing the trends in time of the monthly consumption and production
- D. Number of days wells are operated and total hours each well is operated per month
- E. Total cost of water loss for each billing period
- F. Total gallons of water accounted for in thousands will be multiplied by the lowest retail rate in the rate schedule as adopted by the Columbus County Board of Commissioners

II. Metering

- A. As of July 1, 2014, the Columbus County Public Water Supply System had a total of 5,447 connections that were metered. A total of 5,061 connections were active; and, a total of 386 connections were inactive. All connections to the Columbus County Public Water Supply System are metered. This represents 100% of all metered connections.
- B. All connections to the Columbus County Public Water Supply are metered.
 - 1. Local fire departments are responsible for submitting Water Usage Report forms to the Columbus County Public Utilities Department on a monthly basis. This report shows the gallons of water that were used while filling up their equipment after fires and training events as well as filling up swimming pools for the general public. Meters must be obtained from the department to ensure that the gallons of usage are correctly documented.

2. The Utility System Operator that is responsible for all water quality issues within the public water supply system keeps a log of all line flushing sites and the gallons of water that are flushed in order to keep the system clean.
 3. All irrigation systems that are connected to the Columbus County Public Water Supply are metered.
 4. Contractors are required to obtain meters from the Public Utilities Department to track the gallons of water that are used during project installations. Bulk water sales are provided in the event of an emergency.
- C. Meter Replacement Policy:
1. Meters are replaced when they do not meet the minimum AWWA performance standard of 98.5% accuracy or when they have stopped measuring the gallons of water that were used by the customer.
 2. Meters with a fifteen (15) year field age are randomly pulled for testing to insure that they meet the minimum AWWA standard. Those found with below substandard performance are replaced.
 3. Approximately 2% are replaced per year. This is an estimated figure.
- D. Large Meter Calibration Program:
- All meters four (4) inches or larger will be calibrated every two (2) years to ensure they meet the current AWWA standard. Any meter found operating below such standard will be repaired in the field or replaced within sixty (60) days of the recalibration or as soon as they are found defective.
- E. Water system audits are scheduled for all five (5) water districts.
- In January 2015, Water District I will undergo an audit. This district was selected due to the apparent discrepancies in water sold versus water purchased. Water District I was the first water system to be established in Columbus County.

III. Hidden Leak Detection and Repair

- A. In Fiscal Year 2013/2014, approximately 95.7 labor hours were involved in identifying, locating, and repairing leaks.
- Hours/12 Billing Cycles = Hours per Billing Cycle
- (95.7 / 12 = 7.98 Hours per Billing Cycle for Leak Repairs)
- B. In October 2014, the Columbus County Public Utilities Department will begin conducting water system audits as part of a system evaluation process. The last three (3) fiscal years of water records will be reviewed to quantify the unaccounted for water loss over that period of time. This evaluation process will assist staff in looking for apparent losses such as excessive tank over flows due to inadequate telemetry controls, lack of tank altitude valves, pressure problems due to repetitive line breaks, and imbalances in the system from large customer meter calibrations and well production meters. The current telemetry system is incapable of providing daily production logs.

Once the system is within a 15% variance, the department will engage hidden leak detection services from the North Carolina Rural Water Association and/or private contractors.

- C. The Columbus County GIS Department prepared a map of the Columbus County Public Water Supply System showing the number of leaks that were found and repaired during Fiscal Year 2013/2014. (See attached map)
- D. All leaks that are found or reported are repaired as soon as possible. Repairs are usually completed within one (1) business day unless it is determined to be major and service to the general public is interrupted. Service interruption leaks are repaired as soon as they are reported.

Effective October 2014, all water line segment leak repairs will be tracked. The cost of materials and labor to repair each leak will be logged in a spreadsheet to use as a database to determine if and when a line should be replaced. These records will be used to justify line replacement in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). The current CIP has a 5 year planning horizon. Each year the CIP is updated and one additional year is added.

- E. Estimates were not kept on the amount of water that was lost or the leak repairs that were made during Fiscal Year 2013-2014. Effective October 2014, the Columbus County Public Utilities Department will begin tracking and managing this item. The adoption of the Water Loss Reduction Program (WLRP) by the Columbus County Board of Commissioners will require a full account of water loss and the associated expenses incurred by the loss as well as the materials and labor that were used to restore proper service. Approximately nine (9) leaks were repaired during Fiscal Year 2013-2014. These leaks were small service line breaks, hydrants hit by vehicles, blow off valve damages, and tank overflows. (See attached leak map)

Total estimate of repair cost to date for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 is approximately \$3,375.

Total estimated water saved in dollars for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 budget was approximately \$5,746.

- F. Water Loss Budget Planning:
 1. The Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) calls for a revised SCADA system. Two significant water loss events over the last three (3) years have been major line breaks resulting from lightning strikes and from contractor errors.
 2. Funds have been appropriated in the 2014 budget to check large commercial meters for accuracy.
 3. The Columbus County Public Utilities Department is in the process of updating the current billing software to alert the billing staff of low range usage and zero read activity each billing cycle. Handheld meter reading devices require triple entry for abnormal readings to ensure that the information entered into the system is accurate.
 4. Part of the Water Loss Reduction Program (WLRP) is additional field staff training to become more aware of how water can be unaccounted for through membership with the North Carolina Rural Water Association (NCRWA).

5. The Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) requests \$10,000 in the current budget to install some new altitude valves.

IV. Line Location Services

- A. A total of 100% of all water lines installed in the Columbus County Public Water Supply System are recorded in the Columbus County GIS database. (See attached map)
- B. Engineers are required to submit as-built drawings to the Columbus County GIS Department for all water line extensions that are approved by the Columbus County Board of Commissioners.

V. Valve Exercising Program

A. Inventory

1.	Total Gate Valves in Water System	1,772
2.	Total Blow-off Valves in Water System	100
3.	Total Fire Hydrants in Water System	792
4.	Total Check Valve Vaults in Water System	5

B. Exercise Goal

Due to current staffing, our valve exercising goal is to exercise approximately 2% of all system valves per billing cycle with a complete rotation over a five year period. This equates to approximately 50 valves per month (600 per year) averaging approximately 2.5 valves per working day.

Only 58% of the existing valves were exercised in 2012-2013 budgets due to work load, holidays, vacations, sick leave, and operational contingencies.

DULY ADOPTED this the 15th day of September 2014, upon motion made by Commissioner Ricky Bullard, seconded by Commissioner Charles T. McDowell, and adopted by the following vote:

Ayes: -7- Noes: -0- Absent: -0-

Board of Commissioners of the County of Columbus

By: /s/ **P. EDWIN RUSS**

Edwin Russ, Chairman

Columbus County Board of Commissioners

Governing Body of Columbus County Water Districts

Attested By:

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

Commissioner Bullard made a motion to approve the Water Loss Reduction Program for Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V, seconded by Commissioner McDowell. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #21: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN:

Danny Fowler, Public Utilities Director, requested Board approval of the following Capital Improvement Plan for Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V.

**Capital Improvement Plan
For Columbus County Public Utilities
Fiscal Year 2014/2015**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Capital Improvement Plan attached herewith is a working tool developed by the Public Utilities Department staff to give guidance toward the Columbus County water and sewer infrastructure development and capital needs program. It consists of an assessment of the current water and wastewater systems and projects these capital needs over a five year period. This plan is offered to the Columbus County Board of Commissioners to seek their guidance and input as they look toward Columbus County's future. This plan should be a helpful fiscal planning tool that will allow the County to forecast capital demands on revenues and borrowing power to help avoid overextending itself financially during the next five years and beyond. Columbus County Public Utilities recommends that the review and approval of this Capital Improvement Plan be accomplished annually as part of the budget process. General approval of this document by resolution does not commit the Columbus County Board of Commissioners to specific approval of any one project or expenditure, nor does it appropriate money for any project. This would still be accomplished through separate capital project ordinances. The approval by resolution from the Columbus County Board of Commissioners simply approves the Capital Improvement Plan as a plan for the forecast period.

DESCRIPTION OF COUNTY

Demographics

Columbus County, established in 1808, is a rural county located in the southeastern portion of North Carolina. It is bordered by Robeson County to the northwest, Brunswick County to the southeast, Bladen and Pender Counties to the north, and Horry County, South Carolina to the south. Columbus County, the namesake of Christopher Columbus, is the third largest county in land area in North Carolina. The total land area is 954 square miles, with an estimated population of 58,078 residents. Columbus County at the northern boundary joins Bladen County and its southern boundary joins the northern boundary of Brunswick County. The most eastern edge of Columbus County joins the Cape Fear River which is the boundary between Pender County and Brunswick County. Robeson County joins the northwest corner of Columbus County. The western boundary of Columbus County is the state line of North and South Carolina bound by Horry County. Columbus County has ten incorporated towns: Boardman, Bolton, Brunswick, Cerro Gordo, Chadbourn, Fair Bluff, Tabor City, Lake Waccamaw, Sandyfield, and Whiteville. In addition, there are nine townships: Bogue, Bug Hill, Lees, Ransom, South Williams, Tatum, Welches Creek, Western Prong and Williams. The City of Whiteville is the county seat.

Land Area Configurations

Columbus County is located in the southeastern portion of North Carolina and lies in the Coastal Plain Region. This region experiences an average of forty four inches of rainfall per year. Topography is very flat with elevation range of a low of two feet above sea level to sixty feet above sea level.

Description of Existing Facilities

The Columbus County Public Utilities Department provides water services to approximately 15,183 Columbus County residents. The Columbus County Public Water Supply System supplies water to its rural citizens and has emergency interconnections with five of the nine towns within the County and one sanitary district. It supplies water to the Tabor City Correctional Facilities, Acme Delco Elementary School, Acme Delco Middle School and the Columbus Charter School. The Columbus County Public Utilities Department also has water purchase contracts with the Town of Tabor City and the Town of Northwest in Brunswick County. The Columbus County Public Water Supply System utilizes the Black Creek, Pee Dee, and Upper Cape Fear Aquifers as the source for the system's drinking water and currently has pumping capacity of two million gallons a day. The Columbus County Public Water Supply System is made up of five County water and sewer districts. Each of these districts exists as a separate legal entity pursuant to Chapter 162A of the North Carolina General Statutes. The County maintains and operates the districts for a fee equal to the districts' debt service amount. This amount is paid from general revenues received from water and/or wastewater sales from the various districts. The County established a "Columbus County Public Utilities Fund" in Fiscal Year 2014/2015 that consolidated accounting for the operation of these districts. This allowed the department to budget revenues and expenditures in a consolidated manner rather than five individual district budgets. The Columbus County Public Utilities Department was established in 1989. We have grown in the last twenty-four years to approximately 5,061 water accounts, 50 sewer accounts, and 14 employees. The Columbus County Public Water Supply System consists of approximately 658 miles of water mains, 15 miles of sewer collection mains, 6 elevated water storage tanks, one booster pump station, and totals over 31.8 million dollars in assets. Approximately 70% of the County residents now have access to public water. As is apparent from the above history, this department has experienced tremendous growth and accomplishment through the efforts and foresight of past and present Columbus County Commissioners and staff. Their dedication to a countywide water and strategically located sanitary sewer system is the reason for this department's success.

WATER SYSTEM

Water Supply Facilities

It is believed that based upon the North Carolina Division of Water Resources database information that the ground water supply for Columbus County should be reliable through 2050. This is based upon the current levels of water in the three primary aquifers that are presently serving the County and municipal use, which are the Upper Cape Fear (western two-thirds of the County), Black Creek (almost the entire County), and the Pee Dee (entire County). Because the quality of water in the Black Creek is of high quality, there is little to no treatment required to meet public health drinking water standards other than disinfection. Currently there are no disinfection by-product issues with the Upper Cape Fear, so there is a heavier demand for these strata of water. The State continues to monitor the ground water levels in Columbus County and there are presently seven monitoring wells maintained ranging from 330 feet below the earth's surface to 1,028 feet. These test wells interface with five different aquifers with constant monitoring for developing a robust database.

Columbus County's well supply provides a safe yield of 2.097 MGD (million gallons per day). The production facility is comprised of eight wells throughout the five water districts. The ground water quality is superior for the region and requires no treatment other than disinfection. The distribution system is comprised of 657 miles of pipe ranging from 3/4 inch to 16 inch transmission comprised primarily of PVC and Ductile Iron. There is approximately 2,000,000 gallons of overhead storage for emergency reserves providing adequate pressure for service.

Water Supply Plan

The State of North Carolina requires that all water systems submit an approved Local Water Supply Plan annually. This plan is updated by the Columbus County Public Utilities Department staff and must be submitted to the state by April 1st of each year. The purpose of this plan is to provide evidence to the State that the water system is providing adequate planning for the supply of water through a designated planning period.

Water Conservation Measures

Columbus County is planning to adopt its Water Shortage & Conservation Ordinance in the fall of 2014. The ordinance is in response to the drought conditions in our area over the last several years. The ordinance will more clearly define the stages of water conservation and what triggers their enactment. It will also help establish a normal irrigation schedule and increase the department's enforcement authority during emergencies. Our water supply is a critical resource that must be protected at all costs. This ordinance change is also critical to infrastructure funding with federal and state agencies.

Water Distribution System

Currently five water districts are in operation and provide water service to the general public. However, several communities still do not have access to this service. Currently there are plans to extend service in the Hallsboro area in Water District IV. The Columbus County Public Utilities Department is currently under contract with Green Engineering, PLLC to develop an infrastructure master plan to address un-served areas of the County and to develop policy and plans to connect the eastern part of the system to the western part that supports the majority of the industrial expansion.

Regional Interconnects

The Columbus County Public Utilities Department recognizes the importance of interconnects on both a local and regional basis and its role to serve other systems during mutual aid needs. These interconnections are also part of the department's risk management goals. The Columbus County Public Water Supply System is currently connected to the Town of Tabor City, the City of Northwest, the City of Whiteville, and the Town of Boardman.

These connections are of a vital importance in the event of emergency water shortage conditions. The ability to provide and receive additional water from these various sources reduces risk and provides for sound regional planning. As the Columbus County Public Water Supply System continues to grow, there will be additional interconnections with the County's various neighbors.

WASTEWATER SYSTEM

Wastewater Treatment

Columbus County currently owns a 125,000 GPD (gallon per day) facility on Livingston Creek in the Riegelwood Community that serves the Momentive Corporation. Discharge from this plant is permitted to the Cape Fear River Basin.

Columbus County has entered into a contract with Grand Strand Water and Sewer Authority for wastewater services in parts of Water and Sewer District V. The County contracts for treatment and Operation & Maintenance service for this collection system. Columbus County's ownership will be transferred to the Grand Strand Water and Sewer Authority in accordance with the current contract as a pre-agreed arrangement. This stipulation was part of the agreement to influence Grand Strand Water and Sewer Authority's interest to provide wastewater services inside Columbus County Water and Sewer District V.

FINANCIAL PLANNING

Revenue Projections

Revenue projections for the next five years are difficult, if not impossible, to correctly predict. Revenues are tied to a myriad of factors including residential and commercial growth in Columbus County, local and regional economic conditions, and the ability of the Columbus County Public Utilities Department to meet all future water and sewer needs throughout the County and region. Before future revenues can be predicted, current revenue trends need to be reviewed for the last ten fiscal years

CCPUD Operating Revenues

Financial Period	Operating Revenues
Fiscal Year 2003-2004	\$2,472,230 *
Fiscal Year 2004-2005	\$1,672,292
Fiscal Year 2005-2006	2,352,930 **
Fiscal Year 2006-2007	2,086,341
Fiscal Year 2007-2008	2,189,797
Fiscal Year 2008-2009	2,720,582
Fiscal Year 2009-2010	2,822,571
Fiscal Year 2010-2011	\$3,049,987
Fiscal Year 2011-2012	\$3,034,465
Fiscal Year 2012-2013	\$3,118,239

* Includes contributions from the General Fund of \$744,000 to Water Districts II and III, and a donation of \$125,300 to Water District IV

** Includes a \$427,000 capital contribution from the General Fund

The Operating Revenue Table illustrates the revenue generated for the last ten years. You can see from these figures that revenues increased by over \$1,000,000. This represents a 55% increase in operating revenues during that time span. The majority of this increase is due to annual inflationary based increases in water and sewer rates and the growth of water and wastewater infrastructure throughout the County. The lone exception was FY 09-10 when rates were not adjusted due to the severe national economic condition. The overall financial strategy of the Public Utilities Department is to continue to maximize revenues consistent with an even pace of residential and commercial growth within the County. Expenditures will be kept in line while adequately maintaining treatment for the distribution systems and emphasizing regulatory compliance in all areas. The Columbus County Public Utilities Department is at a historical crossroads in the sense that 70% of all County residents have access to water. Additional access to water has been the primary source of a growing revenue base in the past. However, there are still areas within the county that require water. Because the population density in these areas is less than the current county average customers per mile, their financing options will be much more challenging. A Long Range Financial Plan has been developed, as part of the Consolidated Business Plan, to assist Columbus County with future financing options. Future revenue growth will be directly correlated to the department's ever increasingly important role as a regional water provider to surrounding municipalities.

RIVERBASIN STEWARDSHIP

Columbus County is a member of the Cape Fear River Assembly. This Assembly was organized to protect water quality and monitor the activity within the Basin, which could have a negative impact on our current and future drinking water supply. The Basin has now been organized into three sections, the Lower, the Middle, and the Upper Basin. Columbus County belongs to the Lower Basin. The Cape Fear River Assembly is taking a proactive approach to the long-range interest of the basin through the establishment of a comprehensive monitoring program. The Assembly just received a major grant from the State of North Carolina to study the entire basin. In addition to this, each of the three subsections is now forming monitoring coalitions. Each water system will be asked to participate financially in this program as well as to contract out specific monitoring tests that will provide each system, the Cape Fear River Assembly, and the State with vital data for activity impact and assessment. This information will play an important role in our ability to withdraw and discharge into the basin. Columbus County does not take any water from the river basin for its residential service; however, private industrial use is currently being served. Columbus County's Publicly Owned Treatment Works Facility discharges its treated effluent to the basin.

Environmental Education

In July of each year all Columbus County Public Utilities Department customers are provided with the annual Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) that outlines the water quality delivered to its customers. This educational document was posted on the Columbus County web page for the first time in Fiscal Year 2013-2014. Consumer Confidence Reports are required by the 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA).

These reports give customers information about their water quality. This report must be delivered to all Columbus County Public Water Supply customers by July 1st of each year. Most customers want to be better informed about the quality and safety of their tap water. By providing them with this information, we have an important opportunity to increase public confidence in the quality and safety of their drinking water.

Capital Project Budget Summary

This Capital Project Budget Summary combines all the proposed capital projects discussed earlier in this report. It provides a snapshot of anticipated capital needs over the next five years. The expenditures section shows each projects total budget. The revenue section shows the expected funding sources for each year.

Capital Improvement Plan Budget

This Page will be marked as Exhibit "A" and kept on file in the Minute Book Attachments, Book Number 5, in the Clerk to the Board's Office, for review,

DULY ADOPTED this the 15th day of September 2014, upon motion made by Commissioner James R. Prevatte, seconded by Commissioner Trent Burroughs, and adopted by the following vote:

Ayes: -7- Noes: -0- Absent: -0-

Board of Commissioners of the County of Columbus

By: /s/ **P. EDWIN RUSS**

EDWIN RUSS, Chairman of the Board

Governing Body of Columbus County

Water and Sewer Districts

ATTEST:

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

Commissioner Prevatte made a motion to approve the Capital Improvement Plan for Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V, seconded by Vice Chairman Burroughs. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #22: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN:

Danny Fowler, Public Utilities Director, requesting Board approval of the Asset Management Plan for Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V.

Commissioner Bullard made a motion to approve the Asset Management Plan for Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V, seconded Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed. A copy of this document will be marked as Exhibit “B”, and kept on file in the Minute Book Attachments, Book Number 5, in the Clerk to the Board’s Office, for review.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:30 P.M., Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

P. EDWIN RUSS, Chairman

**COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V
COMBINATION BOARD MEETING
Monday, September 15, 2014
7:25 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, to act as the Columbus County Water and Sewer District IV Board.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

P. Edwin Russ, **Chairman**
Trent Burroughs, **Vice Chairman**
Amon E. McKenzie
James E. Prevatte
Giles E. Byrd
Ricky Bullard
Charles T. McDowell

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

William S. Clark, **County Manager**
Mike Stephens, **County Attorney**
June B. Hall, **Clerk to Board**
Bobbie Faircloth, **Finance Officer**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

At 7:25 P.M., Chairman P. Edwin Russ called the **combination meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting to order.

Agenda Item #18: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

September 02, 2014 **Combination Meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting

Commissioner Bullard made a motion to approve the Columbus County Water and Sewer District IV Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #19: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of ADJUSTMENTS to the AUGUST, 2014 MONTHLY WATER BILLS:

Danny Fowler, Public Utilities Director, requested Board approval of the following adjustments to the August, 2014 monthly water bills for Columbus County Water and Sewer District IV.

August 2014 Adjustments for Water District IV

DATE	ACCT #	ACCT NAME	ADJ AMT	REASON FOR ADJUSTMENT
8/15/2014	420700.00.98	Christine Potter	(\$11.56)	Billing Error
8/15/2014	430512.00.98	Rodney Carroll	(\$1.76)	Billing Error

DATE	ACCT #	ACCT NAME	ADJ AMT	REASON FOR ADJUSTMENT
8/29/2014	430394.00.98	Darryl Truesdell	(\$30.00)	Posting Error

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve the adjustments to the August, 2014 monthly water bills for Columbus County Water and Sewer District IV, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #20: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of WATER LOSS REDUCTION PROGRAM:

Danny Fowler, Public Utilities Director, requested Board approval of the following Water Loss Reduction Program for Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V.

**Water Loss Reduction Program
For Columbus County Public Utilities
Fiscal Year 2014-2015**

I. Water Audit

Each monthly billing cycle, the Columbus County Public Utilities Department will conduct an in house audit on the following components:

- A. Amount of water consumed in gallons
- B. Percent of total water produced
- C. Graph showing the trends in time of the monthly consumption and production
- D. Number of days wells are operated and total hours each well is operated per month
- E. Total cost of water loss for each billing period
- F. Total gallons of water accounted for in thousands will be multiplied by the lowest retail rate in the rate schedule as adopted by the Columbus County Board of Commissioners

II. Metering

- A. As of July 1, 2014, the Columbus County Public Water Supply System had a total of 5,447 connections that were metered. A total of 5,061 connections were active; and, a total of 386 connections were inactive. All connections to the Columbus County Public Water Supply System are metered. This represents 100% of all metered connections.
- B. All connections to the Columbus County Public Water Supply are metered.
 - 1. Local fire departments are responsible for submitting Water Usage Report forms to the Columbus County Public Utilities Department on a monthly basis. This report shows the gallons of water that were used while filling up their equipment after fires and training events as well as filling up swimming pools for the general public. Meters must be obtained from the department to ensure that the gallons of usage are correctly documented.

2. The Utility System Operator that is responsible for all water quality issues within the public water supply system keeps a log of all line flushing sites and the gallons of water that are flushed in order to keep the system clean.
 3. All irrigation systems that are connected to the Columbus County Public Water Supply are metered.
 4. Contractors are required to obtain meters from the Public Utilities Department to track the gallons of water that are used during project installations. Bulk water sales are provided in the event of an emergency.
- C. Meter Replacement Policy:
1. Meters are replaced when they do not meet the minimum AWWA performance standard of 98.5% accuracy or when they have stopped measuring the gallons of water that were used by the customer.
 2. Meters with a fifteen (15) year field age are randomly pulled for testing to insure that they meet the minimum AWWA standard. Those found with below substandard performance are replaced.
 3. Approximately 2% are replaced per year. This is an estimated figure.
- D. Large Meter Calibration Program:
- All meters four (4) inches or larger will be calibrated every two (2) years to ensure they meet the current AWWA standard. Any meter found operating below such standard will be repaired in the field or replaced within sixty (60) days of the recalibration or as soon as they are found defective.
- E. Water system audits are scheduled for all five (5) water districts.
- In January 2015, Water District I will undergo an audit. This district was selected due to the apparent discrepancies in water sold versus water purchased. Water District I was the first water system to be established in Columbus County.

III. Hidden Leak Detection and Repair

- A. In Fiscal Year 2013/2014, approximately 95.7 labor hours were involved in identifying, locating, and repairing leaks.

Hours/12 Billing Cycles = Hours per Billing Cycle

(95.7 / 12 = 7.98 Hours per Billing Cycle for Leak Repairs)

- B. In October 2014, the Columbus County Public Utilities Department will begin conducting water system audits as part of a system evaluation process. The last three (3) fiscal years of water records will be reviewed to quantify the unaccounted for water loss over that period of time. This evaluation process will assist staff in looking for apparent losses such as excessive tank over flows due to inadequate telemetry controls, lack of tank altitude valves, pressure problems due to repetitive line breaks, and imbalances in the system from large customer meter calibrations and well production meters. The current telemetry system is incapable of providing daily production logs.

Once the system is within a 15% variance, the department will engage hidden leak detection services from the North Carolina Rural Water Association and/or private contractors.

- C. The Columbus County GIS Department prepared a map of the Columbus County Public Water Supply System showing the number of leaks that were found and repaired during Fiscal Year 2013/2014. (See attached map)
- D. All leaks that are found or reported are repaired as soon as possible. Repairs are usually completed within one (1) business day unless it is determined to be major and service to the general public is interrupted. Service interruption leaks are repaired as soon as they are reported.

Effective October 2014, all water line segment leak repairs will be tracked. The cost of materials and labor to repair each leak will be logged in a spreadsheet to use as a database to determine if and when a line should be replaced. These records will be used to justify line replacement in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). The current CIP has a 5 year planning horizon. Each year the CIP is updated and one additional year is added.

- E. Estimates were not kept on the amount of water that was lost or the leak repairs that were made during Fiscal Year 2013-2014. Effective October 2014, the Columbus County Public Utilities Department will begin tracking and managing this item. The adoption of the Water Loss Reduction Program (WLRP) by the Columbus County Board of Commissioners will require a full account of water loss and the associated expenses incurred by the loss as well as the materials and labor that were used to restore proper service. Approximately nine (9) leaks were repaired during Fiscal Year 2013-2014. These leaks were small service line breaks, hydrants hit by vehicles, blow off valve damages, and tank overflows. (See attached leak map)

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Total estimated water saved in dollars for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 budget was approximately \$5,746.

- F. Water Loss Budget Planning:
 1. The Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) calls for a revised SCADA system. Two significant water loss events over the last three (3) years have been major line breaks resulting from lightning strikes and from contractor errors.
 2. Funds have been appropriated in the 2014 budget to check large commercial meters for accuracy.
 3. The Columbus County Public Utilities Department is in the process of updating the current billing software to alert the billing staff of low range usage and zero read activity each billing cycle. Handheld meter reading

devices require triple entry for abnormal readings to ensure that the information entered into the system is accurate.

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5. The Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) requests \$10,000 in the current budget to install some new altitude valves.

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- A. A total of 100% of all water lines installed in the Columbus County Public Water Supply System are recorded in the Columbus County GIS database. (See attached map)
- B. Engineers are required to submit as-built drawings to the Columbus County GIS Department for all water line extensions that are approved by the Columbus County Board of Commissioners.

V. Valve Exercising Program

A. Inventory

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2.	Total Blow-off Valves in Water System	100
3.	Total Fire Hydrants in Water System	792
4.	Total Check Valve Vaults in Water System	5

B. Exercise Goal

Due to current staffing, our valve exercising goal is to exercise approximately 2% of all system valves per billing cycle with a complete rotation over a five year period. This equates to approximately 50 valves per month (600 per year) averaging approximately 2.5 valves per working day.

Only 58% of the existing valves were exercised in 2012-2013 budgets due to work load, holidays, vacations, sick leave, and operational contingencies.

DULY ADOPTED this the 15th day of September 2014, upon motion made by Commissioner Ricky Bullard, seconded by Commissioner Charles T. McDowell, and adopted by the following vote:

Ayes: -7- Noes: -0- Absent: -0-

Board of Commissioners of the County of Columbus
 By: /s/ **P. EDWIN RUSS**
 Edwin Russ, Chairman
 Columbus County Board of Commissioners
 Governing Body of Columbus County Water Districts

Attested By:

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

Commissioner Bullard made a motion to approve the Water Loss Reduction Program for Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V, seconded by Commissioner McDowell. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #21: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN:

Danny Fowler, Public Utilities Director, requested Board approval of the following Capital Improvement Plan for Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V.

**Capital Improvement Plan
For Columbus County Public Utilities
Fiscal Year 2014/2015**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Capital Improvement Plan attached herewith is a working tool developed by the Public Utilities Department staff to give guidance toward the Columbus County water and sewer infrastructure development and capital needs program. It consists of an assessment of the current water and wastewater systems and projects these capital needs over a five year period. This plan is offered to the Columbus County Board of Commissioners to seek their guidance and input as they look toward Columbus County's future. This plan should be a helpful fiscal planning tool that will allow the County to forecast capital demands on revenues and borrowing power to help avoid overextending itself financially during the next five years and beyond. Columbus County Public Utilities recommends that the review and approval of this Capital Improvement Plan be accomplished annually as part of the budget process. General approval of this document by resolution does not commit the Columbus County Board of Commissioners to specific approval of any one project or expenditure, nor does it appropriate money for any project. This would still be accomplished through separate capital project ordinances. The approval by resolution from the Columbus County Board of Commissioners simply approves the Capital Improvement Plan as a plan for the forecast period.

DESCRIPTION OF COUNTY

Demographics

Columbus County, established in 1808, is a rural county located in the southeastern portion of North Carolina. It is bordered by Robeson County to the northwest, Brunswick County to the southeast, Bladen and Pender Counties to the north, and Horry County, South Carolina to the south. Columbus County, the namesake of Christopher Columbus, is the third largest county in land area in North Carolina. The total land area is 954 square miles, with an estimated population of 58,078 residents. Columbus County at the northern boundary joins Bladen County and its southern boundary joins the northern boundary of Brunswick County. The most eastern edge of Columbus County joins the Cape Fear River which is the boundary between Pender County and Brunswick County. Robeson County joins the northwest corner of Columbus County. The western boundary of Columbus County is the state line of North and South Carolina bound by Horry County. Columbus County has ten incorporated towns: Boardman, Bolton, Brunswick, Cerro Gordo, Chadbourn, Fair Bluff, Tabor City, Lake Waccamaw, Sandyfield, and Whiteville. In addition, there are nine townships: Bogue, Bug Hill, Lees, Ransom, South Williams, Tatum, Welches Creek, Western Prong and Williams. The City of Whiteville is the county seat.

Land Area Configurations

Columbus County is located in the southeastern portion of North Carolina and lies in the Coastal Plain Region. This region experiences an average of forty four inches of rainfall per year. Topography is very flat with elevation range of a low of two feet above sea level to sixty feet above sea level.

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The Columbus County Public Utilities Department provides water services to approximately 15,183 Columbus County residents. The Columbus County Public Water Supply System supplies water to its rural citizens and has emergency interconnections with five of the nine towns within the County and one sanitary district. It supplies water to the Tabor City Correctional Facilities, Acme Delco Elementary School, Acme Delco Middle School and the Columbus Charter School. The Columbus County Public Utilities Department also has water purchase contracts with the Town of Tabor City and the Town of Northwest in Brunswick County. The Columbus County Public Water Supply System utilizes the Black Creek, Pee Dee, and Upper Cape Fear Aquifers as the source for the system's drinking water and currently has pumping capacity of two million gallons a day. The Columbus County Public Water Supply System is made up of five County water and sewer districts. Each of these districts exists as a separate legal entity pursuant to Chapter 162A of the North Carolina General Statutes. The County maintains and operates the districts for a fee equal to the districts' debt service amount. This amount is paid from general revenues received from water and/or wastewater sales from the various districts. The County established a "Columbus County Public Utilities Fund" in Fiscal Year 2014/2015 that consolidated accounting for the operation of these districts. This allowed the department to budget revenues and expenditures in a consolidated manner rather than five individual district budgets. The Columbus County Public Utilities Department was established in 1989. We have grown in the last twenty-four years to approximately 5,061 water accounts, 50 sewer accounts, and 14 employees. The Columbus County Public Water Supply System consists of approximately 658 miles of water mains, 15 miles of sewer collection mains, 6 elevated water storage tanks, one booster pump station, and totals over 31.8 million dollars in assets. Approximately 70% of the County residents now have access to public water. As is apparent from the above history, this department has experienced tremendous growth and accomplishment through the efforts and foresight of past and present Columbus County Commissioners and staff. Their dedication to a countywide water and strategically located sanitary sewer system is the reason for this department's success.

WATER SYSTEM**Water Supply Facilities**

It is believed that based upon the North Carolina Division of Water Resources database information that the ground water supply for Columbus County should be reliable through 2050. This is based upon the current levels of water in the three primary aquifers that are presently serving the County and municipal use, which are the Upper Cape Fear (western two-thirds of the County), Black Creek (almost the entire County), and the Pee Dee (entire County). Because the quality of water in the Black Creek is of high quality, there is little to no treatment required to meet public health drinking water standards other than disinfection. Currently there are no disinfection by-product issues with the Upper Cape Fear, so there is a heavier demand for these strata of water. The State continues to monitor the ground water levels in Columbus County and there are presently seven monitoring wells maintained ranging from 330 feet below the earth's surface to 1,028 feet. These test wells interface with five different aquifers with constant monitoring for developing a robust database.

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The State of North Carolina requires that all water systems submit an approved Local Water Supply Plan annually. This plan is updated by the Columbus County Public Utilities Department staff and must be submitted to the state by April 1st of each year. The purpose of this plan is to provide evidence to the State that the water system is providing adequate planning for the supply of water through a designated planning period.

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The Columbus County Public Utilities Department recognizes the importance of interconnects on both a local and regional basis and its role to serve other systems during mutual aid needs. These interconnections are also part of the department's risk management goals. The Columbus County Public Water Supply System is currently connected to the Town of Tabor City, the City of Northwest, the City of Whiteville, and the Town of Boardman.

These connections are of a vital importance in the event of emergency water shortage conditions. The ability to provide and receive additional water from these various sources reduces risk and provides for sound regional planning. As the Columbus County Public Water Supply System continues to grow, there will be additional interconnections with the County's various neighbors.

WASTEWATER SYSTEM

Wastewater Treatment

Columbus County currently owns a 125,000 GPD (gallon per day) facility on Livingston Creek in the Riegelwood Community that serves the Momentive Corporation. Discharge from this plant is permitted to the Cape Fear River Basin.

Columbus County has entered into a contract with Grand Strand Water and Sewer Authority for wastewater services in parts of Water and Sewer District V. The County contracts for treatment and Operation & Maintenance service for this collection system. Columbus County's ownership will be transferred to the Grand Strand Water and Sewer Authority in accordance with the current contract as a pre-agreed arrangement. This stipulation was part of the agreement to influence Grand Strand Water and Sewer Authority's interest to provide wastewater services inside Columbus County Water and Sewer District V.

FINANCIAL PLANNING

Revenue Projections

Revenue projections for the next five years are difficult, if not impossible, to correctly predict. Revenues are tied to a myriad of factors including residential and commercial growth in Columbus County, local and regional economic conditions, and the ability of the Columbus County Public Utilities Department to meet all future water and sewer needs throughout the County and region. Before future revenues can be predicted, current revenue trends need to be reviewed for the last ten fiscal years

CCPUD Operating Revenues

Financial Period	Operating Revenues
Fiscal Year 2003-2004	\$2,472,230 *
Fiscal Year 2004-2005	\$1,672,292
Fiscal Year 2005-2006	2,352,930 **
Fiscal Year 2006-2007	2,086,341
Fiscal Year 2007-2008	2,189,797
Fiscal Year 2008-2009	2,720,582
Fiscal Year 2009-2010	2,822,571
Fiscal Year 2010-2011	\$3,049,987
Fiscal Year 2011-2012	\$3,034,465
Fiscal Year 2012-2013	\$3,118,239

* Includes contributions from the General Fund of \$744,000 to Water Districts II and III, and a donation of \$125,300 to Water District IV

** Includes a \$427,000 capital contribution from the General Fund

The Operating Revenue Table illustrates the revenue generated for the last ten years. You can see from these figures that revenues increased by over \$1,000,000. This represents a 55% increase in operating revenues during that time span. The majority of this increase is due to annual inflationary based increases in water and sewer rates and the growth of water and wastewater infrastructure throughout the County. The lone exception was FY 09-10 when rates were not adjusted due to the severe national economic condition. The overall financial strategy of the Public Utilities Department

is to continue to maximize revenues consistent with an even pace of residential and commercial growth within the County. Expenditures will be kept in line while adequately maintaining treatment for the distribution systems and emphasizing regulatory compliance in all areas. The Columbus County Public Utilities Department is at a historical crossroads in the sense that 70% of all County residents have access to water. Additional access to water has been the primary source of a growing revenue base in the past. However, there are still areas within the county that require water. Because the population density in these areas is less than the current county average customers per mile, their financing options will be much more challenging. A Long Range Financial Plan has been developed, as part of the Consolidated Business Plan, to assist Columbus County with future financing options. Future revenue growth will be directly correlated to the department's ever increasingly important role as a regional water provider to surrounding municipalities.

RIVERBASIN STEWARDSHIP

Columbus County is a member of the Cape Fear River Assembly. This Assembly was organized to protect water quality and monitor the activity within the Basin, which could have a negative impact on our current and future drinking water supply. The Basin has now been organized into three sections, the Lower, the Middle, and the Upper Basin. Columbus County belongs to the Lower Basin. The Cape Fear River Assembly is taking a proactive approach to the long-range interest of the basin through the establishment of a comprehensive monitoring program. The Assembly just received a major grant from the State of North Carolina to study the entire basin. In addition to this, each of the three subsections is now forming monitoring coalitions. Each water system will be asked to participate financially in this program as well as to contract out specific monitoring tests that will provide each system, the Cape Fear River Assembly, and the State with vital data for activity impact and assessment. This information will play an important role in our ability to withdraw and discharge into the basin. Columbus County does not take any water from the river basin for its residential service; however, private industrial use is currently being served. Columbus County's Publicly Owned Treatment Works Facility discharges its treated effluent to the basin.

Environmental Education

In July of each year all Columbus County Public Utilities Department customers are provided with the annual Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) that outlines the water quality delivered to its customers. This educational document was posted on the Columbus County web page for the first time in Fiscal Year 2013-2014. Consumer Confidence Reports are required by the 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA).

These reports give customers information about their water quality. This report must be delivered to all Columbus County Public Water Supply customers by July 1st of each year. Most customers want to be better informed about the quality and safety of their tap water. By providing them with this information, we have an important opportunity to increase public confidence in the quality and safety of their drinking water.

Capital Project Budget Summary

This Capital Project Budget Summary combines all the proposed capital projects discussed earlier in this report. It provides a snapshot of anticipated capital needs over the next five years. The expenditures section shows each projects total budget. The revenue section shows the expected funding sources for each year.

This Page will be marked as Exhibit "A" and kept on file in the Minute Book Attachments, Book Number 5, in the Clerk to the Board's Office, for review,

DULY ADOPTED this the 15th day of September 2014, upon motion made by Commissioner James R. Prevatte, seconded by Commissioner Trent Burroughs, and adopted by the following vote:

Ayes: -7- Noes: -0- Absent: -0-

Board of Commissioners of the County of Columbus

By: /s/ **P. EDWIN RUSS**

EDWIN RUSS, Chairman of the Board

Governing Body of Columbus County

Water and Sewer Districts

ATTEST:

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

Commissioner Prevatte made a motion to approve the Capital Improvement Plan for Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V, seconded by Vice Chairman Burroughs. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #22: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN:

Danny Fowler, Public Utilities Director, requesting Board approval of the Asset Management Plan for Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V.

Commissioner Bullard made a motion to approve the Asset Management Plan for Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V, seconded Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed. A copy of this document will be marked as Exhibit "B", and kept on file in the Minute Book Attachments, Book Number 5, in the Clerk to the Board's Office, for review.

APPOINTMENT to WATER and SEWER ADVISORY COMMISSION:

Commissioner Byrd appointed Margaret Gordon, 5606 Hallsboro Road, Clarkton, NC 28433, Telephone: 840-9845 (C), 645-2660 (H), to fill the unexpired term of James Gordon, Jr. who resigned, with term expiring 06-02-2016.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:30 P.M., Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

P. EDWIN RUSS, Chairman

**COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V
COMBINATION BOARD MEETING**

Monday, September 15, 2014

7:25 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, to act as the Columbus County Water and Sewer District V Board.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

P. Edwin Russ, **Chairman**
Trent Burroughs, **Vice Chairman**
Amon E. McKenzie
James E. Prevatte
Giles E. Byrd
Ricky Bullard
Charles T. McDowell

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

William S. Clark, **County Manager**
Mike Stephens, **County Attorney**
June B. Hall, **Clerk to Board**
Bobbie Faircloth, **Finance Officer**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

At 7:25 P.M., Chairman P. Edwin Russ called the **combination meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting to order.

Agenda Item #18: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

September 02, 2014 **Combination Meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting

Commissioner Bullard made a motion to approve the Columbus County Water and Sewer District V Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #19: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of ADJUSTMENTS to the AUGUST, 2014 MONTHLY WATER BILLS:

Danny Fowler, Public Utilities Director, requested Board approval of the following adjustments to the August, 2014 monthly water bills for Columbus County Water and Sewer District V.

August 2014 Adjustments for Water District V

DATE	ACCT #	ACCT NAME	ADJ AMT	REASON FOR ADJUSTMENT
8/15/2014	800665.00.98	Cleveland Tyree	(\$3.38)	Billing Error
8/15/2014	709870.00.98	New Light AME Church	(\$591.71)	Leak Adjustment

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve the adjustments to the August, 2014 monthly water bills for Columbus County Water and Sewer District V, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #20: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of WATER LOSS REDUCTION PROGRAM:

Danny Fowler, Public Utilities Director, requested Board approval of the following Water Loss Reduction Program for Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V.

**Water Loss Reduction Program
For Columbus County Public Utilities
Fiscal Year 2014-2015**

I. Water Audit

Each monthly billing cycle, the Columbus County Public Utilities Department will conduct an in house audit on the following components:

- A. Amount of water consumed in gallons
- B. Percent of total water produced
- C. Graph showing the trends in time of the monthly consumption and production
- D. Number of days wells are operated and total hours each well is operated per month
- E. Total cost of water loss for each billing period
- F. Total gallons of water accounted for in thousands will be multiplied by the lowest retail rate in the rate schedule as adopted by the Columbus County Board of Commissioners

II. Metering

- A. As of July 1, 2014, the Columbus County Public Water Supply System had a total of 5,447 connections that were metered. A total of 5,061 connections were active; and, a total of 386 connections were inactive. All connections to the Columbus County Public Water Supply System are metered. This represents 100% of all metered connections.
- B. All connections to the Columbus County Public Water Supply are metered.
 - 1. Local fire departments are responsible for submitting Water Usage Report forms to the Columbus County Public Utilities Department on a monthly basis. This report shows the gallons of water that were used while filling up their equipment after fires and training events as well as filling up swimming pools for the general public. Meters must be obtained from the department to ensure that the gallons of usage are correctly documented.
 - 2. The Utility System Operator that is responsible for all water quality issues within the public water supply system keeps a log of all line flushing sites and the gallons of water that are flushed in order to keep the system clean.
 - 3. All irrigation systems that are connected to the Columbus County Public Water Supply are metered.

4. Contractors are required to obtain meters from the Public Utilities Department to track the gallons of water that are used during project installations. Bulk water sales are provided in the event of an emergency.

C. Meter Replacement Policy:

1. Meters are replaced when they do not meet the minimum AWWA performance standard of 98.5% accuracy or when they have stopped measuring the gallons of water that were used by the customer.
2. Meters with a fifteen (15) year field age are randomly pulled for testing to insure that they meet the minimum AWWA standard. Those found with below substandard performance are replaced.
3. Approximately 2% are replaced per year. This is an estimated figure.

D. Large Meter Calibration Program:

All meters four (4) inches or larger will be calibrated every two (2) years to ensure they meet the current AWWA standard. Any meter found operating below such standard will be repaired in the field or replaced within sixty (60) days of the recalibration or as soon as they are found defective.

E. Water system audits are scheduled for all five (5) water districts.

In January 2015, Water District I will undergo an audit. This district was selected due to the apparent discrepancies in water sold versus water purchased. Water District I was the first water system to be established in Columbus County.

III. Hidden Leak Detection and Repair

- A. In Fiscal Year 2013/2014, approximately 95.7 labor hours were involved in identifying, locating, and repairing leaks.

Hours/12 Billing Cycles = Hours per Billing Cycle

(95.7 / 12 = 7.98 Hours per Billing Cycle for Leak Repairs)

- B. In October 2014, the Columbus County Public Utilities Department will begin conducting water system audits as part of a system evaluation process. The last three (3) fiscal years of water records will be reviewed to quantify the unaccounted for water loss over that period of time. This evaluation process will assist staff in looking for apparent losses such as excessive tank over flows due to inadequate telemetry controls, lack of tank altitude valves, pressure problems due to repetitive line breaks, and imbalances in the system from large customer meter calibrations and well production meters. The current telemetry system is incapable of providing daily production logs.

Once the system is within a 15% variance, the department will engage hidden leak detection services from the North Carolina Rural Water Association and/or private contractors.

- C. The Columbus County GIS Department prepared a map of the Columbus County Public Water Supply System showing the number of leaks that were found and repaired during Fiscal Year 2013/2014. (See attached map)
- D. All leaks that are found or reported are repaired as soon as possible. Repairs are usually completed within one (1) business day unless it is determined to be major and service to the general public is interrupted. Service interruption leaks are repaired as soon as they are reported.

Effective October 2014, all water line segment leak repairs will be tracked. The cost of materials and labor to repair each leak will be logged in a spreadsheet to use as a database to determine if and when a line should be replaced. These records will be used to justify line replacement in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). The current CIP has a 5 year planning horizon. Each year the CIP is updated and one additional year is added.

- E. Estimates were not kept on the amount of water that was lost or the leak repairs that were made during Fiscal Year 2013-2014. Effective October 2014, the Columbus County Public Utilities Department will begin tracking and managing this item. The adoption of the Water Loss Reduction Program (WLRP) by the Columbus County Board of Commissioners will require a full account of water loss and the associated expenses incurred by the loss as well as the materials and labor that were used to restore proper service. Approximately nine (9) leaks were repaired during Fiscal Year 2013-2014. These leaks were small service line breaks, hydrants hit by vehicles, blow off valve damages, and tank overflows. (See attached leak map)

Total estimate of repair cost to date for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 is approximately \$3,375.

Total estimated water saved in dollars for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 budget was approximately \$5,746.

- F. Water Loss Budget Planning:
 1. The Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) calls for a revised SCADA system. Two significant water loss events over the last three (3) years have been major line breaks resulting from lightning strikes and from contractor errors.
 2. Funds have been appropriated in the 2014 budget to check large commercial meters for accuracy.
 3. The Columbus County Public Utilities Department is in the process of updating the current billing software to alert the billing staff of low range usage and zero read activity each billing cycle. Handheld meter reading devices require triple entry for abnormal readings to ensure that the information entered into the system is accurate.
 4. Part of the Water Loss Reduction Program (WLRP) is additional field staff training to become more aware of how water can be unaccounted for through membership with the North Carolina Rural Water Association (NCRWA).
 5. The Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) requests \$10,000 in the current budget to install some new altitude valves.

IV. Line Location Services

- A. A total of 100% of all water lines installed in the Columbus County Public Water Supply System are recorded in the Columbus County GIS database. (See attached map)
- B. Engineers are required to submit as-built drawings to the Columbus County GIS Department for all water line extensions that are approved by the Columbus County Board of Commissioners.

V. Valve Exercising Program

A. Inventory

1.	Total Gate Valves in Water System	1,772
2.	Total Blow-off Valves in Water System	100
3.	Total Fire Hydrants in Water System	792
4.	Total Check Valve Vaults in Water System	5

B. Exercise Goal

Due to current staffing, our valve exercising goal is to exercise approximately 2% of all system valves per billing cycle with a complete rotation over a five year period. This equates to approximately 50 valves per month (600 per year) averaging approximately 2.5 valves per working day.

Only 58% of the existing valves were exercised in 2012-2013 budgets due to work load, holidays, vacations, sick leave, and operational contingencies.

DULY ADOPTED this the 15th day of September 2014, upon motion made by Commissioner Ricky Bullard, seconded by Commissioner Charles T. McDowell, and adopted by the following vote:

Ayes: -7- Noes: -0- Absent: -0-

Board of Commissioners of the County of Columbus

By: /s/ **P. EDWIN RUSS**

Edwin Russ, Chairman

Columbus County Board of Commissioners

Governing Body of Columbus County Water Districts

Attested By:

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

Commissioner Bullard made a motion to approve the Water Loss Reduction Program for Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V, seconded by Commissioner McDowell. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #21: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN:

Danny Fowler, Public Utilities Director, requested Board approval of the following Capital Improvement Plan for Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V.

**Capital Improvement Plan
For Columbus County Public Utilities
Fiscal Year 2014/2015**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Capital Improvement Plan attached herewith is a working tool developed by the Public Utilities Department staff to give guidance toward the Columbus County water and sewer infrastructure development and capital needs program. It consists of an assessment of the current water and wastewater systems and projects these capital needs over a five year period. This plan is offered to the Columbus County Board of Commissioners to seek their guidance and input as they look toward Columbus County's future. This plan should be a helpful fiscal planning tool that will allow the County to forecast capital demands on revenues and borrowing power to help avoid overextending itself financially during the next five years and beyond. Columbus County Public Utilities recommends that the review and approval of this Capital Improvement Plan be accomplished annually as part of the budget process. General approval of this document by resolution does not commit the Columbus County Board of Commissioners to specific approval of any one project or expenditure, nor does it appropriate money for any project. This would still be accomplished through separate capital project ordinances. The approval by resolution from the Columbus County Board of Commissioners simply approves the Capital Improvement Plan as a plan for the forecast period.

DESCRIPTION OF COUNTY

Demographics

Columbus County, established in 1808, is a rural county located in the southeastern portion of North Carolina. It is bordered by Robeson County to the northwest, Brunswick County to the southeast, Bladen and Pender Counties to the north, and Horry County, South Carolina to the south. Columbus County, the namesake of Christopher Columbus, is the third largest county in land area in North Carolina. The total land area is 954 square miles, with an estimated population of 58,078 residents. Columbus County at the northern boundary joins Bladen County and its southern boundary joins the northern boundary of Brunswick County. The most eastern edge of Columbus County joins the Cape Fear River which is the boundary between Pender County and Brunswick County. Robeson County joins the northwest corner of Columbus County. The western boundary of Columbus County is the state line of North and South Carolina bound by Horry County. Columbus County has ten incorporated towns: Boardman, Bolton, Brunswick, Cerro Gordo, Chadbourn, Fair Bluff, Tabor City, Lake Waccamaw, Sandyfield, and Whiteville. In addition, there are nine townships: Bogue, Bug Hill, Lees, Ransom, South Williams, Tatum, Welches Creek, Western Prong and Williams. The City of Whiteville is the county seat.

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Wastewater Treatment

Columbus County currently owns a 125,000 GPD (gallon per day) facility on Livingston Creek in the Riegelwood Community that serves the Momentive Corporation. Discharge from this plant is permitted to the Cape Fear River Basin.

Columbus County has entered into a contract with Grand Strand Water and Sewer Authority for wastewater services in parts of Water and Sewer District V. The County contracts for treatment and Operation & Maintenance service for this collection system. Columbus County's ownership will be transferred to the Grand Strand Water and Sewer Authority in accordance with the current contract as a pre-agreed arrangement. This stipulation was part of the agreement to influence Grand Strand Water and Sewer Authority's interest to provide wastewater services inside Columbus County Water and Sewer District V.

FINANCIAL PLANNING

Revenue Projections

Revenue projections for the next five years are difficult, if not impossible, to correctly predict. Revenues are tied to a myriad of factors including residential and commercial growth in Columbus County, local and regional economic conditions, and the ability of the Columbus County Public Utilities Department to meet all future water and sewer needs throughout the County and region. Before future revenues can be predicted, current revenue trends need to be reviewed for the last ten fiscal years

Financial Period	Operating Revenues
Fiscal Year 2003-2004	\$2,472,230 *
Fiscal Year 2004-2005	\$1,672,292
Fiscal Year 2005-2006	2,352,930 **
Fiscal Year 2006-2007	2,086,341
Fiscal Year 2007-2008	2,189,797
Fiscal Year 2008-2009	2,720,582
Fiscal Year 2009-2010	2,822,571
Fiscal Year 2010-2011	\$3,049,987
Fiscal Year 2011-2012	\$3,034,465
Fiscal Year 2012-2013	\$3,118,239

* Includes contributions from the General Fund of \$744,000 to Water Districts II and III, and a donation of \$125,300 to Water District IV

** Includes a \$427,000 capital contribution from the General Fund

The Operating Revenue Table illustrates the revenue generated for the last ten years. You can see from these figures that revenues increased by over \$1,000,000. This represents a 55% increase in operating revenues during that time span. The majority of this increase is due to annual inflationary based increases in water and sewer rates and the growth of water and wastewater infrastructure throughout the County. The lone exception was FY 09-10 when rates were not adjusted due to the severe national economic condition. The overall financial strategy of the Public Utilities Department is to continue to maximize revenues consistent with an even pace of residential and commercial growth within the County. Expenditures will be kept in line while adequately maintaining treatment for the distribution systems and emphasizing regulatory compliance in all areas. The Columbus County Public Utilities Department is at a historical crossroads in the sense that 70% of all County residents have access to water. Additional access to water has been the primary source of a growing revenue base in the past. However, there are still areas within the county that require water. Because the population density in these areas is less than the current county average customers per mile, their financing options will be much more challenging. A Long Range Financial Plan has been developed, as part of the Consolidated Business Plan, to assist Columbus County with future financing options. Future revenue growth will be directly correlated to the department's ever increasingly important role as a regional water provider to surrounding municipalities.

RIVERBASIN STEWARDSHIP

Columbus County is a member of the Cape Fear River Assembly. This Assembly was organized to protect water quality and monitor the activity within the Basin, which could have a negative impact on our current and future drinking water supply. The Basin has now been organized into three sections, the Lower, the Middle, and the Upper Basin. Columbus County belongs to the Lower Basin. The Cape Fear River Assembly is taking a proactive approach to the long-range interest of the basin through the establishment

of a comprehensive monitoring program. The Assembly just received a major grant from the State of North Carolina to study the entire basin. In addition to this, each of the three subsections is now forming monitoring coalitions. Each water system will be asked to participate financially in this program as well as to contract out specific monitoring tests that will provide each system, the Cape Fear River Assembly, and the State with vital data for activity impact and assessment. This information will play an important role in our ability to withdraw and discharge into the basin. Columbus County does not take any water from the river basin for its residential service; however, private industrial use is currently being served. Columbus County's Publicly Owned Treatment Works Facility discharges its treated effluent to the basin.

Environmental Education

In July of each year all Columbus County Public Utilities Department customers are provided with the annual Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) that outlines the water quality delivered to its customers. This educational document was posted on the Columbus County web page for the first time in Fiscal Year 2013-2014. Consumer Confidence Reports are required by the 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA).

These reports give customers information about their water quality. This report must be delivered to all Columbus County Public Water Supply customers by July 1st of each year. Most customers want to be better informed about the quality and safety of their tap water. By providing them with this information, we have an important opportunity to increase public confidence in the quality and safety of their drinking water.

Capital Project Budget Summary

This Capital Project Budget Summary combines all the proposed capital projects discussed earlier in this report. It provides a snapshot of anticipated capital needs over the next five years. The expenditures section shows each projects total budget. The revenue section shows the expected funding sources for each year.

Capital Improvement Plan Budget

This Page will be marked as Exhibit "A" and kept on file in the Minute Book Attachments, Book Number 5, in the Clerk to the Board's Office, for review,

DULY ADOPTED this the 15th day of September 2014, upon motion made by Commissioner James R. Prevatte, seconded by Commissioner Trent Burroughs, and adopted by the following vote:

Ayes: -7- Noes: -0- Absent: -0-

Board of Commissioners of the County of Columbus

By: /s/ **P. EDWIN RUSS**

EDWIN RUSS, Chairman of the Board

Governing Body of Columbus County

Water and Sewer Districts

ATTEST:

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

Commissioner Prevatte made a motion to approve the Capital Improvement Plan for Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V, seconded by Vice Chairman Burroughs. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #22: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN:

Danny Fowler, Public Utilities Director, requesting Board approval of the Asset Management Plan for Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V.

Commissioner Bullard made a motion to approve the Asset Management Plan for Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V, seconded Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed. A copy of this document will be marked as Exhibit “B”, and kept on file in the Minute Book Attachments, Book Number 5, in the Clerk to the Board’s Office, for review.

APPOINTMENT to WATER and SEWER ADVISORY COMMISSION:

Commissioner Byrd appointed Margaret Cordon, 5606 Hallsboro Road, Clarkton, NC 29433, Telephone: 8409845 (C), 645-2660 (H), to fill the unexpired term of James Gordon, Jr. who resigned, with term expiring 06-02-2016.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:30 P.M., Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

P. EDWIN RUSS, Chairman