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New Organizational Structure

The Office of Planning and Development has seen many organizational changes since June 30, 2012.

In an effort to trim the Department's FY 12-13 Budget, the Planner & Economic Developer Position has been combined with the Grant Administrator/Project Management Position into a single Director Position. A Planning Director Assistant position was created to assist in Community Development and Housing,

Workforce Development, and to assist in all ongoing projects within the department. The Planning Assistant will assist in the operation of the telecommunications meeting equipment and assist in GIS mapping.

This reorganization contributed to an overall budget decrease for the department.

Another organizational change includes the addition of Code Enforcement which includes the Hyde County

Building Inspector/Floodplain Manager Position, and Building Inspector Permits Officer Position. The Permits Officer also doubles as Airport Manager.

This reorganization will allow the Planning Department to better coordinate efforts with Building Inspections to ensure safe and hazard resilient development in Hyde County while cross training employees to keep staffing costs down while increasing efficiency.

Staffing Changes

The Office of Planning and Development has seen changes in staff since the retirement of Planner and Economic Developer Alice M. Keeney on June 30, 2012.

Kris Cahoon Noble, a native of Swan Quarter and graduate of East Carolina University has been named as Planning and Development Director for Hyde County. Kris has worked for Hyde County the past four years serving as a Grant Administrator

and Project Manager. Kris will continue her Grant Administrator and Project Management duties as well as Planning and Development Projects.

Averi Simmons, a native of Fairfield has been hired as a Planning Director Assistant. Averi came to work at Hyde County Government through a post-hurricane assistance program from the Northeastern Workforce Development Board. During the six month internship through the

program Averi assisted local homeowners in the aftermath of Hurricane Irene. Averi will continue to focus on Community Development and Housing as well as Workforce Development and Leadership Training while assisting the Planning Department in all areas of activity.

Jerry Hardison will continue to serve as Hyde County Building Inspector. Jane Hodges is Building Permits Officer and Engelhard Airport Manager.



North Carolina CATCH:

NC Catch supports the work of the four local seafood promotion initiatives that stretch from Currituck County to Brunswick County. Carteret Catch, Ocracoke Fresh, Brunswick Catch, and Outer Banks Catch have emerged as the buoys and markers that guide consumers to local fish and shellfish sources. The groups help educate consumers on the culinary and nutritional rewards of choosing local seafood, as well as the economic, cultural, and ecological benefits for local communities and for the state.

North Carolina CATCH is a nonprofit umbrella organization that ties the work of the local groups together to foster collaboration, to strengthen communication, and to enhance a statewide and national presence.

North Carolina CATCH was established in 2012 with assistance from Saltwater Connections, a regional economic development initiative funded by the NC Rural Economic Development Center.

The Hyde County Planner is a founding Board Member of both the Outer Banks Catch and North Carolina Catch and supports their efforts in support of the Commercial Fishing Industry in Hyde County.

Engelhard Marine Industrial Park

On Wednesday, June 13, local and state officials and staff, the Hyde County Chamber of Commerce, the NC Seafood Park Authority and citizens joined in the celebration of the Grand Opening of the Engelhard Marine Industrial Park (EMIP) and a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Southern Diesel, EMIP's first tenant.

Funds from the Waterfront Access Marine Industry

Fund were used to purchase the property in 2007 and Golden LEAF Foundation funds were awarded to Hyde County to construct the building. That construction is complete and all funds expended. Hyde County has 80% of those funds and will be reimbursed for the remaining 20% upon Golden LEAF's approval of the Final Report which is currently being completed for submittal.

Southern Diesel is up and running and has been referred to and is receiving assistance from the Small Business Technology Development Center.

Hyde County BOC approved the transfer of the building to the NC Seafood Park Authority in June. The Hyde County Office of Planning and Development is working with Wanchese Seafood Industrial Park to continue to improve the property and recruit new tenants.

Historic Courthouse

Restoration of the first floor of the Historic Courthouse is complete except for some modification to the HVAC system. The Planner, Building Inspector and HVAC provider are working now to replace the split unit system with a traditional system to increase airflow and comfort. There are funds left from the Restoration budget to complete these modifications. All work is slated to be completed by

September 28.

A lease agreement between the County and the Friends of the 1854 Courthouse has been approved by the Hyde BOC at the September 4, 2012 meeting. The lease as amended has been sent to the Friends group for review. The Friends Group is slated to enter into the lease agreement on October 1, 2012.

The Friends group will be responsible for all utilities, landscaping, a portion of the hazard insurance and will be responsible for repair and maintenance on the portion of the building they occupy.

Upon opening the building, the Friends group will open the recently installed Public Bathroom facilities to the general public on Monday through Saturday from 8 am to 5pm.

Recreational Facilities Grant Sought

The Planner is working in conjunction with the Hyde County Health Department, Hyde 4-H and the Hyde Juvenile Crime Prevention Council to apply for a Community Transformation Grant which could

ultimately fund a Parks and Recreational Facilities planning grant.

The focus of the grant activities will be to examine recreational needs on the

Mainland and Ocracoke, examine existing facilities through asset mapping, generate cost estimates on repairing existing facilities and/or constructing new facilities. The BOC will be notified with the status of this application upon receiving it.

Airport Improvements and Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Project

It is an exciting time at the Engelhard Airport! Installation of the fuel tank is complete and the first fuel customer has been served! The airport's first fuel customer purchased just less than 30 gallons for a total purchase price of \$148.50! Hopefully this is just the beginning of growth. In order to continue to safely provide fuel sales, the Airport Manager and Planning Assistant are attending a Quality Control seminar in October. This type of training will be required on a yearly basis to remain compliant with safety regulations.

In addition to the fuel tanks, the resurfacing of the runway is expected to be completed in 30 – 60 days. The light in the Beacon and the supporting photocell has been replaced, as well as the windsock and seven runway lights. Unicom radios are now being used so the Airport Manager can monitor and communicate with General Aviation traffic and a computer system has been placed in the terminal. All of these upgrades have been made possible through NC DOT Aviation funding.



A team comprised of NC DOT Aviation, North Carolina's Northeast Commission, Elizabeth City State, College of the Albemarle, Next Gen Air Transportation Center at NC State and the Hyde County Planner attended the AUVSI's Unmanned Systems North America 2012 Conference in August. AUVSI's Unmanned Systems North America is the premier forum for reviewing, assessing and discussing the current state of the unmanned systems market. The event brings together the key leaders and decision-makers in the industry. Officials from government and user organizations around the world attend and participate in the symposium program.

Hyde County, in conjunction with the NC DOT Department of Aviation, North Carolina's Northeast Commission and the Next Gen Air Transportation Center at NC State are partnering to develop an area in and around the Engelhard Airport to test Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA). The Engelhard Airport is currently rated 73rd in use out of NC's 73 airports and establishing the testing facility will increase activities at the airport without interfering with General Aviation traffic.

The first step will include establishing an agreement between the BOC for airport use, individual landowners around the airport and NC State University to form an Agricultural Certificate of Authorization (COA) from the FAA. COAs are available to public entities who want to fly Unmanned Aerial Vehicles in civil airspace. COA is an authorization issued by the Air Traffic Organization to a public operator for a specific UA activity and in this case the COA will be for agricultural use. This step will allow UAV's to be flown within specific and well defined perimeters to perform agricultural testing. Such testing will identify valuable data to farmers including moisture levels and signs of disease. The testing will not interfere with general aviation and the operator of the UAV must maintain sight of the UAV at all times.

The second step after forming the agricultural COA is to submit a proposal to the FAA to become one of six UAV test sites in the nation. The FAA is in the process of selecting six UAV test sites as mandated by Congress. In December, the agency expects to request proposals to manage the test sites in order to make the selections. These sites are important because they will provide valuable data to safely integrate UAS into the nation's airspace by 2015 as required by the 2012 FAA reauthorization. Hyde County's test site will be competitive because of its remoteness, climate and availability of open space and water.

Hyde County, in conjunction with the NC DOT Department of Aviation, North Carolina's Northeast Commission, Elizabeth City State, College of the Albemarle and the Next Gen Air Transportation Center at NC State will continue to work as a team to submit a competitive application and move forward with supporting this new industry in Hyde County. This industry is projected to bring educational opportunities, skilled jobs and infrastructure improvements to the area.

CDBG - SBEA

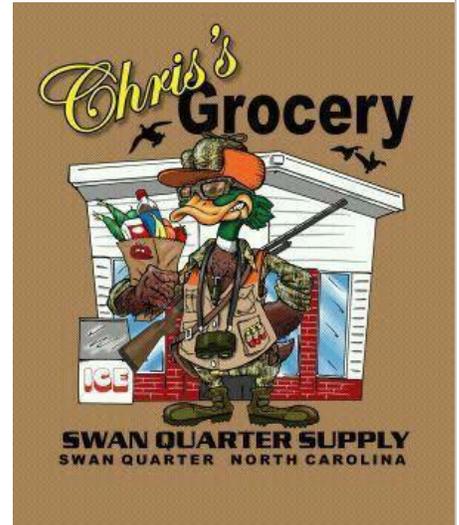
The CDBG – SBEA grant is nearly complete. This grant provided financial assistance to two existing businesses in Hyde County to expand current business activities and create jobs.

Williford Auto Supply is building a new NAPA Auto Parts store in Engelhard with construction nearly complete. This will add six jobs there.

Williams Markets, Inc. has added a garden center to their Swan Quarter Supply & Tackle store located in

Swan Quarter. Construction is complete on the garden center and has opened to customers. This addition has created two new positions.

CDBG-SBEA funds are available to counties on a rotating basis approximately every 3 years. All existing Hyde County businesses with three years of detailed financial records are encouraged to apply.



Entrepreneurship Training

As a component of the CDBG – SBEA Grant, Hyde County was required to offer entrepreneurial training for local businesses. The Office of Planning & Development decided to use these trainings to devise an overall strategy for making Hyde County more business-friendly.

The first session was held on August 27, 2012, and we had a great turn out! Larry Moolenaar from the Eastern Carolina Council hosted the workshop. The main focuses were to teach local business owners about

methods and tools for creating an entrepreneurial environment, and to identify the needs of existing and future business owners.

On September 20, 2012 we are holding a final meeting with local business owners to develop and finalize Hyde County's plan for making Hyde County more business-friendly. This plan will allow the Office of Planning and Development to know what services to provide businesses as far as information, resources, and training.

CDBG NC Tomorrow

The Office of Planning and Development is partnering with the Albemarle Commission with funds received from the CDBG-NC Tomorrow grant. This will allow the NC Association of Regional Councils, the NC

Department of Commerce's Community Development Division, The US Dept. of Housing & Economic Development and the SAS Institute of Cary to create a Uniform NC Comprehensive

Economic Strategy across North Carolina. Hyde County is receiving a portion of the grant funds for administering the 18 month long grant for a 10 County Region which includes Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Hyde, Pasquotank,

Perquimans, Tyrrell & Washington counties.

These types of regional partnerships are becoming increasingly important to secure grant funding.

Home Elevations – PDM & HMGP

Hyde County is moving forward with a FY 2011 **Pre Disaster Mitigation (PDM)** Grant project that is slated to elevate several prequalified homes in the area. The total awarded for the project from the NC Division of Emergency Management is \$411,282.75. Homeowner's contributions are required in the amount of \$137,094.25 for a total project amount of \$548,377. For those homeowners who qualify as low to moderate income households, some additional assistance may be available to fund the homeowner contribution portion of the project. That additional funding will

come from unused portions of current CDBG projects. No local funds will be contributed to this project.

Hyde County has applied to the **Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)** for hazard mitigation and disaster recovery funds provided by North Carolina state agencies in response to Hurricane Irene. A Letter of Interest for Hazard Mitigation Assistance for Hyde County has been prepared by staff, executed by the County Manager and sent to NCDEM. Along with the Letter of Interest and the Benefit Cost Analysis Spreadsheet, individual files for each of the identified homeowners including a

complete application for elevation, photographs of each home, elevation certificates and tax cards have been submitted to NCDEM via a File Share system that allows information that is too large to be sent digitally to be shared via a cloud system. This practice enabled Hyde County's information to be sent more quickly than traditional avenues and saved Hyde County time and money.

The Office of Planning & Development is awaiting news of a grant award and hopes to elevate up to 15 houses that experienced flooding during Hurricane Irene.

CDBG –Community Revitalization

The Office of Planning and Development is in the final stages of closing out the CDBG – CR grant.

Two homes have been renovated in the Lake Swamp Road Community. A contractor was selected through a competitive bidding process to build two new homes. Two families are currently moving back into their homes. One structure is being demolished. The demolition of that home is expected to be completed in the next few weeks.

Public works including

County water and sewer service from the Engelhard Sanitary District have been or are being installed at each of the home sites.

The public works component of the project consisted of installation of approximately 1,835 linear feet of 6-inch diameter potable water supply line extension, two post type hydrants, service laterals, and all related appurtenances as well as installation of approximately 1,500 linear feet of 2-inch diameter sanitary force main extension, six 1,000 gallon

septic tanks with simplex pumps, service laterals, and all related appurtenances.

In addition to the Lake Swamp Road revitalization, CDBG-CR provided funding to elevate a house in Scranton and replace a home in Swan Quarter. The replacement home looks to be completed by the end of September 2012. Elevation of the Scranton home is complete. The homeowner has decided to do some renovations prior to moving back into the home.

Additional Hurricane Irene Outreach and Other Housing Needs:

The Planning Department has met with numerous hurricane victims regarding housing issues, FEMA status, and referrals to United Methodist Disaster Relief Group, NC Department of Emergency Management, and various other agencies to provide assistance with getting homes repaired and/or elevated.

Homeowners with other housing needs also frequently call on the Planning Department for assistance. Planning staff meet with citizens with housing needs, take requests for assistance and keeps a spreadsheet of all inquiries to be considered for any future grant funded opportunities.

CDBG Scattered Sites

The CDBG – Scattered Sites grant is in the closeout stages. This grant was used to construct three new homes for low to moderate income individuals with housing needs.

Administration of Hurricane Liens -

The Office of Planning Development continues to manage administration of Deeds of Trust placed on homes repaired and/or replaced through state disaster assistance funds from previous hurricanes. Most Deeds of Trust from Hurricane Floyd (1999) are not due to expire until 2013-2014 resulting in frequent requests for assistance from homeowners.

Interlocal Agreement For Fire Inspections

Hyde County is currently utilizing Dare County for Fire Inspections services when needed through an Interlocal Agreement established in March of 2012. In the past, this agreement has also been used for Dare to provide to Hyde Level II and III Electrical Inspections, such as those required to inspect our schools. Dare County is requesting the agreement be revised to specifically state that Electrical Inspections will be included in addition to Fire Inspections. This modification to the existing agreement will come before the BOC on September 17.

**Plat Review
Hyde Subdivision
Ordinance & Ocracoke
Development Ordinance**

The Office of Planning is responsible for all map review, subdivisions and plat approvals. The Planning Department has approved 5 maps in July and August and has 3 pending maps currently, one of which requiring a variance to the Subdivision Ordinance. The Planner has focused on clearly understanding the Subdivision Ordinance, Ocracoke Development Ordinance and Travel Trailer Ordinance since her hire in July in order to correctly review and process requests.

Hycienda Heights

The Planning Department has been working in conjunction with the Mid East Housing Authority, Hyde Social Services and Hyde Soil and Water to examine housing needs most specifically at the Hycienda Heights site in Engelhard.

Mid East took control of the facility 12 years ago. Because of this tax restrictions have changed

and the Authority must examine the physical deterioration of the units and the financial position of the site. Three options are available: 1) Bring the current facility up to standard and devise a management plan that is financially sustainable 2) Sell Hacienda Heights and a facility in Belhaven and construct a new facility for all of those housing needs in Swan Quarter 3) Sell the

facility and provide a program in Hyde. The Planner and Social Service Director adamantly agree that Option 1, to bring the facility up to standard and make economically sustainable, is the best option for the citizens and the County. We are working with Mid East to communicate our recommendation to the NC Housing Finance Authority. Renovations to the existing facility could possibly include the opening of the onsite Community Building.

CDBG Contingency – Sewer Project

The CDBG – Contingency Sewer Project is currently in the Preconstruction Phase. The project will extend Engelhard Sanitary District service from its current end at Martelle's Feedhouse to Greenhill Road. The \$600,000 sewer improvement grant will connect 44 residential lots to the Engelhard Sanitary District through construction of a 7,650 LF 6-

inch SDR 21 PVC force main extension eastward from the existing western terminus of the existing ESD force main.

The project was permitted prior to the moratorium on the ESD; however Environmental Clearinghouse Comments must be addressed and deemed allowable to

move forward with this project while the ESD Lagoon failure is being examined and rectified. Holland Consulting Planners (HCP) has been selected to complete the CDBG administration and Hobbs Upchurch & Associates (HUA) has been selected to provide engineering services.

CDBG Infrastructure Funds Sought

The Planning Department in conjunction with Public Utilities Department is applying to the CDBG Infrastructure Program for Water Line extensions in two areas of great need in the County: Mapletown Road and a portion of Pudding Hill Road and Sladesville Credle Road. After careful analysis of roads without County

water, the number of residential structures, the income levels of homeowners and grant guidelines, the project areas were selected.

Through an efficient, professional and cooperative effort, staff in the Planning Department, the Utilities Director and Water Department Staff,

Justin Gibbs with GIS and Holland Consulting Planners, an application will be submitted in record time, just less than two weeks. Everyone involved in putting this application together has demonstrated a team effort and this should result in addition of much needed County water service in areas of poor well water quality.

Engelhard Wastewater Lagoon

The ESD has been placed on moratorium for violations in regard to the liner of the wastewater treatment lagoon. The Moratorium has been advertised as required by NCDENR. The ESD Board voted to submit to NC DENR an application for a Special Order of Consent. In order to accurately predict a compliance schedule, identify funding sources and certify the application independent professional services are required.

An independent consultant and plan of action will be selected and the fully certified and complete SOC application will be submitted to NC DNER by October 2012. The Planner is working as a liaison between the ESD Board and NC DNER and will be enlisting the help of the NC Coastal Federation for engineering consultation. A conference call has been set up for Friday, September 14 to review the

project with the Coastal Federation.

During the month of September the Office of Planning will move forward with entering a Memorandum of Understanding with the ESD Board to define the roles and responsibilities of both parties.

Mattamuskeet Lodge Sewer

While construction at the Mattamuskeet Lodge is slow at best, Hyde County still holds grant receipts to move forward with the sewer. Grants from the NC Rural Center, Clean Water Management Trust Fund and Golden Leaf are on hold until the \$241,120.00 shortfall in funding can be

reached. The NC Department of Commerce is contributing to the project through the CDBG-Contingency Grant mentioned above. A total grant allocation of \$2,264,950.00 has been awarded at this point. All grant funders require reporting which is being

completed by the Office of Economic Development and Planning.

The Planner will organize a meeting in early October with all grant funders to discuss the current situation with obligated monies and examine the feasibility of the project. A report to the BOC will follow.

185 Landing Road

The Planning Department will be particularly focused on this area under the project entitled: Predevelopment and Design: 185 Landing Road. This project is funded by the NC Division of Marine Fisheries through Waterfront Access and Marine Industry Funds. This project is scheduled from June 2012 to December 2012 and includes the predevelopment of the site located at 185 Landing

Road for commercial dockage. The goal is to develop a management plan for 185 Landing Road which could be applied to the other County-owned properties on Landing Road and in the entire Swan Quarter Township. The planning grant is in the amount of \$40,000 and will cover engineering, design, permitting and administrative cost. It has been agreed that after dock restoration and clean

up the management plan would require leases and rules in regard to such things as gear storage and area cleanup. A management plan must be devised that serves the traditional users, generates revenue through traditional means and ecotourism avenues, makes the area aesthetically pleasing to generate tourism dollars and protects our resources which are environmental, social and cultural

Swan Quarter Watershed Drainage Project

The Office of Planning and Development had a preliminary planning meeting with the Office of Soil & Water and the Coastal Federation to discuss a possible project to examine drainage patterns within the Swan Quarter Watershed area. The need and potential for changes to the current drainage will be examined in an effort to increase efficiency, properly drain agricultural land and improve water quality.

The Coastal Federation is currently working with the Mattamuskeet Drainage Association to study drainage patterns and implement water quality measures. This same type of innovative drainage technology is hoped to carry over in the SQ Watershed Project.

Coastal Federation Peel, Eat & Meet!

On September 28 from 5-7 in Manteo, the North Carolina Coastal Federation will hold the First Annual Fish Fry Shrimp Boil. Come enjoy local seafood, kid's activities and kayak trips. Learn more about the Coastal Federation, a non-profit organization that has worked for the past 30 years to safeguard and improve water quality. Board members are encouraged to attend.

In August, the North Carolina Coastal Federation invited the Kris Noble to serve on their Board of Directors. This partnership will foster environmentally friendly economic development in Hyde County.

Please see Kris Noble if you are interested in attending

Flood Plain Management Audit

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On August 20-21, Hyde County received a Community Assistance Visit (CAV) from the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) auditors. The auditors met with the Planner and Building Inspections prior to examining structures on the Mainland and Ocracoke. Hyde officially entered the NFIP in 1987 and the last audit was in 1993. An extensive list of violations was identified after the inspection. Over half of those violations have been cleared because the structures were built prior to 1987. The other violations are being addressed individually with the Permit Technician pulling

tax cards and elevation certificates for those identified structures. One of the largest sources of violation was travel trailers. Travel trailers are required to be current in registration and able to be moved (tires pumped up, no decks or permanent additions).

The Inspections Department is working on a letter to all owners of violating structures to inform the owners of the violations as required by NFIP. The Inspections Department is coordinating all efforts through the CAV team.

The Building Inspector does serve as Hyde County's

Floodplain Manager and does attend regular trainings to remain knowledgeable and compliant.

Compliance to the NFIP is imperative for Hyde County to keep a positive Community Rating. The Community Rating System gives points to communities for being proactive in Floodplain Management and those points transfer into cost savings on Flood Insurance Premiums for individual property owners. That is important considering Hyde County currently has \$243 M in total flood insurance coverage.

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