

CSRWG 19 June 2008

Smith – Email

From: Lee Smith [mailto:Lee.Smith@waynegov.com]

Sent: Wednesday, June 18, 2008 4:34 PM

To: George Givens (Research)

Cc: The ccmanagers mailing list; Bill Price; Larry Land; Mack Baker; Doug Brady; John Gainey; garym@mercerrealtyinc.com; Danny McQueen; Pat Joyce; Larry Baldwin; Zack Taylor; Trace Cooper; Euchler, Gene; Bailey, Jim; Baker, Mac; Best, Frank; Jack Best; Brady, Doug; Brooks, Tom; Dave Inscoe; Carteret Homebuilders Association; Chalk, Skinner; Clay, Bob; Cooper, Trace; Cribb, Sherwin; Cullipher, Ron; Davis, Warren; Faircloth, Holt; Forman, Bill; Freshwater, John PE; Futral, Sherill; Getty, Donna Star Team; Hardee, A.B.; Hardeman, Mark; Harris, Douglas W.; Henri McClees; Horton, David; Huddle, Carl; Hurst, Jack; Jackson, Robert; Pat Joyce; Kays, Barrett; Kelly, Willo; Kinlaw, Grey; Land, Larry; Langdon, John; LePage, Jennifer; Lewis, Greg; Lindow, Beth; Martin, Lisa; Randy Martin; McClees Consulting; McCulley, Mike; McLean, John; McQueen, Danny; Mercer, Gary; Morrison, Steve; Moul, Rob; Munden, Phil; Murray, Luke; Newsom, David; Odum, John; Overby, Mack; Pendergraph, Frankie; Peoples', 'David; Phillips, Jamie RLS; Price, Bill; Rawls, Charles; Raymond, Doug; Richardson', 'Hood; Rubin, Bob McKim&Creed; Sayger, Sue; Shearin, Marvin; Lee Smith; Sopher, Chuck; Spruill', 'Paul G.; Taylor2, Zack; Thomas, Joe; Turner Craig LMG; VanDeCarr, Lee; Wall, Pam; Weaver, Mike; Wright, Clark; Zucchinno, Larry; Gainey, John; Jack Best

Subject: Coastal Management Rules Recommendation Letter

Wayne County Manager's Office

June 18, 2008

George Givens
300 North Salisbury Street
Room 545
Raleigh, NC 27603

Mr. Givens:

First, I would like to thank you for your efforts regarding the coastal storm water rules. As an observer, I can see that this process is difficult and has many facets. I am celebrating my 23rd year in county government in various counties in eastern North Carolina and have been involved in a multitude of issues including CAMA plan and rule creation, implementation, changes; reclassification of streams, permitting for sewer and water plants and the latest nutrient runoff rules of which you were involved.

I have for years watched CAMA, DWQ and other state agencies develop rules to save our natural resources in eastern North Carolina and for that I am thankful for my children and their children; however, in the past rules being created and implemented were developed due to an environmentally or scientific reason. We have seen regulations that aid in controlling run off of hog lagoons and municipal waste to again to secure the future of waterways and the creatures that live there while seeking balance of development and nature.

This brings me too today. The proposed coastal management rules being presented for implementation and ultimately the 605 process now in progress will partially “CLOSE” eastern North Carolina for business. We both know that the supporting scientific data for these rules and changes do not exist. I think we can agree that rules regarding development are needed but to what degree? That degree is: “What is the economic impact of said rules and what damage or harm is created due without rules?”

I would suggest allowing the rules agreed upon by ALL of the counties involved and their representatives be implemented as presented with the stipulation that a “deadline” or “sunset” on these rules be set forth allowing for the study of the economic impacts and the review of the data and science behind the rules. This “deadline” or “sunset” would be at least 24-36 months allowing an independent third party such as the “Coastal Studies Institute” to conduct these studies. I have attached a letter from the North Carolina’s Eastern Region Chairman, Calvin Anderson that sets forth a very logical process to be conducted regarding the independent and objective review and assessment of the effectiveness of the regulations.

Mr. Anderson stated we need a measurable, positive impact on our precious environment through the commissioning of a comprehensive study to compare and contrast both the environmental regulations themselves and the costs of adhering to the regulations.

Eastern North Carolina has some of the poorest counties in the United States and our coastal counties are our link to our prosperity. Without development, Eastern North Carolina will literally “die on the vine.” Again, I have been fortunate to work through out my career in Eastern North Carolina and I have seen changes over night that have had both positive and negative impact on our State. I had the opportunity to build a water plant in the northeastern North Carolina in the last 15 years and had all of the permits in hand. We literally were weeks away from opening the valves to let water flow when a State agency changed the classification of a stream already approved for our water system disallowing discharge and causing our community dearly in time and money to find an alternate discharge source miles away. Bottom line: Rules are developed to protect the public and resources because there is a threat or impending harm based on data, reports, science, etc. Where is that science?

Wayne County is not directly affected by these rules; however, I can see the day when all of North Carolina will be affected. I am pleading with you to alter this process now by asking for the “sunset” of the rules when implemented and to ask the General Assembly to commission a comprehensive study to compare and contrast the environmental and economic issues.

Many of us have worked tirelessly to see Eastern North Carolina grow, improve, develop and be a place we can all be proud of to call home not just for ourselves but also for our children. I personally and professionally will continue this fight because I love Eastern North Carolina. I am urging each representative of every county and city in Eastern

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North Carolina to stay together on this issue and not give up for the sake of our communities and further urge our State Legislators to commission the study of environment and economics before it is too late. Professionals like Dr. Nancy White know that the supporting scientific data is not there, so let's give these professionals the opportunity to show the actual data. No more speculation.

We may find that these rules are absolutely the right thing to do and if so...keep the rules in place after the "sunset" or "deadline." Your support of Eastern North Carolina is appreciated and your support of these thoughts and ideas are appreciated in advance. I personally stand ready to assist you in any way possible to see this through. It is not too late.

Sincerely,

Lee Smith
Wayne County Manager

Cc: All City and County Managers
Legislators
Stakeholders

Attachment

Lee Smith, Wayne County Manager
PO Box 227
Goldsboro, NC 27533
Lee.Smith@waynegov.com
919-731-1435 Office
919-731-1446 Fax

"Successful leaders dare to be unpopular when they have to make tough decisions...and they accept that there may be long periods...before the rewards of their efforts finally appear. Andrew Sherwood