

MINUTES
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
Wednesday, July 29, 2015
1:00 p.m.
Legislative Office Building, Room 643

ATTENDEES:

Chairmen: Dollar, L. Johnson, Lambeth, McGrady

Vice Chairmen: Arp, Avila, Brawley, Brisson, B. Brown, R. Brown, Cleveland, Daughtry, Dixon, Faircloth, Hurley, Iler, Presnell, Riddell, Shepard, Tine, Torbett

Members: Adcock, Ager, L. Bell, Bryan, Bumgardner, Conrad, Dobson, Elmore, Farmer-Butterfield, Floyd, Ford, Gill, Glazier, G. Graham, L. Hall, Harrison, Horn, Hunter, Insko, Johnson, Langdon, Lucas, Michaux, Pendleton, Pierce, Pittman, Queen, Richardson, Saine, Salmon, Speciale, Stam, Stevens, B. Turner, R. Turner, Watford, Willingham, Wray, Yarborough

I. Call to Order

Senior Chair, Nelson Dollar presided and called the meeting to order at 1:11 p.m.

II. Introductions

Chairman Dollar introduced students who were serving as pages and the Sargeant-at-Arms staff assisting with the meeting.

III. Action Agenda Item

A. HB 904 Study Drainage Needs/Low-lying Areas

B. PCS H904-CSMH-12 [v.2]

Chairman Dollar called upon Representative Kenneth Waddell to review PCS H904-CSMH-12 [v.2] that would create the Drainage Improvement Study Commission to identify, study, and recommend policies to enhance drainage and alleviate drainage problems in low-lying counties.

Questions and comments were received from the following committee members:
Representative George Cleveland.

Representative Elmer Floyd moved favorable to Committee Substitute H904-CSMH-12 [v. 2]. The motion passed via a verbal vote.

IV. Discussion Items

A. HB97: 2015 Appropriations Act

Chairman Dollar presented to the committee a report on the House – Senate Budget Proposal Differences. Chairman Dollar opened the floor for questions. The following Representatives asked questions: Torbett, Brisson, Michaux, and Glazier.

B. Education Comparison

Brian Matteson from the Fiscal Research Division presented the House and Senate Education Appropriations Comparison (H 97, 2015 Appropriations Act).

Kris Nordstrom from the Fiscal Research Division presented the Fiscal Year 2015-2017 Budget (H 97, 2015 Appropriations Act): Public School Items in Controversy. Chairman Dollar opened up the floor for questions from Representatives Avila and Torbett.

C. Invited Guests/Speakers

The following guests spoke to the committee:

Sherita Fuller, Principal of North End Elementary, Person County

Julie Fogt, 1st grade teacher at North End Elementary, Person County

Donna Henderson, Teacher assistant at North End Elementary, Person County

Lesley Wade, 3rd grade teacher at Lacy Elementary, Wake County

Dr. Jim Morrill, Superintendent of Wake County Public School System

Dr. Mary Ellis, Superintendent of Union County Public School System

Steve Phillips, Traffic and Safety Manager of AAA Carolinas

Dr. Bob Shackelford, President of Randolph Community College

Ardis Watkins, Director of the State Employees Association of NC

Chairman Dollar allowed members to pose questions to each speaker after they spoke.

- D.** A Salary and Benefits Comparison was presented by Lanier McRee and David Vanderweide from the Fiscal Research Division. Chairman Dollar opened up the floor for questions and comments from Representatives Speciale, Pendleton, Michaux, Glazier, Faircloth, and L. Hall.

- E.** Chairman Dollar recognized additional guests to speak to the committee. He also allowed members to pose questions to the speakers.

Ardis Watkins, Director of the State Employees Association of NC

Jack Cozort, Lobbyist representing the NC Retired Government Employees

Pam Deardorff, Lobbyist representing the NC Retired School Personnel

David Heinen, Vice President for Public Policy and Advocacy

Mark Zimmerman, from the NC Realtors Association

Natalie English, Charlotte Chamber of Commerce

Emily Atkinson, Raleigh Chamber of Commerce

Josh Bass, Currituck Chamber of Commerce

Deborah Carter, Cabarrus Chamber of Commerce

Jill Swain, Huntersville Mayor and Chair of the Metromayors Coalition

Dr. Shiela Davies, Dare County Public Health Department

Ernie Pearson, NC Economic Development Association
Johanna Reese, NC Association of County Commissioners

V. Announcements

Chairman Dollar announced that the House Appropriations Committee would meet the following week, August 3-7. An exact date and time were not provided during the meeting.

VI. Adjournment

The House Committee on Appropriations adjourned at 3:33 p.m.

Representative Nelson Dollar, Senior Chair

Laura W. Bone, Committee Clerk