

HYDE COUNTY

NORTH CAROLINA

Meeting Date: 09.04.12

Presenter(s): Mazie Smith

Title: County Manager

Agency/Dept.: County of Hyde

Item Title: Budget Transfers

Attachments: Requests for Board transfers will be distributed on Monday afternoon.

Description: Various Departments have submitted budget transfers that were approved by the County Manager with the authority granted in the 2011-2012 Budget Ordinance, Article XIX, Section 1:

Administrative Transfers

1) Health - AH \$500.00 Transfer from Contract Nurse Practitioner line into Advertising line to promote Family Nurse Practitioner to provide Prime Care (telemedicine) one day a week

Transfers by Board

- 2) Finance \$12,500.00 transfer of funds to provide National Scenic Byway Program funds to purchase signage on Ocracoke Island (approved on May 16, 2011)
- 3) Finance _____ Budget Ordinance revision to reflect FY11-12 and FY12-13 ROAP program decrease in State funding (approved on 09-04-2012)
- 4) Administration \$5,000.00 transfer from BHM Regional Library FY12-13 allocation to Administration Travel line

Times Read: First

Impact on Budget:

Recommendation: Approve

MOTION MADE BY:

_____ A. Byrd
 _____ B. Swindell
 _____ D. Styron
 _____ D. Tunnell
 _____ S. Spencer

MOTION SECONDED BY:

_____ A. Byrd
 _____ B. Swindell
 _____ D. Styron
 _____ D. Tunnell
 _____ S. Spencer

Vote:

_____ A. Byrd
 _____ B. Swindell
 _____ D. Styron
 _____ D. Tunnell
 _____ S. Spencer

Aye

Nay

HYDE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
2012/2013 BUDGET REVISIONS

				MEETING DATE 9/17/2012	
(FO USE) BR # OR IDT#	DEPARTMENT	ACCOUNT #	LINE ITEM ACCOUNT NAME / EXPLANATION	"+" EXP BUDGET "-" REV BUDGET	"+" EXP BUDGET "-" REV BUDGET
				DEBIT	CREDIT
14-13	Adult Health	10-5890.2600	Advertising	\$ 500.00	
		10-5890.4500	Contract Nurse Practitioner		\$ 500.00
				\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
<p align="center">Transfer of funds from Contract Nurse Practitioner line into Advertising line to advertise for a Family Nurse Practitioner to provide Prime Care one day per week, in conjunction with our tele-medicine project. This revision does not increase the budget for Adult Health.</p>					

REQUESTED *Wesley Smith* DATE 9-5-12
Angie Smith DATE 9-9-12
 APPROVED: CO MANAGER CO COMMISSIONER-CHAIR CLERK TO THE BOARD
 ENTERED LEDGER/DATE _____



1 Ayes: Byrd, Spencer, Styron, Swindell, Tunnell

2 Nays: None

3

4 **Appointment to the Hyde Transit Board**

5 Commissioner Byrd made a motion to appoint Barry Swindell to serve on the
6 Hyde Transit Board. Mr. Tunnell seconded the motion.

7 Ayes: Byrd, Spencer, Styron, Swindell, Tunnell

8 Nays: None

9

10 **National EMS Week Proclamation**

11 Chairman Spencer read a proclamation for National EMS Week. Deputy EM
12 Director Brian Carter recognized his EMS staff on Ocracoke, and Deputy EM
13 Director Jeff Hibbard recognized his EMS staff on the Mainland. All
14 employees were awarded a certificate in honor of their services.

15 Commissioner Swindell made a motion to recognize the week of May 15-21,
16 2011 as National EMS week. Mr. Byrd seconded the motion.

17 Ayes: Byrd, Spencer, Styron, Swindell, Tunnell

18 Nays: None

19

20 **Outer Banks National Scenic Byway Resolution**

21 Manager Smith presented to the Board a letter supporting the efforts of
22 Ocracoke citizens to apply for a grant to secure matching funds for signage
23 as part of the national Scenic Byway Program.

24 Commissioner Styron made a motion in support of project to secure matching
25 funds for signage. Mr. Tunnell seconded the motion.

26 Ayes: Byrd, Spencer, Styron, Swindell, Tunnell

27 Nays: None

28

29 **Fairfield Methodist Church Variance**

30 Ben Simmons, member of Fairfield Methodist Church, told the Board that the
31 members of the church would like to have the fellowship hall/parsonage



MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT REPORT AND DECLARATION
State Fiscal Year 2012 - 2013
(Submit one form for each city/county)

The BHM Regional Library

Name of Library

will maintain its local governmental support in order to receive State Aid funds in accordance with North Carolina Administrative Code, Chapter 7, Subchapter 21, Section .0200.

TOTAL County or City Appropriations
Budgeted and Available for Expenditure

FY 2012-2013

(Excluding capital outlay and State Aid appropriations)

\$ 42,000 ✓

*Amended to \$37,000
on September 4, 2012*

Date the budget was approved by the Board of Commissioners / City Council

June 4, 2012 ✓

Hyde County

Name of County / City

I certify that the appropriation for FY 2012-2013 has been approved by

Sharon P. Spencer ✓
Board of Commissioners / City Council

and is available for expenditure by the BHM Regional Library

Name of Library

Signed:

Margie S. Smith
County / City Manager ✓

Date: 09-06-2012 ✓

for:

Hyde County, Swan Quarter, NC 27885 ✓
County / City

Signed:

Library Director

Date: _____

Signed:

Designated Finance Officer of Regional Library

Date: _____

Submit application to:

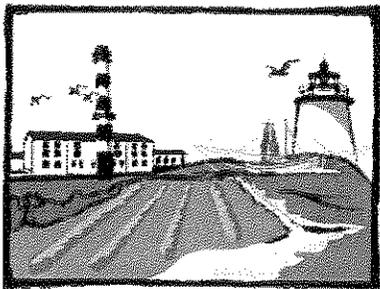
Jennifer Pratt
Library Development Section
State Library of North Carolina
4640 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-4640

Deadline for submission of
FY July 1, 2012- June 30, 2013
application is:

Postmarked on or before
September 14, 2012



FILE COPY



Since 1712

HYDE COUNTY

NORTH CAROLINA

Meeting Date: 09.17.12

Presenter(s): Commissioners Spencer, Tunnell, Swindell, Styron, Byrd and County Manager Smith

Title: Commissioners and County Manager

Agency/Dept.: Hyde County

Item Title: Administrative Reports

Attachments: Yes - Manager's Report

Description: The Commissioners are invited to share with the public their various activities on behalf of the Board and ideas for continuous improvement of government services to citizens.

The County Manager will share information about her activities and also share information of interest to the Board and the public.

Times Read: First

Impact on Budget: Does not increase the budget.

Recommendation: Receive reports. Approval if required.

MOTION MADE BY:

____ A. Byrd
____ B. Swindell
____ D. Styron
____ D. Tunnell
____ S. Spencer

MOTION SECONDED BY:

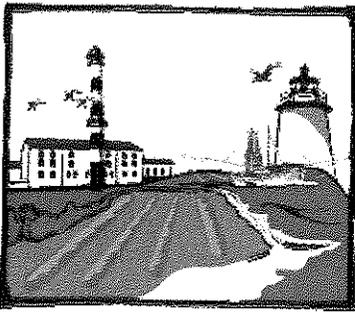
____ A. Byrd
____ B. Swindell
____ D. Styron
____ D. Tunnell
____ S. Spencer

Vote:

A. Byrd
B. Swindell
D. Styron
D. Tunnell
S. Spencer

Aye

Nay



Since 1712

HYDE COUNTY

NORTH CAROLINA

Date: September 12, 2012
To: Board of Commissioners
From: Mazie Smith 
Re: Manager's Report

Manager's Activities

- Sept. 5th Attended workshop in Greenville to learn more about NC Parks and Recreation Grant funding program
- Sept. 6th Met with Dr. Boyette and EMS staff to discuss status of EMS program and contract needed for continued services
- Sept. 7th Met with County managers from Martin and Beaufort counties regarding the provision of office space for the D.A. and public defenders
- Sept. 10th Met with Planning Director to review current projects and long range plans for department
- Sept. 11th Met with Wendy Jewett and other personnel from the Northeast Workforce Development Board to discuss program needs in Hyde County and about the possibility of leasing office space to them in the courthouse
- Sept. 12th Ocracoke office hours; attended Ocracoke Civic and Business meeting
- Sept. 13th Will meet with Ocracoke Community Center Committee and will attend Ocracoke Planning Board meeting
- Sept. 14th Will meet with Judge Wayland Sermons, Clerks of Court and County Managers in Washington regarding office space for DA and public defenders
- Sept. 15th Will attend meeting in Raleigh with representatives of the Ocracoke Foundation and various state agencies on several community development projects

Other activities:

- Met with Sheriff and numerous others to discuss alternatives for better utilizing Public Safety Center and improving indoor air quality. Initial engineering study will take place Thursday, September 13th; mold detection test will also take place on that date. Air purifiers have been ordered and will be operated after air quality test is completed. I have contacted USDA about possible funding/renovations to the building, and also researched possible sources of other grant funds.
-

- Purchased trash cans for use by Relay for Life and other groups for events now that curbside pickup is not available. Public Works employees agreed to pick up and take trash to convenience site.
- First aviation fuel was sold at Hyde County Airport on September 10th!

Important Dates Ahead

- SBEA Workshop, Swan Quarter, September 20th
- Airport Advisory Committee meeting, September 24th
- Board of Health, September 25th
- DSS Board, September 26th
- Dean of the School of Government, Mike Smith, will spend the day with the County Manager on September 27th!
- Albemarle RC&D Annual Banquet and awards program, Hertford, September 28th
- EM Tabletop Exercise in Swan Quarter for EOC staff, September 29th



Since 1712

HYDE COUNTY

NORTH CAROLINA

Meeting Date: 09.17.12

Presenter(s): Citizens

Title:

Agency/Dept.:

Item Title: Public Comments

Attachments: No

Description: Citizens are afforded an opportunity at this time to comment on issues they feel may be of importance to the Commissioners and to their fellow citizens. Comments should be kept to (3) minutes and directed to the entire Board, not just one individual Commissioner, staff member or to a member of the audience. Time for one person cannot be used by another person. Comments that reflect the need for additional assistance will be directed to the County Manager or referred to a future meeting agenda.

Times Read:

Impact on Budget:

Recommendation: Listen for understanding.

MOTION MADE BY:

_____ A. Byrd
_____ B. Swindell
_____ D. Styron
_____ D. Tunnell
_____ S. Spencer

MOTION SECONDED BY:

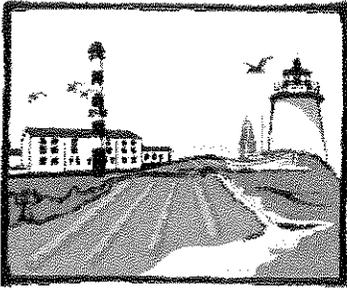
_____ A. Byrd
_____ B. Swindell
_____ D. Styron
_____ D. Tunnell
_____ S. Spencer

Vote:

A. Byrd
B. Swindell
D. Styron
D. Tunnell
S. Spencer

Aye

Nay



Since 1712

HYDE COUNTY

NORTH CAROLINA

Meeting Date: 09.17.12

Presenter(s):

Title: Commissioner

Agency/Dept.: Board of Commissioners

Item Title: Closed Session

Attachments: None

Description: Board members will go into closed session to prevent disclosure of privileged or confidential information pursuant to State and/or Federal law.

Times Read: First

Impact on Budget: Does not increase the budget.

Recommendation: Approve

MOTION MADE BY:

____ A. Byrd
____ B. Swindell
____ D. Styron
____ D. Tunnell
____ S. Spencer

MOTION SECONDED BY:

____ A. Byrd
____ B. Swindell
____ D. Styron
____ D. Tunnell
____ S. Spencer

Vote:

A. Byrd
B. Swindell
D. Styron
D. Tunnell
S. Spencer

Aye

Nay

§ 143-218.11. Closed sessions.

(a) **Permitted Purposes.** – It is the policy of this State that closed sessions shall be held only when required to permit a public body to act in the public interest as permitted in this section. A public body may hold a closed session and exclude the public only when a closed session is required:

- (1) **To prevent the disclosure of information that is privileged or confidential pursuant to the law of this State or of the United States, or not considered a public record within the meaning of Chapter 132 of the General Statutes.**
- (2) **To prevent the premature disclosure of an honorary degree, scholarship, prize, or similar award.**
- (3) **To consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body, which privilege is hereby acknowledged. General policy matters may not be discussed in a closed session and nothing herein shall be construed to permit a public body to close a meeting that otherwise would be open merely because an attorney employed or retained by the public body is a participant. The public body may consider and give instructions to an attorney concerning the handling or settlement of a claim, judicial action, mediation, arbitration, or administrative procedure. If the public body has approved or considered a settlement, other than a malpractice settlement by or on behalf of a hospital, in closed session, the terms of that settlement shall be reported to the public body and entered into its minutes as soon as possible within a reasonable time after the settlement is concluded.**
- (4) **To discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the public body, including agreement on a tentative list of economic development incentives that may be offered by the public body in negotiations. The action approving the signing of an economic development contract or commitment, or the action authorizing the payment of economic development expenditures, shall be taken in an open session.**
- (5) **To establish, or to instruct the public body's staff or negotiating agents concerning the position to be taken by or on behalf of the public body in negotiating (i) the price and other material terms of a contract or proposed contract for the acquisition of real property by purchase, option, exchange, or lease; or (ii) the amount of compensation and other material terms of an employment contract or proposed employment contract.**
- (6) **To consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee; or to hear or investigate a complaint, charge, or grievance by or against an individual public officer or employee. General personnel policy issues may not be considered in a closed session. A public body may not consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, appointment, or removal of a member of the public body or another body and may not consider or fill a vacancy among its own membership except in an open meeting. Final action making an appointment or discharge or removal by a public body having final authority for the appointment or discharge or removal shall be taken in an open meeting.**
- (7) **To plan, conduct, or hear reports concerning investigations of alleged criminal misconduct.**
- (8) **To formulate plans by a local board of education relating to emergency response to incidents of school violence.**
- (9) **To discuss and take action regarding plans to protect public safety as it relates to existing or potential terrorist activity and to receive briefings by staff members, legal counsel, or law enforcement or emergency service officials concerning actions taken or to be taken to respond to such activity.**

(b) Repealed by Session Laws 1991, c. 694, s. 4.

(c) **Calling a Closed Session.** – A public body may hold a closed session only upon a motion duly made and adopted at an open meeting. Every motion to close a meeting shall cite one or more of the permissible purposes listed in subsection (a) of this section. A motion based on subdivision (a)(1) of this section shall also state the name or citation of the law that renders the information to be discussed privileged or confidential. A motion based on subdivision (a)(3) of this section shall identify the parties in each existing lawsuit concerning which the public body expects to receive advice during the closed session.

(d) Repealed by Session Laws 1993 (Reg. Sess., 1994), c. 570, s. 2. (1979, c. 655, s. 1; 1981, c. 831; 1985 (Reg. Sess., 1986), c. 932, s. 5; 1991, c. 694, ss. 3, 4; 1993 (Reg. Sess., 1994), c. 570, s. 2; 1995, c. 509, s. 84; 1997-222, s. 2; 1997-290, s. 2; 2001-500, s. 2; 2003-180, s. 2.)

**Hyde County Health Department
Animal Control Report
August 2012**

Total **Documented** Calls/Requests for Assistance - **3**

Breakdown of Calls by Type:

- Bite – 3
- Vicious/Dangerous – 0
- Rabies – 0

Detail of Calls by Type:

- **Bite (3):**
 - Received call from Ocracoke resident reporting a friend visiting her was bitten on the ankle by her Airdale Terrier dog; the dog was sleeping at her friend's feet, and when she got up quickly it startled the dog; friend treated at Engelhard Medical Center; dog was up-to-date on rabies vaccination; Health Director issued 10-day quarantine order to owner to keep dog on her property during quarantine period
 - Received call from Ocracoke man who was bitten on his left finger by his own cat; cat's leg got caught in chair and owner was bitten while trying to help cat; man treated at Engelhard Medical Center; cat was too young to vaccinate for rabies; Health Director issued 10-day quarantine order to owner to keep cat on his property during quarantine period
 - Received call from Swan Quarter resident who was bitten on his left middle finger when trying to feed a stray dog on his property; man treated at Engelhard Medical Center; Hyde County Animal Control Officer II (ACO II) dispatched to pick up dog and return it to Hyde County's Animal Shelter for 10-day quarantine; dog not found on first trip, but was picked up later in the day when ACO II received a call that the dog was back; man who was bitten expressed interest in adopting the dog at the end of the quarantine period
- **Vicious/Dangerous (0)**
- **Rabies (0)**

Report Compiled and Authorized by:

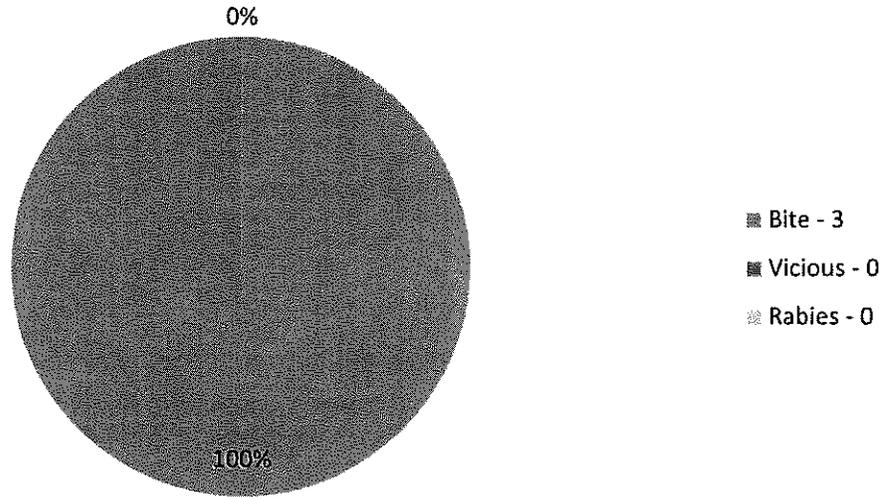
Wesley P. Smith

September 5, 2012

Wesley P. Smith, Health Director

Date

Animal Control Incidents - August 2012



<u>Code Enforcement</u>	2012 Totals		2011 Totals	
	<u>Mainland</u>	<u>Ocracoke</u>	<u>Mainland</u>	<u>Ocracoke</u>
No. Permit Applications				
Residential:	1	1	2	0
Commercial:	0	0	0	0
Other:	13	6	24	9
	<u>Mainland</u>	<u>Ocracoke</u>	<u>Mainland</u>	<u>Ocracoke</u>
No. Permits Issued				
Residential:	1	1	2	0
Commercial:	0	0	0	0
Other:	12	4	24	9
<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Mainland</u>	<u>Ocracoke</u>	<u>Mainland</u>	<u>Ocracoke</u>
Site Visits	8	3	9	7
Investigations	1	0	3	1
Call Returned	57	0	6	0
Inspections	31	24	20	34
Conferences	1	2	12	2
ODO/Plan Reviews	1	0	1	1
School	2		2	
ODO Meeting		1		1

Miles Driven: 2099 7/1/2012 to 07/31/2012
Fees Collected from January 2012 to July 2012 \$ 22,039.91
Fees Collected since July 1, 2012 \$1,894.34

**NORTH CAROLINA
HYDE COUNTY
HYDE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

From: Linda M. Basnight Tax Administrator

This is to report all tax collections by the Hyde County Tax Office Employees during the
July, 2012.

CURRENT TAX

DEPOSITS	COUNTY WIDE	MOSQUITO TAX	SOLID WASTE	WEST QUARTER	INTEREST
\$55,025.31	\$54,607.12	\$39.57	\$0.00 Res \$0.00 Comm	\$1.00	\$0.00
	2011 SQWS \$ 377.62				

CURRENT DMV

DEPOSITS	COUNTY WIDE	MOSQUITO TAX	INTEREST
\$21,509.32	\$21,389.90	\$119.42	\$0.00

DELINQUENT DMV

2011	COUNTY WIDE	\$3,510.18
	MOSQUITO	\$18.07
2010	COUNTY WIDE	\$179.15
	MOSQUITO	\$1.51
2009	COUNTY WIDE	\$0.00
	MOSQUITO	\$0.00
2008	COUNTY WIDE	\$0.00
	MOSQUITO	\$0.00
2007	COUNTY WIDE	\$0.00
	MOSQUITO	\$0.00
2006	COUNTY WIDE	\$2.16
	MOSQUITO	\$0.00
		\$0.00
2005	COUNTY WIDE	\$0.00
	MOSQUITO	\$0.00
2004	COUNTY WIDE	\$2.15
	MOSQUITO	\$0.00
2003	COUNTY WIDE	\$2.10
	MOSQUITO	\$0.00
2002	COUNTY WIDE	\$2.85
	MOSQUITO	\$0.00
2001	COUNTY WIDE	\$50.64
	MOSQUITO	\$0.00
2000	COUNTY WIDE	\$0.00
	MOSQUITO	\$0.00
		\$0.00
	INTEREST	\$311.22
	STATE 60%	\$106.24
		<u>\$4,186.27</u>

DELINQUENT TAX

2011	\$9,791.60
2010	\$3,661.20
2009	\$1,008.40
2008	\$2,044.00
2007	\$154.70
2006	\$84.30
2005	\$331.00
2004	\$6.30
2003	\$0.00
2002	\$0.00
2001	\$0.00
2000	\$0.00
SQWS	\$92.00
MOSQUITO TAX	\$240.00
SOLID WASTE RES	\$
SOLID WASTE COMM	
INTEREST	\$3,221.00
WEST/QUARTER	\$0.00
LEGAL FEES	
	<u>\$21,443.00</u>

2012 PREPAYMENTS

Meredith, Andrew	207485	\$1,178.00
Hardee, Louis B	207540	\$152.00
Gaskins, A Annie B.	200628	\$300.00
SoundView	205174	\$1,200.00
Venters, Ronald	200245	\$175.00
Swain & Temple	206716	\$4,470.00
Betts, Gussie	201110	\$4.20
Hammond, Phillip	20327	\$3,152.60
Loving, Sharon	202860	\$3.00
Spencer, Glenn	205818	\$271.40
		<u>\$10,906.50</u>

OVERPAYMENT

Precision Pallet, LLC	\$1,409.70
	<u>\$1,409.70</u>

Respectfully Submitted

Sept. 4, 2012

Linda M. Basnight
Tax Administrator

Chairman of Commissioners

MATTAMUSKEET SENIOR CENTER

Manager's Monthly Report

August, 2012

Participants on Meals-On-Wheels	Swan Quarter	Fairfield	Engelhard	Mattamuskeet Village	Total
	11	5	10	5	31
Total Meals-on-Wheels Served	691				
Congregate Meals Served	340				
Participants served for Congregate	34				
Attendance to center for activities, (crafts, exercise, meals, meetings, etc.)	416				

Attendance does not include:

Dance Class every Monday; Girl Scouts every Tuesday & Wednesdays, ; Relay for Life Meetings

August 17th, we had a fundraiser "Everyone's Birthday" for the county. 35 people attended this event, 23 cakes were baked by the seniors and a few county employees. We raised \$200.00.

On August 21st it was "National Senior Citizens Day", we celebrated by having an open house. We had only 1 people attend other than the seniors that come to the center daily.

HYDE COUNTY DSS
CHILD SUPPORT UNIT
FY 2012-2013
STATISTICAL REPORT

	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	YTD Totals	FY 2011-2012
total caseload	199	199												
ESTABLISHMENT														
paternity tests performed	0	0											0	7
ENFORCEMENT														
income withholding collections	\$12,349	\$11,143											\$23,492	\$160,453
interstate collections	\$2,728	\$2,601											\$5,329	\$28,411
court collections	\$1,675	\$1,035											\$2,710	\$22,250
tax intercept collections	\$493	\$0											\$493	\$26,101
unemployment insurance collections	\$1,938	\$1,527											\$3,465	\$21,432
incentive collections*	\$0	\$0											\$0	\$5,401
IV-E foster care collections	\$0	\$0											\$0	\$2,180
total collections	\$23,588	\$19,412											\$43,000	\$308,335
Medicaid Cost Avoidance	\$0	\$0											\$0	\$0
customers serviced while in the local office	3	3											6	104

*incentives consist of : TANF Share, IV-E Share, SFHF Share, Incentive, Settlement funds, Tax Intercept Fees, Paternity Test Fees, and Legal Fees

Hyde County Office of Planning and Development

www.hydecountync.gov

September 2012
Volume 1, Issue 1

What's Happening:

New Organizational Structure and Staff

Engelhard Marine Park Open for business

NC Catch

Historic Courthouse to be Leased to Friends

Recreational Facilities Grant Sought

Airport Improvements and UAV Project moving forward

CDBG SBEA

Entrepreneurship Training

CDBG NC Tomorrow

Home Elevations – PDM & HMGP

CDBG – Community Revitalization

CDBG Scattered Sites

Hacienda Heights

CDBG- Contingency Sewer

CDBG- Infrastructure Water

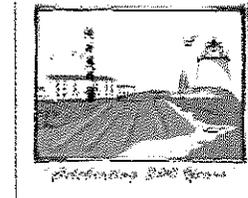
Engelhard Wastewater Lagoon

Mattamuskeet Lodge Sewer

185 Landing Road

SQ Watershed Pump Project

NFIP Floodplain Audit



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.

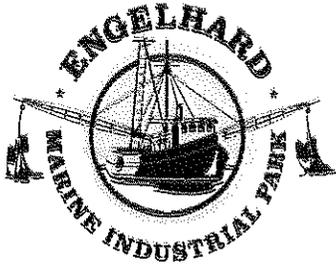
Kris Cahoon Noble, a native of Swan Quarter and graduate of East Carolina University has been named as Planning and Development Director for Hyde County. Kris has worked for Hyde County the past four years serving as a Grant Administrator

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 Northeast 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.



Engelhard Marine Industrial Park

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.

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 GL's approval of the Final Report which is currently being completed for submittal.

Southern Diesel is up and running and has been referred 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.

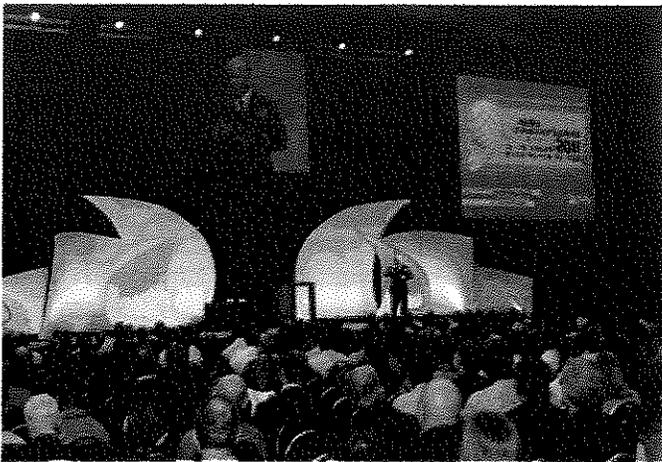
The focus of the grant activities will be to examine recreational needs on the

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 tanks 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

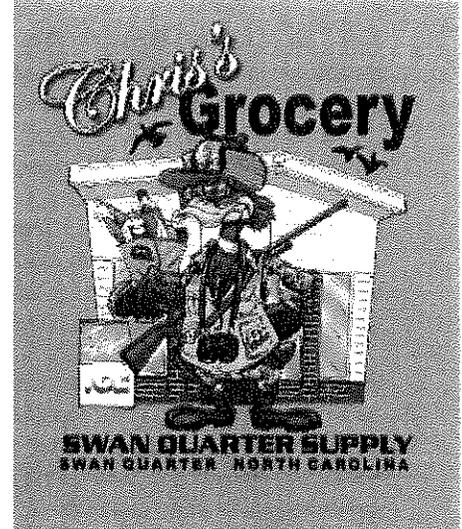
The CDBG – SBEA grant is nearly complete. This grant provided financial assistance to two existing businesses in Hyde County to expand current business activities and create jobs.

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 two 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 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 stated 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 digital 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 are awaiting news of a grant award and hopes to elevate up to 15 houses that experienced flooding during Hurricane Irene.

Additional Hurricane Irene Outreach and Other Housing Needs:

The Planning Department has met with numerous hurricane victims regarding housing issues, FEMA status, 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 –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.

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 currently utilizing Dare County for Fire Inspections services when needed through a 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 to be revised to specifically state that Electrical Inspection 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.

Hacienda 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 Hacienda 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 Martele'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 and the income levels of homeowners, and grant guidelines the project area was 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.

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.

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.

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

185 Landing Road

The Planning Department will be particularly focused on this area under the project entitled: Predevelopment and Design: 185 Landing Road 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.

Flood Plain Management Audit

**Office of Economic
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Government Center
30 Oyster Creek Road
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Swan Quarter, NC 27885

Phone
(252) 926-4474

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(252) 926-3701

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Director
knoble@hydecounync.gov

Averi Simmons,
Planning Assistant
asimmons@hydecounync.gov

On August 20-21, Hyde County was 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 (fires 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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HYDE COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Chad Mitchell, Chairman
Carl Ford, Vice-Chairman
Jon Barber
Raymond Coltraine
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Gary L. Page, County Manager
Carolyn Athey, Clerk to the Board
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Rowan County Board of Commissioners

130 West Innes Street • Salisbury, NC 28144
Telephone 704-216-8180 • FAX 704-216-8195

August 29, 2012

Beaufort County
Craven County
Hyde County

Greetings from Rowan County!

The Rowan County Board of Commissioners is proud to extend its congratulations to Beaufort, Craven and Hyde Counties upon their 300th anniversary in 2012. We thank each county and their elected officials for the valuable contributions to the eastern portion of the great State of North Carolina.

This anniversary is an opportunity to reflect on the past and to plan for the future as you strive to improve the quality of life in your region.

We wish you the best as you celebrate your heritage through a host of events commemorating your county's 300th Anniversary.

Respectfully,
Rowan County Board of Commissioners

Chairman, Chad Mitchell

Vice-Chairman, Carl Ford

Commissioner Jon Barber

Commissioner, Raymond Coltraine

Commissioner Jim Sides

Equal Opportunity Employer



recycled paper

Hyde County Telemedicine Demonstration Project

In the fall of 2012, primary care via telemedicine will become available to residents of rural Hyde County, NC. Telemedicine is the use of video conferencing technology that enables patients in remote areas to access medical care provided by general practitioners and specialists in another location. Physicians in one area are therefore able to assess, diagnose, and treat patients who live in another location.

Hyde County, like many other eastern North Carolina counties, has a high number of geographically isolated, low-income, and under served residents. There is currently only one medical facility providing primary care in the mainland portion of the county. In order to see a specialist, some residents must drive up to two hours away. This demonstration telemedicine project will bring medical care to the patients.

Video conferencing technology will be established in the Hyde County Health Department, located in Swan Quarter, as well as the Engelhard Medical Center in Engelhard. The primary care providers will be located at a comprehensive medical clinic in Jacksonville, NC. Providers and patients will interact over a secure, confidential connection that provides two-way, real time interaction via high definition audio and video technology.

This demonstration project is being made possible through grant funds from the North Carolina Office of Rural Health and Community Care and the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust.

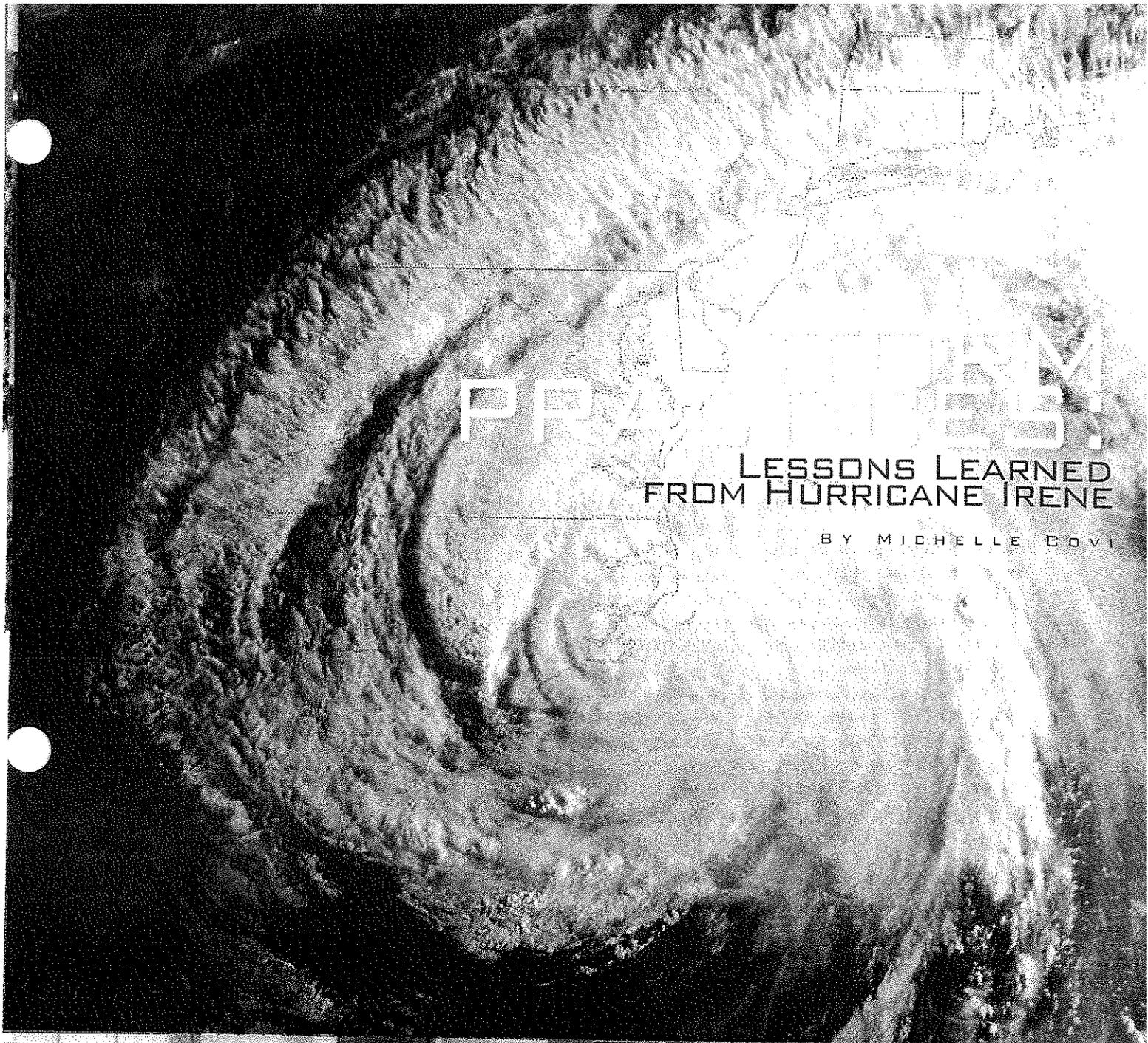
Telemedicine programs have been shown to increase patients' access to care and improve patients' health outcomes. The objective of this telemedicine project is to provide convenient access to primary and specialty care to remote patients who currently experience multiple barriers to receiving adequate medical care. Other anticipated benefits of the program are as follows:

- Healthcare for local populations will be sustained through efficient and effective clinical operations practices and ongoing quality improvement efforts designed to meet the specific needs of rural populations and organizations.
- Care will be provided in a more timely fashion — wait times for specialty appointments will likely be reduced by at least 35% by offering specialty care via telemedicine.
- Travel costs for patients will be minimized.
- Income will not be compromised — because travel is minimized, the average patient will need to take two hours, as opposed to eight or more hours, off work to receive specialty care.
- Care compliance will increase and health outcomes will be enhanced — many patients simply forgo costly and difficult access to specialty care, much to the detriment of their health.
- This telemedicine program will serve as an example of how to implement similar programs around eastern North Carolina which will provide medical care to residents facing similar barriers as those in Hyde County.

Questions about this project may be directed to:

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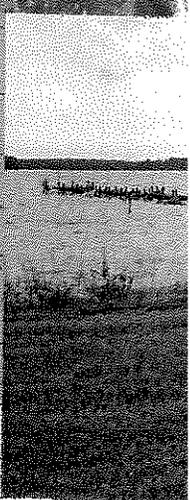
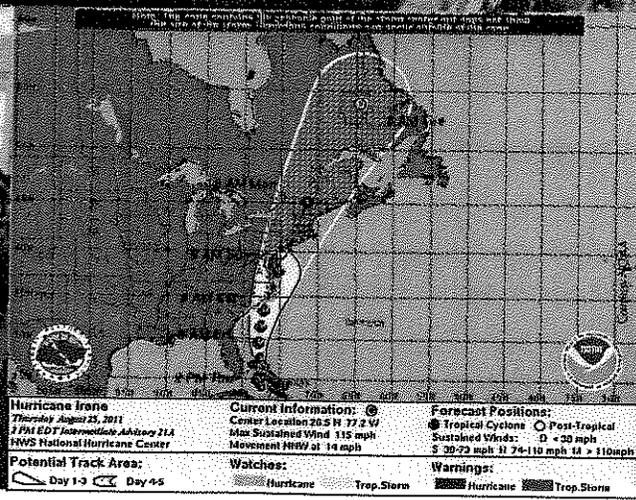




PREPAREDNESS!

LESSONS LEARNED FROM HURRICANE IRENE

BY MICHELLE COVI



Even Ann Keyes learned a lesson from Hurricane Irene about the importance of reliable communications and being prepared for the worst.

“Have a Plan C for your Plan B,” advises the Washington County emergency management director who has 25 years of experience under her belt. During the storm, Keyes’ Internet connection went down and her pre-tested air cards — devices that give users mobile Internet access using their cellular data service — did not work.

“I relied on good relationships with my partners, so that I could get into the store and get new cards,” she recalls.

Keyes shared her Irene experiences with more than 150 other emergency managers, meteorologists, public information officers, emergency responders and university researchers at the third annual N.C. Division of Emergency Management-East Carolina University Hurricane workshop, co-sponsored by North Carolina Sea Grant. The May event highlighted the role of emergency communications and the lessons learned from Hurricane Irene in 2011.

The hurricane taught North Carolina emergency managers and their communities the importance of accurate and detailed

communications before, during and after the storm. They depend upon early forecasting from the National Weather Service, or NWS, and clear communications to residents and visitors to make sure that people are able to evacuate vulnerable areas.

The National Hurricane Center found that effective communications are just as important as the development of accurate weather models in forecasting hurricanes. Improved strategies include using maps and graphics, and collaborating closely with news media to inform the public.

Many people had not expected that Irene, a Category 1 storm when it made landfall, would do so much damage. During the storm, areas of Hyde County, which includes Ocracoke Island, experienced a 7-foot storm surge, major flooding and sustained high winds for hours. Eighteen homes were destroyed, and 803 residences and businesses were affected.

However, the hardest part has been rebuilding. “Most people did not expect the recovery process to take as long as it did. It is like switching from a sprint to an endurance race,” says Justin Gibbs, Hyde County’s director of emergency services, who also attended the workshop.

FORECASTING IRENE

The impacts of Hurricane Irene, especially in areas surrounding the Pamlico Sound, surprised many people. Sustained high winds and major flooding from storm surge caused greater damage than most people anticipated. NWS forecasts were accurate but people still were caught off guard.

“People just did not think that the impacts from a Category 1 would have been so substantial,” says John Cole, warning meteorologist with the NWS in Newport/Morehead City.

Although meteorologists correctly forecasted the track and rainfall amounts for the hurricane, people reported that they had no idea that the flooding problems would be so severe. Was this because the experts or the news media were not doing a good job at conveying potential risk? Or were people overly optimistic that they would not be personally affected by severe storms?

To understand the public perception of the threats posed by Hurricane Irene and find out how people responded to the weather forecasts, the NWS held public meetings in some of the communities hardest hit by the storm. At December meetings in Dare, Pamlico and Beaufort counties, participants were surveyed about their experiences and perceptions.

In addition, Rich Bandy, lead meteorologist at the NWS Newport/Morehead City office, presented comparisons of the forecasts for wind, inland flooding and storm surge with observations during and after the storm.

Meteorologists forecasted a low threat of tornadoes. However, there were three confirmed tornadoes in the state. The strongest, near Columbia, had maximum winds of 130 mph and caused severe local damage.

Wind impacts were projected to be extreme, with possible sustained winds of 115 mph for much of the coastal area. In actuality, “there were gusts of 90 to 100 mph in the corridor where the eye made landfall,” Bandy notes.

In comparing the forecast of inland flooding with actual rainfall impacts, Bandy says that the predictions “were

Continued

AT LEFT: A NOAA SATELLITE IMAGE CAPTURES THE LANDFALL OF HURRICANE IRENE AT 7:30 A.M. EDT, AUG. 27, 2011, NEAR CAPE LOOKOUT. BELOW, LEFT TO RIGHT: PARTICIPANTS ATTEND A PANEL DISCUSSION AT THE 2012 HURRICANE WORKSHOP. • THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE ISSUED THIS HURRICANE IRENE TRACK FORECAST GRAPHIC TWO DAYS BEFORE LANDFALL. • HURRICANE IRENE DESTROYED HOMES AND PUBLIC STRUCTURES. • A HOME IN WASHINGTON COUNTY IS FLOODED IN THE AFTERMATH OF HURRICANE IRENE.





Chris Jackson
Courtesy: Twitter



Courtesy Facebook
The New Hanover County Emergency Operations Center
operated throughout the duration of Hurricane Irene

pretty close.” Although Irene dropped about the same amount of rainfall as Hurricane Floyd in 1999, river flooding was not as significant because of low water levels prior to the storm.

Four days before landfall, researchers from the Coastal and Inland Flooding Observation and Warning project, or CI-FLOW, began running models, and making river-flooding and storm-surge inundation predictions for the area. The experimental system was developed after Hurricanes Dennis and Floyd to improve real-time water level predictions prior to and during tropical storm events.

The modelers and forecasters were pleased with the results from CI-FLOW. The model forecasted maximum water levels in the Tar-Pamlico and Neuse river basins, which came within 1 foot of the observed water levels in the selected test sites. The NWS forecasters had access to CI-FLOW to evaluate how well the system represented the interaction between storm-surge, sound and river water, and its impact on the coast.

Jack Thigpen, Sea Grant extension director, notes, “Although CI-FLOW is experimental and not a replacement for the standard forecasting models traditionally used by the forecasters, it adds another source of information to help the experienced forecaster make better predictions and reduce potential for loss of life and property damage.”

Coastal flooding due to storm surge in many areas was catastrophic and unanticipated by the public. The NWS forecast 18 hours prior to landfall was for extreme coastal flooding, meaning 8 feet or more of water above ground level, in parts of Carteret, Pamlico, Beaufort and Hyde counties. Other areas — including the entire barrier island chain north of Cape Lookout, and the Pamlico and Neuse river areas — were warned of high storm surge, with an expected 5 to 7 feet of flooding.

After the storm, measurements showed that about 4 to 6 feet of storm surge occurred above

the ground level in areas of the Pamlico River. In the Neuse River, similar surge levels were measured, although some local areas had as much as 8 feet of water.

The forecast of coastal flooding due to storm surge was close to the observed levels but many residents were still unprepared.

NWS is improving forecasting, and striving to provide the public and emergency managers with better accuracy and longer lead time for emergency preparations. However, getting people to evacuate often is difficult. The experts focus on communicating danger with graphics, but even that information might not get people to leave.

“What we cannot convey with our warning maps is what it really means to stay behind,” Bandy notes. “It is not just still water. There are waves and it is extremely dangerous.”

WARNINGS IN 140 CHARACTERS

Many municipalities across the state are using Twitter, Facebook and other social media to expand their communications. Hurricane Irene was the first time several counties used these new communication tools for emergency management.

Donna Kain, faculty member in the technical and professional communications program at ECU, surveyed emergency managers about social media. She found that 55 percent are using social media and another 24 percent are likely to start using it in the near future.

“Social media has been adopted by larger county emergency management departments,” says Kain, who participated in a Sea Grant-funded study on risk perceptions and emergency communication effectiveness in coastal zones. “Most of the departments prepare the messages themselves, in addition to their other duties.”

Roberta Thuman, Town of Nags Head’s public information officer, spent Hurricane Irene in the emergency operation center listening in on calls from people who wanted to be rescued

during the storm. This was the first emergency in which she was using Twitter to provide information to the public about the storm and the conditions in the area.

“I was the person sending out the tweets and I had to keep my emotions in check,” Thuman says. She started tweeting before the hurricane — and her Twitter followers grew exponentially during the storm. She was grateful that many of her posts were re-tweeted, especially ones that alerted people to rising waters and recommended staying inside.

In New Hanover County, emergency manager Warren Lee finds that social media is a good way to reach out to young people. The county uses Facebook, Twitter, Flickr and YouTube, in addition to traditional media such as newspapers or television.

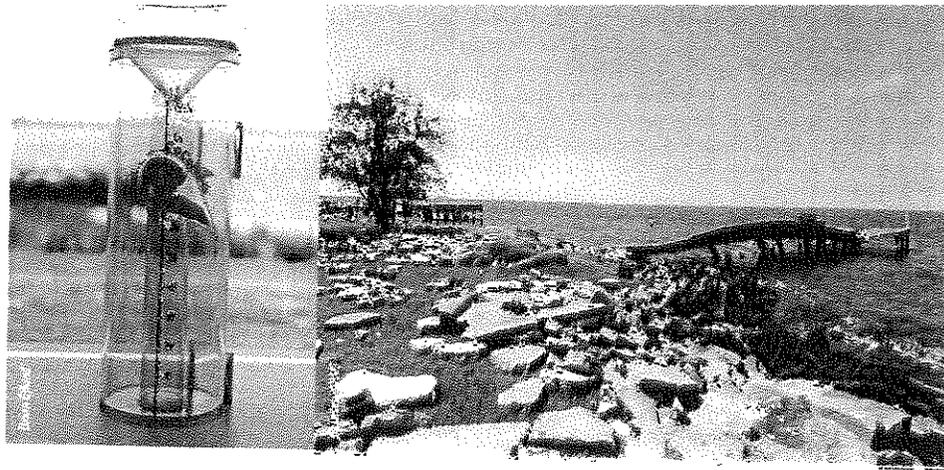
“During Irene we had a 300 percent increase in Facebook followers with over 76,000 views and 204 tweets. In addition, we produced six YouTube videos showing the activities of the county’s Emergency Operations Center,” Lee says.

While social media is a way to reach people who do not rely on traditional media, adoption has been slow because many municipalities do not allow employees to access the sites on work computers. One of the lessons from Irene for emergency communicators has been that policies need to be developed about the use of social media, including how it will be staffed when a crisis occurs.

“The immediacy of Twitter and other social media is wonderful, but it is also a big challenge. You have to keep that in mind,” Thuman says.

HYPERLOCAL INFORMATION

Traditional news media, particularly television news, played an important role during Hurricane Irene. Local and national media turned to emergency managers and the NWS for information, but getting the local information people need often is challenging.



LEFT TO RIGHT: NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER'S BILL READ ANSWERS QUESTIONS FROM THE MEDIA AT THE HURRICANE WORKSHOP. • DURING IRENE, ROBERTA THUMAN, NAGS HEAD PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER, CONNECTED WITH RESIDENTS THROUGH TWITTER. • NEW HANOVER COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT USED YOUTUBE TO INFORM THE PUBLIC DURING THE HURRICANE. • VOLUNTEERS WITH THE COCORAHHS WEATHER-OBSERVING PROGRAM USE A HIGH-CAPACITY RAIN GAUGE. • IRENE LEFT BEHIND SWATHS OF DESTRUCTION.

Irene showed emergency communicators the power of social media to share real-time and precise information. Social media plays an important role in filling the gaps for local information and offers an outlet for the news media to reach additional audiences.

Skip Waters, chief meteorologist at WCTI-TV, never had a desire to communicate via social media. With Hurricane Irene, he has seen its value. "The stuff that really resonates for people is the hyperlocal," he says.

Hyperlocal is very specific in both location and time. It is the kind of information that Waters has from driving around his region, 19,000 miles each year — and the kind of knowledge that helps when using social media. There is value in "knowing every little landmark, every little store, every store that used to be there, every place that has a good cheeseburger," he says.

During Irene, Travis Morton, the news station's intern, adapted Waters' on-air weather reports and descriptions to Facebook and Twitter to increase their communications reach. Tweeting or creating Facebook posts also can allow people to share what they are experiencing in their neighborhoods. For example, comments from viewers via social media provided verification of storm impacts, often in real time.

However, some of the biggest communication challenges occurred during the recovery, when many communities were without power for extended periods. Because of the hurricane, Waters says that the station evolved from just sharing information to understanding how people without power were getting much of their weather information through the station's social media outlet via smart phones or other devices.

One viewer was thankful for the social media updates during the storm when she was without power for three hours. "Travis was my hero," she told Waters.

VOLUNTEER WEATHER OBSERVING

Local information is sometimes difficult for the forecasters to obtain with limited numbers of weather stations around the state. That is where the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network, also known as CoCoRaHS, comes in. It is a volunteer weather-observing program that trains citizens to collect precipitation data and send it daily to the NWS.

"It is a good way for folks to get involved," notes Brian Efland, coastal business specialist with Sea Grant, who is helping recruit volunteers. "Some counties in the region do not have any observers, so Sea Grant has funded 36 rain gauges for volunteers in rural locations along the coast."

To be involved, participants must have a high-capacity, 4-inch diameter rain gauge and register with the CoCoRaHS website. Then each morning, the volunteer empties the rain gauge and records the amount of precipitation through the website.

During storms like Hurricane Irene, the CoCoRaHS volunteers provide detailed data that become part of tropical storm statements for NWS. Rainfall amounts also are incorporated into CI-FLOW and other models to help improve rainfall forecasting.

"One of the pluses is that the rain gauges do not rely on electricity, so they are great for storm totals and fill in the gaps between automated gauges. The CoCoRaHS network

was also critical in ground truthing a new radar system put into place by the NWS just prior to Hurricane Irene," says David Glenn, state coordinator for the project and NWS meteorologist.

NO 'JUSTA' STORM

Bill Read, recently retired director of the National Hurricane Center, spent his 35-year career studying hurricanes. One of his most recent efforts has been the Hurricane Forecast Improvement project, a 10-year program that began in 2009. While forecasts of the hurricane track have improved greatly, forecasts of intensity have not.

Irene was an example of how difficult it is to predict hurricane strength and speed. "A lesson learned from Irene is one I have seen in many storms. Even a good forecast has uncertainty. Getting locked into specific times and locations, especially before 48 hours, can cause misunderstanding," Read says.

Hurricane Irene reminded meteorologists and emergency managers that there is no "justa" tropical storm or "justa" Category 1 hurricane. Each storm is different. In a severe thunderstorm, 60-mph winds may last seconds or minutes, but in a tropical storm the size of Irene, these winds can last hours.

"If I could rewrite history, I would not have any kind of scale," Read remarks, referring to the categories used for hurricanes. "Mother Nature is a continuum." □

• Information on hurricane preparedness is available at: readync.org and www.ncdlhs.gov/hurricanes. Many county and town websites also have good resources.

• For research on weather preparedness see: www.ecu.edu/riskcomm.

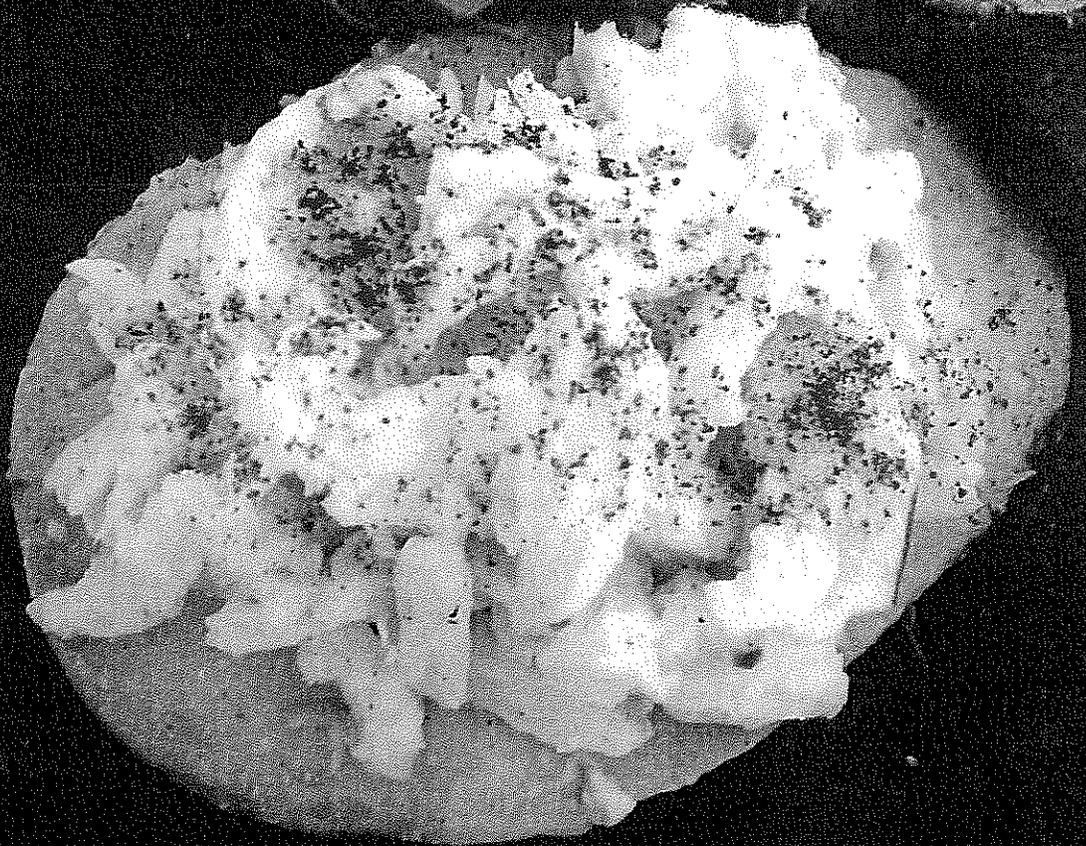
• See a video describing the Coastal and Inland Flooding Observation and Warning Project at: www.nssl.noaa.gov/projects/ciflow.

• Find out if you are at risk for flooding at: www.ncfloodmaps.com.

• To volunteer to be a CoCoRaHS observer in North Carolina, contact David Glenn at: david.glenn@noaa.gov. In the coastal region, contact Brian Efland at: brian_efland@ncsu.edu. For more on CoCoRaHS, visit: www.cocorahs.org.

Coastwatch

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