

**Board Retreat Meeting Minutes**

**Board of County Commissioners  
Hyde County**

**Wednesday, October 11, 2017**

Chairman Earl Pugh, Jr. called the Board Retreat Meeting of the Hyde County Board of Commissioners to order at 12:40 pm on Wednesday, October 11, 2017 at the Mattamuskeet Outpost, 23145 US Hwy 264, Swan Quarter, NC. Lunch was provided by Martelle's Feedhouse Restaurant.

The following members were present on the mainland: Chairman Earl Pugh, Jr., Vice-Chairman Barry Swindell, Commissioners Dick Tunnell, Benjamin Simmons, and Tom Pahl; County Manager Bill Rich; Assistant County Manager Kris Noble; Water & Flood Control Manager Daniel Brinn; IT Manager Donnie Shumate and Deputy Clerk to the Board Rosemary Johnson.

**Agenda:**

Chairman Pugh asked for changes to the October 11 Meeting Agenda. No changes noted.

Commissioner Simmons moved to approve the October 11, 2017 Board Retreat Meeting Agenda as presented. Vice-Chairman Swindell seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Pahl, Pugh, Tunnell, Simmons and Swindell; Nays – None.

**Department Reports**

**Water & Flood Control Manager's Update**

Daniel Brinn, Water & Flood Control Manager discussed his short-term and long-term goals to adequately address the county's issues with flood control and drainage on the mainland and Ocracoke. The presentation began with a review of maps of the mainland Hyde County drainage districts. Mr. Brinn stated his objectives will be to assist the districts with technical information and recommendations regarding current projects and maintenance of existing infrastructure, develop emergency preparedness plans that are approved by FEMA for existing drainage entities, provide support for navigation of permitting processes, oversee grant administration, work with existing drainage districts to develop a needs assessment and identify funding sources, assist with the formation of new districts, support the efforts of the Ocracoke Waterways Commission addressing issues in Ocracoke's surrounding waterways, and look for opportunities to fund projects from multiple sources that would address navigation/drainage concerns.

Several areas of immediate concern were discussed. Issues requiring action include the lake flooding on North Lake Road, Far Creek Channel in Engelhard, Sladesville Creek, and Big Foot Slough near Ocracoke, all of which will require dredging in order to correct the problem. Commissioner Pahl asked if dredging was eligible for FEMA reimbursement. Mr. Brinn replied that the Army Corp. of Engineers is responsible for dredging federal channels. Mr. Brinn will research to find funding opportunities for dredging of non-federal waterways.

Chairman Pugh commented that the Water Management Committee needs to be updated concerning the activities of the Water and Flood Control Manager. Mr. Brinn stated that he will repeat the presentation he gave today to the Water Management Committee and that regular meetings will be held to keep the committee informed.

*Clerk's Note: A copy of the presentation given by the Water and Flood Control Coordinator is attached herewith as Exhibit A and incorporated herein by reference.*

**IT Update**

Donnie Shumate, Information Technology Manager discussed his objectives for activities in the IT Department:

### **Farragut**

Mr. Shumate reported that Farragut has possession of the old tax data from Hyde County's tax office. Farragut is in the process of converting the old data into the new format, but it is taking longer than anticipated as the old system (Elite) was made in the 1980's with mainframe technology, and is no longer supported by IBM. There are also security issues with the old system. Donnie and Corrinne will act as managers for the project.

### **Google Cloud**

Mr. Shumate stated that the county will soon convert to from Microsoft Office to Google Cloud. Google will include the full Office suite, email, Cloud storage, Intranet and vault/mobile device management. Mr. Shumate stated that there will be several advantages for conversion to Google. Email will be more efficient and allow for shared calendars between users which will make scheduling meetings easier. The full Office suite, which includes a word processor, spreadsheets, and presentation software, will be available on all devices and will allow collaboration between users on working files. The county will have an Intranet, which is only accessible to county employees and the Board of Commissioners. Each county commissioner will receive a county email address for communication within the county system. Storage will be backed up on multiple servers and can be shared with other users outside the organization. Mr. Shumate will manage users, devices and security settings via an Admin. panel.

### **KnowBe4 Security Awareness**

The KnowBe4 Security Awareness program will be implemented to establish training for employees on security issues concerning phishing emails and viruses. The KnowBe4 system will allow the administrator (IT manager) to send fake phishing emails to users to track how many employees click on them and determine who needs training in email security. The system comes with over 200 training modules on a variety of topics.

### **Social Media Policy**

Donnie is working with Kris Noble, Tammy Blake, and Traveler's Insurance to review current social media policies in order to create a training schedule and make the personnel policy digital.

### **Future IT Projects**

- Redesign the county website and the county network
- Combine all servers into one central server
- Implement disaster recovery plan
- Review all current Centurylink plans and cut costs
- Tri-County fiber for Hyde County
- Create a call center at the sheriff's office location

*Clerk's Note: A copy of the presentation given by the IT Manager is attached herewith as Exhibit B and incorporated herein by reference.*

Commissioner Simmons noted that there have been some instances where county ordinances that have been approved by the commissioners have not been changed online (Municode). He suggested that departments that have ordinances added or changed follow up to make sure the changes are made through Municode. Mr. Rich stated that management is holding pre-brief and debrief meetings before and after commissioner meetings to follow up on all items discussed and approved at commissioner meetings.

### **Public Hearing – 2017 CDBG-DR Application**

Chairman Pugh requested a motion to open the Public Hearing for the 2017 CDBG-DR Application.

No members of the public were present.

Commissioner Simmons made the first motion to open the Public Hearing for the 2017 CDBG-DR Application. Commissioner Pahl seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Pahl, Pugh, Tunnell, Simmons and Swindell; Nays – None.

Assistant County Manager Kris Noble informed everyone that Hyde County intends to make application for \$500,000 in grant funding through the CDBG-DR program to make roof repairs to the Davis Center incubator kitchen and dining room. Ms. Noble has received a cost estimate in the amount of \$409,600 from REI Engineers. The estimate consists of updates and improvements, documentation and construction administration. Ms. Noble added that the county's chances of receiving the funding are very good, as the requested amount is below the normal \$1,000,000 minimum. Ms. Noble noted that she has received public comments voicing support of the project via email.

Vice-Chairman Swindell made a motion to close the public hearing. Commissioner Tunnell seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Pahl, Swindell, Tunnell, Pugh and Simmons; Nays – None.

### **Items of Discussion**

#### **EMS Headquarters-Ocracoke**

Chairman Pugh stated that there is one year left on the property lease for the EMS headquarters in Ocracoke. The lease expires in November 2018 and the owner is not willing to extend the lease. The owner has offered to sell the property to the county. The owner is asking for a \$200,000 down payment and will finance the balance at 3% interest over a 15-year period. Other options for lease or construction of a new facility were discussed. Commissioner Pahl suggested that regular meetings to discuss and come up with options should be held.

#### **County-Wide Salary Increases**

Discussion was held regarding implementing a periodic 3% cost of living raise and merit raises for employees. Assistant County Manager Noble stated that she feels that giving periodic cost of living raises and merit raises is pertinent to good employee morale and retention of top-performing employees.

#### **Mattamuskeet Lodge Project**

Assistant County Manager Noble reported that the Mattamuskeet Lodge restoration project has come to a stand-still. The county submitted information in a Legislative report in January and hosted state representatives in two economic development impact meetings in an effort to gain support for the restoration project. Ms. Noble stated that the Wildlife Resources Commission is now saying that they have no funds to fix the lodge tower and finish the roof. County representatives will be meeting in Raleigh with WRC to discuss funding strategies.

#### **Succession Planning**

County Manager Rich presented his recommendation for replacement of the county manager's position upon his retirement in June of 2018. All department heads were asked to submit similar recommendations. Mr. Rich asked the commissioners to consider endorsing Kris Noble as his replacement in the county manager position.

*Clerk's Note: A copy of County Manager Rich's succession plan is attached herewith as Exhibit C and incorporated herein by reference.*

#### **Closed Session:**

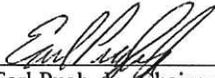
There was no closed session held.

#### **Adjourn:**

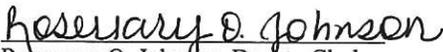
Commissioner Tunnell moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Pahl seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes: – Pahl, Pugh, Tunnell, Simmons, and Swindell; Nays: – None.

The meeting adjourned at 3 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:  
Minutes approved on the 6th day of November, 2017.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Earl Pugh, Jr., Chairman  
Hyde County Board of Commissioners

Attest:

  
Rosemary O. Johnson, Deputy Clerk  
Hyde County Board of Commissioners



Attachments:

Exhibit A: Water & Flood Control Manager's Update Presentation  
Exhibit B: IT Manager's Update Presentation  
Exhibit C: Succession Plan – County Manager Bill Rich  
Attachment 1: Email from Randolph Latimore to Bill Rich dated October 9, 2017  
Attachment 2: Copy of check #7266809 from Republic Services, Inc. payable to the County of Hyde in the amount of \$61,782.94  
Attachment 3: Copy of check #2342 from Leamon Harding Allen III payable to the County of Hyde in the amount of \$18,200.00  
Attachment 4: Copy of article from the October 11, 2017 issue of the Ocracoke Observer featuring Justin Gibbs, Hyde County Emergency Director's deployment to Puerto Rico to assist with Hurricane Maria recovery efforts.

## Hyde County



Daniel Brinn  
Water and Flood Control Coordinator

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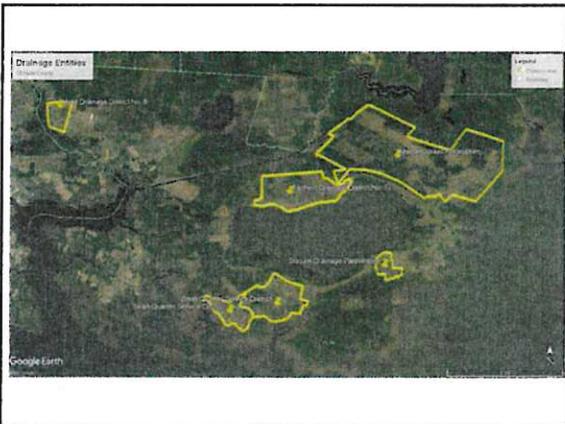
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### Short Term Goals

- Assist Individuals and Entities with technical information and recommendations regarding current projects and maintenance of existing infrastructure
- Provide support for the navigation of permitting processes where drainage maintenance/improvements encounter environmentally sensitive areas.
- Develop Emergency Preparedness plans for existing Drainage Entities that meet FEMA requirements.
- Administer the Hurricane Mathew Stream Debris Removal Project, \$107,765 with an additional \$150,000 currently being considered

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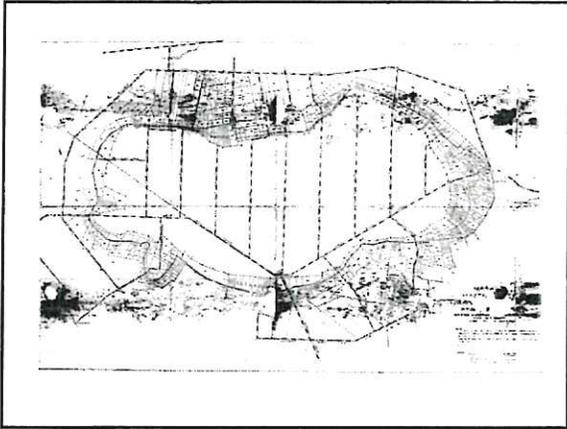
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### Intermediate Goals

- Serve on the Core Group for the MWRP and represent Hyde Counties interests of flood control, agricultural production and tourism
- Develop a comprehensive needs assessment for existing Drainage Entities within the County.
- Work with Districts to prioritize projects and identify funding sources
- Assist with the formation of a Service District to serve Slocum
- Assist the Mattamuskeet association with the transition from PNP to Statutory Drainage District.

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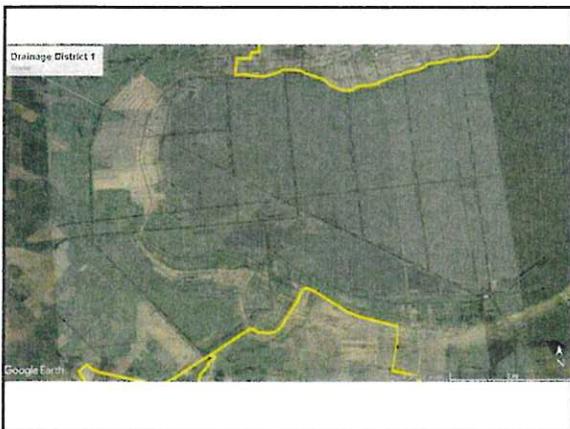
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### Long Term Goals

- Identify opportunities where drainage entities can be formed in currently unincorporated areas throughout the county
- Use these new entities where possible to bridge the gap between existing infrastructure to create a comprehensive system that protects much of the county.
- Lobby for a greater focus on the importance of drainage as it relates to permitting and public funding.

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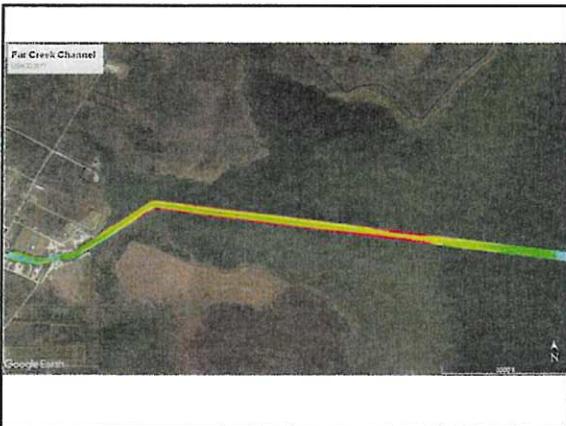
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### Navigation

- Support the Efforts of the Ocracoke Waterways Commission in addressing issues in Ocracoke's surrounding waterways
- Address Mainland navigational concerns
- Look for opportunities to fund projects from multiple sources that would address navigation/drainage concerns in tandem

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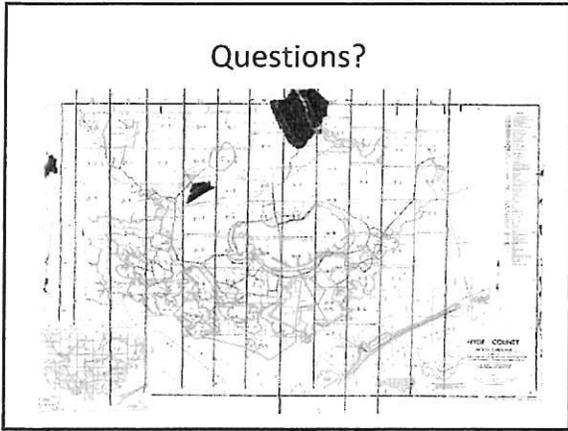
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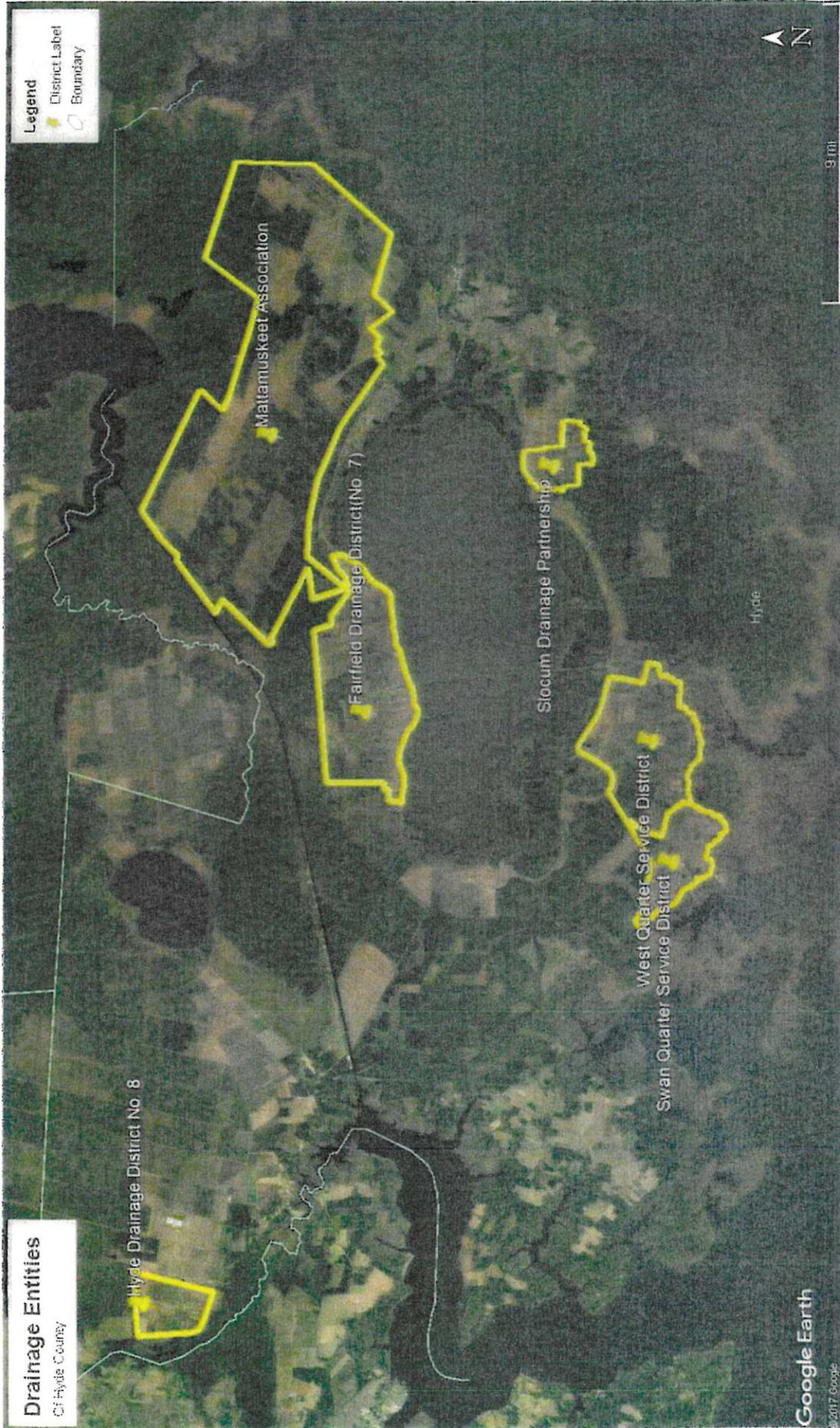
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**Drainage Entities**  
of Hyde County

**Legend**

- District Label
- Boundary







**Drainage District 1**

Overlay

Google Earth

Hyderland Canal

3 mi

N



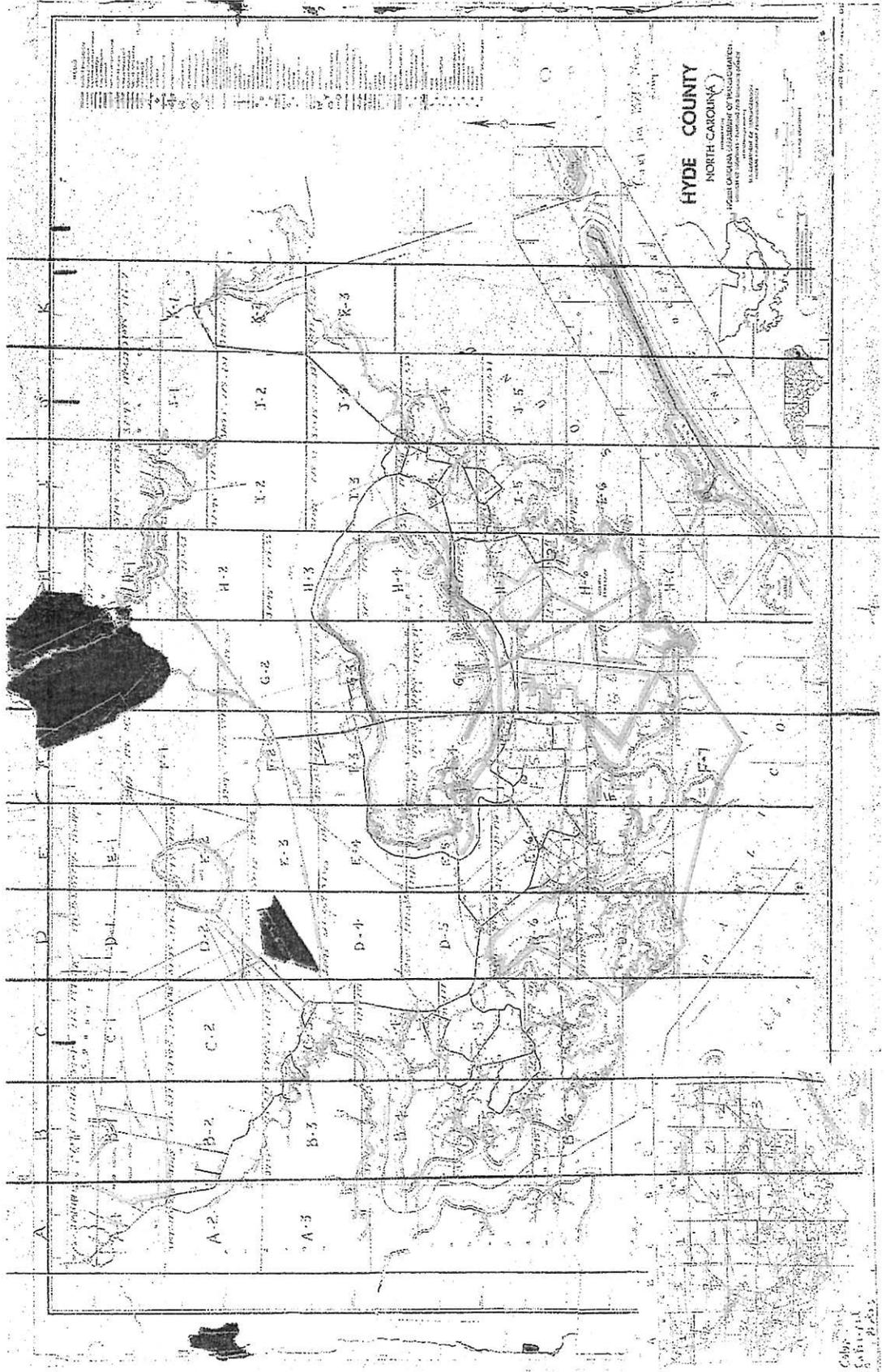
Far Creek Channel  
USACE 2017



3000 ft

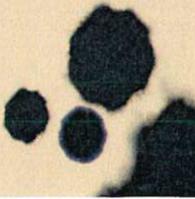
Google Earth

# Questions?



## IT Department Update



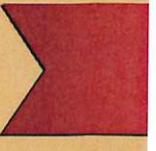
- Farragut Tax System Progress Report
  - Google Cloud Implementation
  - KnowBe4 – Security Awareness Program
  - Social Media Policy and Training
- 

# Farragut NCPTS Update

- Old data is currently being converted into new format
- Taking longer than planned due to old system limitations
  - Old system (Elite) was made in the 1980's with mainframe technology
  - System is no longer supported by IBM
  - Very few people still know how to program in this format
- Security concerns with old system
- Corrinne and myself are acting as the Project Managers

## Google Cloud

- Connect – Email, Calendar and Instant Messaging
- Create – Full Office Suite and Intranet
- Access – Google Drive (Cloud) and Search
- Control – Vault and Mobile Device Management



# Google Cloud - Connect

- Email
  - Current system plagued with issues
  - 99.9% Uptime with Google
  - Global contact list
  - Synchs across all devices – web based or can use program
- Calendar
  - Shared with all users
  - Meetings created via email auto added to calendar
  - Reminders via mobile devices and console

# Google Cloud - Create

- Full Office Suite
  - Word Processor, Spreadsheets, Presentation Software
  - Available on all devices – Mobile and Desktop
  - Collaborate on files with multiple people
- Google Sites
  - County Intranet – each department with internal webpage
  - Can share news, policies, calendars and frequently used files
  - Only accessible by County Employees
- Google Forms
  - Custom forms can be created for internal or external use

# Google Cloud - Access

- Google Drive – Cloud Storage
  - Files are automatically backed up to cloud
    - Backed up on multiple servers in different geographical areas
  - Available across all devices including mobile
  - Can be shared with other users, even outside of our organization
  - Unlimited Storage
- Google Cloud Search
  - Google's powerful search engine used internally
  - Search for files containing key words
  - Search for emails using multiple variables

# Google Cloud - Control

- Admin Panel
  - Manage users, devices and security settings
  - Different departments have different standards
    - HIPAA compliant security protocols
    - Rules to make sure no PHI is transmitted unencrypted
- Mobile Device Management
  - County phones and tablets can be tracked and wiped if lost
  - Security policies in place for each device based on department
- Google Vault
  - Archives all emails for FOIA requests (required by state)
  - Easily search for and export information as needed

# KnowBe4 Security Awareness Program

- Anti-virus programs can only stop so much
- User errors account for most system compromises
- KnowBe4 allows us to send phishing emails to our users
  - Users that click on them are tracked and can be assigned training
  - Point out common traits of phishing emails and how to spot them
- Comes with over 200 training modules on a variety of topics
- Ransomware Insurance
  - Once all users complete training, KnowBe4 will pay up to \$1000 if we are infected
- Test fails drop from around 10% to under 1% after one year of program

# Social Media Policy and Training

- Kris, Tammy and myself are reviewing the current policies
  - Guidance from Travelers Insurance
  - Comparing other County's policies to ours
- Creating a training schedule on policies for all employees
  - Need to keep employees aware of our policies
  - Highlight policies each month via newsletter
- Make personnel policy digital
  - Will be searchable and make accessing it easier for everyone
  - Will be put on the new Google Sites intranet

# Future IT Projects

- Redesigning the county network into one complete system
  - Currently each department is on its own network
  - Combining them will allow better security control
- Combine all department servers into one central server
  - Using virtual servers will cut cost by only needing to maintain one
  - Allows easy backup of systems to onsite backup and cloud based
- Implement disaster recovery plan
- Review all current Centurylink plans and cut costs
- Tri-County fiber for Hyde County

# HYDE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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## **BILL RICH – DIRECTOR**

. REPORTS DIRECTLY TO COUNTY MANAGER

. Contract employee \$4,000.00 per month plus travel

. No county benefits such as retirement, health insurance, workman's comp, vacation or sick leave.

. Would begin employment 8/01/2018 and continue for 2 years unless asked to leave sooner for any reason giving 90 day notice.

. Responsibilities:

A: County Land Sales (all existing and future foreclosures)

B: Administrator of the Revolving Loan Fund

C: Assist the County Manager with Economic Development and Planning

D: Continue as a conduit between the County and State and Federal Government

E: Continue to represent Hyde County on the RPO and as a conduit with the NCDOT and ferry division

F: Continue to serve in my role as vice-chair of both the Albemarle Regional Health Committee and the Partnership for the Sounds.

G: Continue to serve as a board member of the Beaufort Hyde Community Foundation, the UNC School of Government Foundation, Chairman of the Mattamuskeet Waterways and board member NC Catch.

My plan would be to be headquartered in Ocracoke and attend BOC meetings from there. I will not punch a clock but will fulfill all requirements listed above. I will be available to help Kris in her final transition as County Manager and would also be available to serve as interim manager if something were to happen to Kris. I see this as a win/win for the county in that at the end of the day you end up with the same team you have today but in different roles and a cost savings of about 50k a year prior to

any additional raise for Kris. This also allows me to stay involved with the parts of my job I enjoy the most but also allows be to be at home more on Ocracoke with my wife Jennifer.

## Bill Rich

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**From:** Randolph Latimore <rlatimore@hyde.k12.nc.us>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 9, 2017 4:37 PM  
**To:** Hyde County Manager Bill Rich  
**Subject:** RE: Lot 13

You are welcome. Have a good evening.

Regards,  
Randolph

On Oct 9, 2017 3:19 PM, "Bill Rich" <[brich@hydecountync.gov](mailto:brich@hydecountync.gov)> wrote:

Thank you for your timely response Dr. Latimore. I will inform my Commissioners.

Bill

**From:** Randolph Latimore [mailto:[rlatimore@hyde.k12.nc.us](mailto:rlatimore@hyde.k12.nc.us)]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 9, 2017 1:33 PM  
**To:** Bill Rich  
**Subject:** Re: Lot 13

Good afternoon Mr. Rich,

I trust that you have had a great start to yet another busy week.

The purpose of this email is to inform you of the decision of the Hyde County Board of Education relating to Lot 13 on Ocracoke Island that has been declared surplus property by the County of Hyde and offered to the Hyde County Board of Education. Please be advised that at its meeting on October 3, 2017 the Board discussed the offer by the County of Hyde to acquire the property. After discussion, the Board decided not to move forward in accepting Lot 13. The Board was unsure of cost involved in bringing the property up to standard and in light of additional potential increases in operational costs felt that it was fiscally prudent not to move forward at this time.

Thank you on behalf of the Hyde County Board of Education for bringing this offer to the attention of the Board. Please feel free to let me know of any additional questions that you may have.

With kind regards,

Randolph

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 10:52 AM, Randolph Latimore <[rlatimore@hyde.k12.nc.us](mailto:rlatimore@hyde.k12.nc.us)> wrote:

Good morning,

I will let my Board know next Tuesday about the December date. Thanks for letting me know.

Randolph

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 10:08 AM, Bill Rich <[brich@hydecountync.gov](mailto:brich@hydecountync.gov)> wrote:

Randolph,

I would like to come to some understanding by our December 4<sup>th</sup> BOC meeting if that sounds fair to you.

Bill

**From:** Randolph Latimore [mailto:[rlatimore@hyde.k12.nc.us](mailto:rlatimore@hyde.k12.nc.us)]

**Sent:** Wednesday, September 27, 2017 8:36 PM

**To:** Hyde County Manager Bill Rich

**Cc:** Tom Pahl; Earl Pugh; Kris Noble; Fred Holscher

**Subject:** RE: Lot 13

Bill,

Thank you for your response. I will share with the Board if Education members and as warranted provide you with additional updates. Is this a time sensitive decision on the part of my Board?

Regards,

Randolph

On Sep 27, 2017 7:47 PM, "Bill Rich" <[brich@hydecourtync.gov](mailto:brich@hydecourtync.gov)> wrote:

Good evening Randolph,

I would imagine if we deeded the property to the School Board they would have all responsibility of ownership including whatever deed restrictions are passed on with title regarding future drainage and access rights over, under and across the property. We met with the Ocracoke Mosquito Control Board and they said they would upon request of the owner take responsibility and cost for filling the existing pond on the property while at the same time making sure that all the existing drainage into and out of the pond be functional. I do not know what the engineering challenges are or what the consequences would be to any future improvement you might make on the property nor do I know what future costs or obligation you might have as a result of your ownership and how that relates to deed and drainage rights. The County's plan was to pass the property on as is where is.

Randolph please let me know if I can be of any additional assistance. Thanks.

Bill

**From:** Randolph Latimore [mailto:[rlatimore@hyde.k12.nc.us](mailto:rlatimore@hyde.k12.nc.us)]

**Sent:** Wednesday, September 27, 2017 1:02 PM

**To:** Hyde County Manager Bill Rich

**Subject:** Lot 13

Good afternoon Bill,

Please give me a summary of just what the responsibility will be of the Board of Education if it moves to acquire Lot 13. I recall that you mentioned that drainage and tile work that would have to be done would not be a cost to the school system. You also mentioned about the possibility of a joint use agreement.

The Board will be at Ocracoke on October 3 and will be discussing Lot 13 and how the school system may use it since it adjoins the Ocracoke School property. The Board will also more than likely look at the property, weather permitting.

Thank you for any additional clarifying information that you are in the position to provide.

Regards,

Randolph

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Dr. Randolph H. Latimore, Sr.

Superintendent

Hyde County Schools

1430 Main Street

PO Box 217  
Swan Quarter, NC 27885

P (252) 926 - 3281

F (252) 926 - 3083



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REPUBLIC SERVICES, INC.

No. 7266809

Check Date: 10/6/17

COUNTY OF HYDE, 30 OYSTER CREEK RD, SWAN QUARTER NC 27885

Vendor Number: 999263470

INVOICE	DATE	DESCRIPTION	GROSS AMOUNT	DISCOUNT	NET AMOUNT
083117 OTV County of Hyde 30 Oyster Creek Rd Swan Quarter NC 27885 FedEx# 331998762	08/31/2017	OTV	\$61,782.94	\$0.00	\$61,782.94
<b>TOTALS:</b>			<b>\$61,782.94</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$61,782.94</b>

 **COPY**

Detach at Perforation Before Depositing Check

THIS IS A WATERMARKED PAPER - DO NOT ACCEPT WITHOUT NOTING WATERMARK - HOLD TO LIGHT TO VERIFY WATERMARK

REPUBLIC SERVICES, INC.

C/O AWIN MGMT INC  
C/O ALLIED WASTE SERVICES  
18500 N. ALLIED WAY  
PHOENIX, AZ 85054

BANK OF AMERICA

52-153-112

Check Date

10/06/2017

Number

7266809

PAY *Sixty One Thousand Seven Hundred Eighty Two and 94/100 Dollars*

Amount  
\$ \*\*\*\*61,782.94

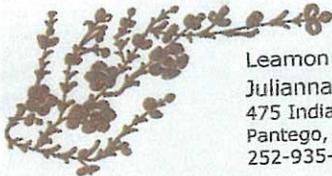
Void After 180 Days

PAY TO THE ORDER OF  
COUNTY OF HYDE  
30 OYSTER CREEK RD  
SWAN QUARTER NC 27885

*Marsha A. Lucy*  
VP, Treasurer

⑈0007266809⑈ ⑆011201539⑆ 80231000⑈

Security Features Included FD Details: rrr-bank



Leamon Harding Allen III  
Julianna Dunbar Allen  
475 Indian Run Road  
Pantego, NC 27860  
252-935-5513

2342

66-258/531

Oct 10 - 17 Date

Pay to the  
Order of

Hyde County

\$ 18,200

eighteen thousand and two hundred Dollars



Southern Bank & Trust  
Belhaven, NC 27810

For

Land

Leamon Allen III MP

⑆053102586⑆5127185810⑆ 2342



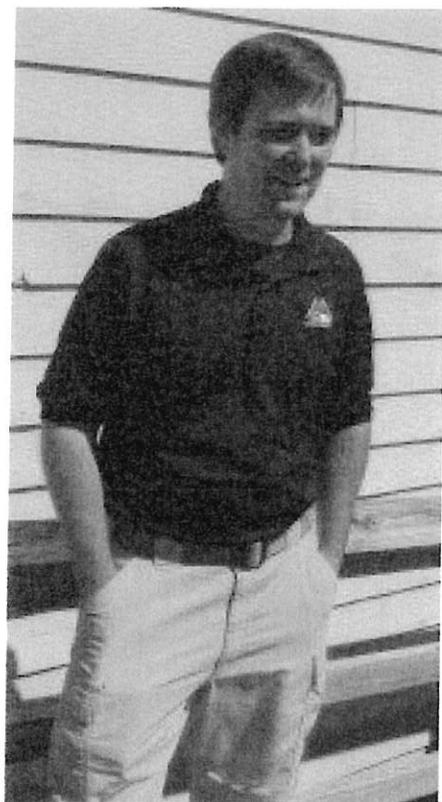
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11TH, 2017

# ocracoke observer

THE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER OF OCRACOKE, NORTH CAROLINA, SINCE 1999

## Hyde County Emergency Services Director deployed to Puerto Rico

ON OCTOBER 10, 2017 • ( LEAVE A COMMENT )



*For Ocracoke news, click here.*

*(<http://ocracokeobserver.com>)*

Hyde County Emergency Services Director Justin Gibbs is on his way to Puerto Rico to help with the Hurricane Maria recovery efforts.

Gibbs is part of a 10-person incident management team composed of local and state emergency management officials that left Tuesday morning from Raleigh for a two-week stay, according to a Hyde County press release.

Hyde County Emergency  
Management Director Justin  
Gibbs outside the Ocracoke  
Community Center. Photo: P.  
Vankevich

Hurricane Maria—at its peak a Category 5 storm—devastated many islands, and struck Puerto Rico Sept. 20 as a high-end Category 4.

A 10-year employee with the county who has guided Hyde through multiple tropical storm and hurricane recovery efforts, Gibbs will serve as a resource unit leader supporting the Puerto Rico Emergency Management Agency's Emergency Operations Center.

Gibbs was asked by the state deputy director of Emergency Management to join the team, said Hyde County Manager Bill Rich.

“He is so excited for being asked and being able to go,” Rich said. “He’s a power house to agree to go. He has to leave his family and baby. We’re proud of him.”

The team will join other North Carolina assistance already there, including 200 N.C. National Guard troops, and will assist with management, direction, control and coordination of response and recovery actions with local, state/territorial and federal levels of government, and coordination of public information.

“That team he’s with is definitely the A-team,” Rich said. “He’ll come back stronger just with this experience.”

Puerto Rico requested help from North Carolina through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact, which helps coordinate relief for disaster-stricken states and U.S. territories. The requesting territory (Puerto Rico in this case) fully reimburses the assisting state for the total costs incurred. All resources are coordinated between state emergency management agencies.

The EMAC system was developed by state governors following Hurricane Andrew in 1992 when critical resources were needed by the state of Florida

“Our hearts go out to the people of Puerto Rico and others working to clean up and rebuild from this year’s hurricanes,” said Governor Roy Cooper.

“Experience has taught us how devastating hurricanes can be, and we’re fortunate to have strong teams of experienced professionals available to help Puerto Rico with its recovery.”