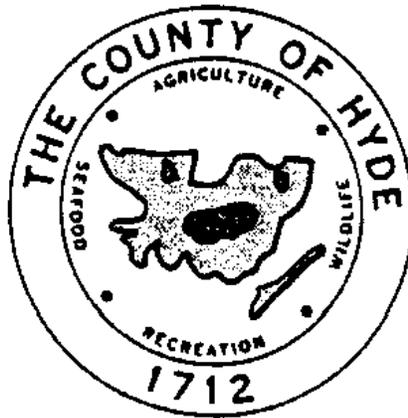


HYDE COUNTY, NC

CAMA CORE LAND USE PLAN EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Adopted by the Hyde County Board of Commissioners: January 7, 2008

Certified by the Coastal Resources Commission: March 27, 2008

Prepared By:

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A. INTRODUCTION

In 1974, the State of North Carolina adopted the Coastal Area Management Act (N.C.G.S. 113A-100, et seq. or CAMA). CAMA was adopted as a reaction to the growing threats to the natural environment from growing populations, increased industrial development in coastal and estuarine areas of the State, and increased recreational and commercial usage of the State's coastal and estuarine waters.

CAMA requires both regulatory (i.e., permitting) measures and State and local planning in the State's 20 CAMA-regulated counties, including Hyde County. The CAMA permit system is divided into major and minor permits, based on the size and possible impacts of a project. Major permits are required for activities that require other state or federal permits, for projects that cover more than 20 acres, or for construction covering more than 60,000 square feet. Applications for major permits are reviewed by 10 state and four federal agencies before a decision is made and this process is coordinated by the State's Coastal Resources Commission (CRC).

General permits are an expedited form of major permit used for routine projects that usually pose little or no threat to the environment. Minor permits are required for projects, such as single-family houses, that don't require major permits or general permits. They are reviewed, issued, and administered to CRC standards by Hyde County under contract with the Division of Coastal Management (DCM). (Source: Association of National Estuary Programs)

When it comes to planning, CAMA requires that the State, through DCM, identify regulated areas of environmental concern (AECs), set minimum standards for local plans, and provide oversight and review of local plans. It requires counties to develop locally based land use plans which specify how it wishes to grow in the future, assuming it meets minimum DCM planning standards. Specifically, the CAMA Land Use Plan (LUP) will be used by the CRC to determine whether any given development proposal subject to a major CAMA permit is consistent with the County's goals for its future development and for environmental protection.

If the County does not complete and update its own plan, it will be required to adopt and follow a State-developed CAMA Land Use Plan. Whereas the County wishes to maintain control over its own land use and development, it has determined it wise to develop and adopt its own CAMA Land Use Plan.

This plan is intended to fulfill the Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA) requirements for the preparation of a Core CAMA Land Use Plan. This plan is organized to adhere to the 15A NCAC 7B requirements, specifically rule .0702 which specifies the required content of CAMA land use plans.

The Hyde County Board of Commissioners (Board) adopted a Citizen Participation Plan (CPP) for the CAMA LUP on September 7, 2004. The CPP is intended to ensure full and thorough public participation in the CAMA LUP development process. The citizen input received during the development of this plan has greatly influenced the final contents of the plan and its policies.

On October 4, 2004, the Board designated a Land Use Plan Advisory Committee (LUPAC) to oversee the CAMA LUP development process. The LUPAC's role was to discharge all duties required of a "principal local board" as defined at 15A NCAC 71.0506, essentially overseeing and guiding the CAMA LUP development process and providing extensive input to the County's planning consultant, Holland Consulting Planners, Inc., as well as making a recommendation to the Board regarding adoption of the CAMA LUP.

The Hyde County LUPAC was composed of the following members. The area of the County they represent is shown in parenthesis:

Carol Ritchie (Ocracoke)	John Herina (Fairfield)
Steve Wilson (Ocracoke)	William Douglas Sawyer, Jr. (Western Hyde)
Frank Brown (Ocracoke)	Archie Green (Swan Quarter)
Carr Baynor (Western Hyde)	Wilson Daughtry (Engelhard)
Margie Brooks (Chamber of Commerce)	

The LUPAC held a publicly advertised meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of almost every month for the duration of the Plan development period. A total of nineteen (19) meetings were held, beginning in December, 2004, and concluding in June, 2006.

Following adoption of this Plan by the Hyde County Board of Commissioners on January 7, 2008, it was submitted to the CRC for certification. Certification of the plan was achieved on March 27, 2008.

B. HYDE COUNTY VISION STATEMENT

1. Mainland Community Vision

The Hyde County Mainland will encourage sustainable economic growth and residential development that is consistent with preservation of its abundant natural resources, rural character, indigenous culture, and historic structures. The county will aggressively pursue new industrial and commercial development, continue to support programs that improve existing housing, encourage new residential development with an emphasis on affordability, expand county infrastructure, expand emphasis on tourism, and develop new human services to the extent that these initiatives are not inconsistent with the goal stated above.

2. *Ocracoke Island Vision*

The vision of Ocracoke Island in the 21st century is a community that ensures livability and economic viability by offering the discerning vacationer a preferable alternative to the over commercialized beach destinations while providing improved attention to Ocracoke residents.

The mission of county government should be to facilitate and support:

- Efforts to maintain the historic village assets.
- Efforts to preserve traditional native occupations and crafts including hunting and commercial fishing.
- Efforts to enhance the Island shopping opportunities with small locally owned shops and businesses.
- Efforts to provide affordable housing.
- Cooperative efforts with the community, NPS, and DOT to maintain access to the Island and provide necessary amenities. Ocracoke and Mainland should emphasize access.
- Support village craftsmen.

C. **KEY ISSUES/DOMINANT GROWTH-RELATED ISSUES**

This document will attempt to assess all issues and concerns that may affect the growth and natural environment in Hyde County over the 20-year planning period. Due to resource and time limitations, however, primary or “key” issues must be identified and prioritized. These key issues are those that the County will spend additional resources in analyzing, assessing and developing goals, policies, objectives and implementing tasks to address over the planning period.

In order to identify these issues, the County held Issues Identification Meetings on October 27, 2004 (Hyde County Mainland) and October 28, 2004 (Ocracoke Island). These meetings were widely advertised, through direct solicitation of citizens with known interests in civic affairs and representatives of organizations with interest in these affairs (including State representatives). Additionally, a notice was sent to popular retail and commercial locations for posting and was advertised in the Washington Daily News and the Coastland Times (Manteo, NC) newspapers.

At the meetings, the County’s planning consultant, Holland Consulting Planners, Inc., provided an overview of the CAMA Land Use Planning process and then broke the assembled group of approximately 30 persons (at each meeting) into 4 to 6 smaller groups to “brainstorm” issues that the group adjudged to be significant to Hyde County’s growth and environment over the planning period. These issues were then listed on large writing pads and affixed to the wall of the Mattamuskeet School Cafeteria (Mainland meeting) and the Ocracoke Civic Center (Ocracoke Island meeting) where the meetings were held. At the end of the each meeting, participants received 10 “votes” and identified their 10 top issues (1 vote per issue - no “multi-voting” with multiple votes per issue). The results are recorded in Tables 1 and 2 below.

Table 1: Key issues identified at the October 27, 2004 (Mainland Hyde County) Issues Identification Meeting

Issue Score	Issue
19	Retain deep water access
18	Compensation for property lost through regulation
15	Need for improved communications infrastructure (especially high-speed/digital infrastructure)
15	Limit the conversion of farmland to wetlands for mitigation
14	Decrease regulation of drainage
14	Economic development, including eco-tourism (emphasis on new business recruitment)
12	Increase and improve transportation access to the County
12	Improve recreational facilities and programs
11	Removal of condemned and dilapidated housing
9	Improvement of the ferry system
9	Cost-effective disposal of solid waste
9	Expand the existing sewer districts, as needed, for development
8	Decrease erosion control requirements
8	Infrastructure improvement and expansion
7	Improve drinking water quality (private systems)
6	Increase number and mileage of paved roads
5	Need for County-wide zoning plan
5	Emphasize Ocracoke / Outer Banks issues
4	Utilization of existing industrial park site
4	Improve and allow for expansion of airport
3	Access to specialized health care
3	Improve access to dental care
3	Creation of new sewer districts as needed and feasible
3	Protection of Areas of Environmental Concerns (AECs)
2	Hazard mitigation planning
1	Access to post-secondary educational opportunities
1	Expand and improve school facilities
1	Require repair of substandard housing
1	Mitigation of stormwater drainage
1	Implement the Engelhard Strategic Plan

NOTE: "Key" or "primary" issues are in bold.

Source: Hyde County Planning Department and Holland Consulting Planners, Inc.

Other key issues include the development of the Machapungo Park Project and other Heritage Tourism Projects and the development of permanent Post Offices at Engelhard and Swan Quarter.

Table 2: Key issues identified at the October 28, 2004 (Ocracoke Island Meeting) Issues Identification Meeting

Issue Score	Issue
19	Beach Renourishment / Stabilization of NC Hwy 12
18	Taxation
17	Waste Management
15	Comprehensive Drainage Plan
13	Affordable Housing
12	Traffic and Congestion
10	Concern with "Daytrippers" (e.g., Parking, Trash, Restrooms, Congestion)
10	Maintain Historic Character
10	Maintaining Minimum CAMA Regulatory Standards
10	Navigable Waters
9	Development and Density
8	Emergency Management
8	Emergency Services
7	Bike and Pedestrian Lanes
7	Electrical System Growth Needs
7	Water Quality (non-potable)
7	Wildfire Management
7	Zoning (Commercial versus Residential)
6	Open Space and Recreation
5	Drinking Water Quantity and System Expansion
5	Mosquito Control
5	Nuisance Control
4	Elder Services
4	Wetland Regulations
3	Airport Maintenance, Expansion and Lighting
2	Improvement of County Facilities - Including School
1	Pamlico Sound Access

NOTE: "Key" or "primary" issues are in bold.

Source: Hyde County Planning Department and Holland Consulting Planners, Inc.

In addition, based on the results of these meetings a survey was developed and mailed out to a sampling of the county's absentee property owners. A total of 450 surveys were sent out; 164 completed questionnaires were received.

D. POPULATION SUMMARY

Historical population growth and forecast of population growth are summarized in the following tables.

Table 3: Permanent Population of Hyde County, Hyde County Mainland and Ocracoke Island, 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, and 2003 estimate

Area	Population					% Growth/Decline (1970 to 2003)
	1970	1980	1990	2000	2003 Estimate	
Hyde County (Total)	5,571	5,873	5,411	5,826	5,720	2.67
Hyde County (Mainland Only)	5,030	5,215	4,698	5,057	4,951	(1.57)
Ocracoke Island	541	658	713	769	N/A*	42.14

* Population estimates from the NC State Demographics Office for Ocracoke Island only are not available for non-Census years.

Source: 1970 - 2000 US Census Bureau, 2003 estimate, NC State Demographics Office.

Table 4: Forecast Populations for Ocracoke Island and Hyde County through 2030

	2005*	2010*	2015*	2020*	2025*	2030*
Ocracoke Island (Permanent)	777	803	836	883	930	979
Ocracoke Island (Peak Seasonal - May to August)	10,906	11,326	11,751	12,202	12,669	13,151
Hyde County Mainland (Permanent - Excluding Ocracoke Island)	4,830	4,797	4,782	4,761	4,675	4,621
Hyde County Mainland (Peak Seasonal - Nov to Mar)	6,000	6,306	6,628	6,966	7,321	7,695
Hyde County (Permanent - Total)	5,607	5,600	5,618	5,644	5,605	5,600
Hyde County (Total - Peak Seasonal - May to Aug)	16,513	16,926	17,369	17,846	18,274	18,751
Hyde County (Permanent -Total - Adjusted by HCP)	5,607	5,720	5,873	5,983	6,053	6,158
Hyde County (Total - Peak Seasonal May to Aug - Adjusted by HCP)	16,513	17,265	18,064	18,917	19,736	20,626

* = Forecast only. Hyde County (Total) figures are produced by the NCSDO, Hyde County (Adjusted) and Ocracoke Island figures by Holland Consulting Planners based on assumptions herein.

Source: NCSDO, U.S. Census Bureau, and Holland Consulting Planners, Inc.

The following provides a summary of the significant demographic factors:

- The estimated population of the County in July, 2003, was 5,720 according to the NC State Demographic Office, reflecting a slight (1.8%) decrease from the 2000 Census population of 5,826.
- The population of Ocracoke Island as of the April, 2000, US Census was 769 persons - approximately 13.2% of the County's total population and a 7.9% increase over the 1990 population.
- Seasonal (May through October) population is a very significant influence on the demand for services, environmental impacts, and growth and development on Ocracoke Island, as the large seasonal population provides the Island's economic base. The peak seasonal population is estimated between 8,000 and 10,000 additional (non-permanent resident) persons on the Island in July or August.
- The racial composition of Hyde County was approximately 63% white and 37% non-white in 2000, according to the US Census Bureau. Almost all (2,146 of 2,176) non-white citizens lived on the mainland of Hyde County (rather than on Ocracoke Island) and were African-American (2,042 of 2,176).
- The relatively large percentage of the County's population in group quarters, particularly the approximately 600 inmates at the Hyde Correctional Center, severely skews the County's demographic profile towards unmarried families and lower educational attainment. The County should pursue policies with the U.S. Census Bureau in which prison populations are either omitted from consideration in overall County population statistics or are presented with caveats.
- As of the year 2000, the median age of Hyde County's citizens is 39.7 years, well above the State average of 35.3 years. The median age of Ocracoke Island residents was 46.4 - over 11 years older than the State average. The percentage of persons below the age of 18 is well below the Statewide average for both Mainland and Ocracoke. For both the Mainland and Ocracoke, these trends appear to reflect both the overall aging of American society as well as the out-migration of young persons of child-bearing and rearing age from the County.
- Gender distribution for Ocracoke and the Mainland are both consistent with Statewide averages, except for the 18 to 64 age cohort on the mainland, which has approximately 600 more men than women due to the presence of a large, male-only correctional facility in the County.

- Household composition and family type in the County are similar to Statewide averages, except for the above-referenced relatively low number of households with children present.
- Educational attainment on Ocracoke Island is comparable to the State average, but it is far below the State average on the Mainland. For example, there are almost twice as many persons (as a percentage of total population over age 25) without a high school diploma (or equivalent) on the Hyde County mainland than in the State on-average (approximately 35% versus 22% and almost three times as many persons with a bachelor's degree or higher (approximately 8% versus 22%). This phenomenon is a serious impediment to economic development in the County.

E. HOUSING SUMMARY

- Hyde County had 3,302 housing units according to the 2000 U.S. Census, an increase of 397 units since 1990, or 13.7%. The majority of these new housing units were on Ocracoke Island (240 of 397, or 60.5%). Ocracoke Island had 844 housing units in 2000, an increase of 240 units since 1990, or 39.7%.
- The County has approximately 5.4 housing units per square mile, giving it one of the lowest housing densities in North Carolina (second only to Tyrrell County). When Ocracoke Island is excluded, the effective housing density on the mainland is 4.07 units per square mile. Ocracoke Island has 96.9 housing units per square mile, but if non-developable public lands are excluded, the density rises to 697.5 units per square mile, or 1.09 units per acre. This “effective” density is roughly equivalent to the density of other tourism-based North Carolina coastal communities without public sewerage.
- Approximately 66.2% of all housing units in the County, or 2,185, were occupied in April of 2000 according to the U.S. Census Bureau. The occupancy rate was 74.1% on the mainland of Hyde County and 43% on Ocracoke Island. These figures reflect the relatively large number of vacant dilapidated units on the mainland, as well as the relatively large number of housing units used for seasonal hunting/fishing use.
- Of occupied units in the County, 78.4%, or 1,713, were owner-occupied, with the remainder rental units. The owner-occupancy rate on the mainland was 78.1% (1,422 of 1,821) and 80.0% on Ocracoke Island (291 of 364). These rates far exceed the Statewide average of 61%.
- Over half the units on Ocracoke Island (53%), or 446 units, are used primarily as seasonal rental units or for occasional use by their owners.

- The vast majority (74.8%) of owner-occupied housing units were single-family detached homes in 2000, roughly comparable to the State average. The majority of renter-occupied units (59.3%) in the County in 2000 were also single-family detached homes, well in excess of the State average of 34.7%. These statistics reflect the low development density of the County and the lack of demand (and availability) of multi-family housing in the County.
- On Ocracoke Island, the vast majority of both owner-occupied (89.3%) and renter-occupied (81.8%) units occupied permanently, or “year-round”, are single-family detached homes.
- Approximately 31.4% of the County’s housing stock, 38.6% on Ocracoke Island, was built before 1959 – far greater than the Statewide average of approximately 22%. The majority of the older homes on Ocracoke Island are historically and architecturally significant while the majority of the older homes on the mainland are in need of some type of rehabilitation/repair.
- The availability of essential facilities and services, such as plumbing, kitchen and potable water, are universal on Ocracoke Island, but are three times the State average on the mainland (approximately 3.2% versus 1.1% Statewide) in the County’s housing units. It should be noted, however, that the absolute number of such units is very small (approximately 15).
- The County has an average of 2.36 persons-per-household, just below the State average of 2.49 persons per household. Ocracoke Island has an average of 2.08 persons-per-household. Both of these figures can be attributed primarily to the relatively large number of older homeowners without children at home, particularly on Ocracoke.
- While the County has made great strides in improving housing quality through the procurement of Federal and State community development and housing repair funds, there are still substantial concentrations of substandard housing in the mainland portion of the County.

F. INCOME, EMPLOYMENT, AND ECONOMY SUMMARY

- Hyde County is below regional and Statewide averages for all measures of income and economic well-being, but is comparable to other Counties in the Region on these measures. Ocracoke Island is very close to Statewide averages on these measures.
- The per capita (per person) income for Hyde County in the year 2000 was \$13,164, well below the Statewide average of \$20,307. The per capita income for Ocracoke Island in 2000 was \$18,032.

- The median income for households (related and non-related individuals) in the County was \$28,444 and \$35,558 for families (related persons only), below the Statewide averages of \$39,184 and \$46,335, respectively. For Ocracoke Island, these figures were \$34,315 and \$38,750, respectively.
- Approximately 19.5% of all children under the age of 18 in the County and approximately 23% of persons over the age of 65 live below the Federally-defined poverty level, above the Statewide average. On Ocracoke Island, the number of persons living in poverty is below the State average (9.3% of all persons, 8.7% of children, 10.4% of the elderly).
- Average household and family incomes in the County are highly correlated with race and family status, as is the case State and Nationwide.
- African-American persons in the County were over twice as likely to live below the Federal poverty line than white persons (24.31% versus 11.85%), although the percentage of African-American persons in poverty has dramatically dropped from 1990 (from 41.99%).
- The total percentage of persons over the age of 16 participating in the labor force on both the mainland of Hyde County and on Ocracoke Island are among the lowest in the State (49.2% and 54.7% respectively). This fact reflects the relatively large number of retired and elderly persons in the County.
- The total number of persons employed in manufacturing in the County declined by almost 50% from 1990 to 2000 - from 1,048 to 528.
- The economic base of Ocracoke Island is tourism, characterized by large percentages of persons employed in retail sales and accommodations/food service. The economic base of the Hyde County mainland is government employment (State and local) and agriculture/fishing.
- There is currently very little manufacturing employment in the County, due primarily to the lack of infrastructure required by industry and to the low regional population. Manufacturing employment, on average, tends to pay one of the highest wages of any sector for workers without college degrees.
- The average weekly wage in the County is \$453 per week, of 67.6% of the State average.
- The number of retail trade establishments in the County has fallen since 1992, due primarily to competition from national retailers in adjacent counties. During the same time, the number of eating/drinking establishments and hotels/motels/rental cottages/condos has increased significantly, primarily on Ocracoke Island.
- Of the ten largest employers in the County, four (4) are State or local government and three (3) are seafood processing establishments.

- The County has made, and continues to make, great strides in expanding and diversifying its economy. The County is the headquarters of a publicly traded bank and will soon be the home of a large egg laying facility and a large construction waste recycling facility. Increased efforts in promoting ecotourism and small business development are also underway.

G. ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

The basinwide plan (BWP) for the Pasquotank River Basin was initially developed by DWQ in September, 1997 and updated in July, 2002. The basinwide plan for the Tar-Pamlico River Basin was initially developed in December of 1994, updated in July of 1999, and the current plan was adopted in March of 2004. A small portion of northern Hyde County falls within the Pasquotank River Basin, while the remainder of the county, including Ocracoke and the Outer Banks, falls within the Tar-Pamlico River Basin. The following are the goals of DWQ's basinwide program:

- Identify water quality problems and restore full use to impaired waters;
- Identify and protect high value resource waters;
- Protect unimpaired waters while allowing for reasonable economic growth;
- Develop appropriate management strategies to protect and restore water quality;
- Assure equitable distribution of waste assimilative capacity for dischargers; and
- Improve public awareness and involvement in the management of the state's surface waters.

1. *Pasquotank River Basin Watershed*

Approximately 113.5 square miles of northern Hyde County falls within the Pasquotank River Basin Watershed. This portion of the county is further broken down into two subbasins as follows: subbasin 03-01-51 (72,201 acres); and subbasin 03-01-53 (471 acres).

The Pasquotank River Basin covers a total of 3,635 square miles throughout the low-lying lands of the northeast coastal plain of North Carolina. This river basin contains several small watersheds that drain into the Albermarle, Currituck, Croatan, Roanoke, and Pamlico Sounds. There is a small portion of the Pasquotank River Basin that falls within Virginia, which is managed by the state of Virginia. There are eleven municipalities that fall within this river basin, however, none of these are within Hyde County. A majority of the land within Hyde County that falls within the Pasquotank River Basin is considered to be undeveloped, or forest/wetland.

The Pasquotank River Basin is part of the Albermarle-Pamlico Estuarine System, the second largest estuarine system in the United States. In 1987, this estuarine system became part of the Environmental Protection Agency National Estuary Program and was the subject of a major study known as the Albermarle-Pamlico Estuarine Study.

Within this river basin there are a total of seven subbasins, 474 stream miles, and 110 coast miles. The following provides a summary of water quality within each of these subbasins that fall within Hyde County.

a. Subbasin 03-01-51

This subbasin consists of the Alligator River and its tributaries, Alligator (New) Lake, part of the Albemarle Sound, Croatan Sound, Roanoke Island, and part of Roanoke Sound in Dare, Tyrrell and Hyde Counties (Source: BWP, page 86). A majority of the waters within this subbasin are brackish estuarine. The following table provides a summary of population and land coverage figures as reported in the 2002 BWP:

Table 5: Subbasin 03-01-51 Statistics

Land and Water:	
Total Area	978 square miles
Land Area	568 square miles
Water Area	410 square miles
Population Statistics:	
1990 Est. Population	9,240 people
Population Density	16 persons per square mile
Land Cover (%):	
Forest/Wetland	53
Surface Water	39
Urban	< 1
Cultivated Crop	8
Pasture/Managed Herbacious	< 1

Source: 2002 Pasquaotank River Basinwide Water Quality Plan.

The most notable waterbodies located within Hyde County in this subbasin are portions of the Alligator River and Alligator (New) Lake. All portions of the Alligator River in Hyde County are classified as Outstanding Resource Waters (ORW). There are six permitted dischargers in this subbasin; however, the Town of Manteo’s wastewater treatment plant is the only major discharge.

The 2002 BWP does not report any impaired waters in the subbasin, however, some indications of deteriorating water quality conditions were reported in the upper reaches of the Alligator River. These areas were reported to have elevated nitrogen concentrations, low PH, and low dissolved oxygen concentrations. According to the BWP the low PH values suggested that much of the oxygen problem was related to drainage

from Hollow Ground Swamp, but possible effects from agricultural runoff around New Lake could not be ruled out.

b. Subbasin 03-01-53

A very small portion of northern Hyde County (470 acres) is located within subbasin 03-01-53 of the Pasquotank River Basin. The Scuppernong River, which drains to the Albermarle Sound is the most substantial waterbody in this subbasin. This subbasin contains a diversity of public lands and Significant Natural Heritage Areas, including Lake Phelps State Park, Bull Neck Swamp, East Dismal and the Scuppernong River Swamp Forest (Source: BWP, page 99). The portion of Hyde County that falls within this subbasin is primarily comprised of forested land, and does not contain any waterbodies. Due to this fact, Hyde County has a minimal impact on water quality issues within subbasin 03-01-53.

c. Registered Animal Operations Within the Pasquotank River Basin

Animal waste from farms and livestock/poultry and dairy production operations can severely threaten water quality if not managed properly. There are currently 28 swine operations, and 1 cattle operation located within the Pasquotank River Basin. These figures only account for those operations required by law to be registered, and therefore, does not account for every operation within the river basin. The presence of hog lagoons are the most significant concern in terms of water quality with respect to animal operations within the Pasquotank River Basin. The state of North Carolina has already reached an agreement with Smithfield Farms to phase out all hog lagoons to be replaced with systems that utilize newer technologies for the processing of animal waste. It is anticipated that the next step will be to phase out all hog lagoons statewide. There is currently a moratorium on new construction of or expansion of existing swine operations.

Table 6 below provides statistics on registered animal operations in the subbasins of the Pasquotank River Basin in which Hyde County is located.

Table 6: Registered Animal Operations in Subbasins 03-01-53 and 03-01-51 of the Pasquotank River Basin, 2002

Subbasin	Swine		Cattle		Poultry	
	No. of Facilities	No. of Animals	No. of Facilities	No. of Animals	No. of Facilities	No. of Animals
03-01-51	2	25,350	0	0	0	0
03-01-53	8	15,241	1	120	0	0

Source: Pasquotank River Basinwide Management Plan.

2. *Tar-Pamlico River Basin Watershed*

A majority of Hyde County falls within the the confluence of the Tar-Pamlico River Basin Watershed. This river basin ultimately flows into the Pamlico Sound off the shores of eastern Hyde County. Within the county there are portions of two separate subbasins including: subbasin 03-03-08 (252,123 acres); and subbasin 03-03-07 (114,071 acres).

The Tar-Pamlico River Basin is the fourth largest river basin in the state and is one of only four river basins whose boundaries fall completely within North Carolina. This system originates in north central North Carolina in the counties of Person, Granville, and Vance. As these waters flow southeast they converge into the Pamlico River at the City of Washington. The Pamlico River is a tidal estuary that ultimately flows into the Pamlico Sound at Hyde County.

The Tar-Pamlico River Basin covers a 5,440-square mile area, making it the fourth largest river basin in the state. It encompasses all or portions of 16 counties and 51 municipalities. Major tributaries within the river basin include Fishing Creek, Swift Creek, Cokey Swamp, Tranter's Creek, and the Pungo River. The basin also includes North Carolina's largest natural lake, Lake Mattamuskeet, which is located within Hyde County.

a. **Subbasin 03-03-07**

This area is primarily estuarine in nature, extending from tidal freshwater areas around Washington to Roos Point, east of the Pungo River. Tides in these estuarine areas tend to be wind dominated rather than following a lunar cycle. Freshwater streams in this subbasin are limited to headwaters of estuarine creeks and the East Dismal Swamp. Most streams in the East Dismal Swamp are ditched canals. Primary land use is agriculture with an urban area around Washington and a phosphate mine near Aurora. Four major dischargers, the largest being the PCS phosphate mine, are permitted to discharge into this subbasin (Source: BWP, page 127).

There are several areas throughout the subbasin that are classified as impaired within the 2004 BWP. Only one of these areas is located within Hyde County, at Slade Creek. This creek is a tributary of the Pungo River. The BWP does not identify any recommendations or details regarding the impaired status of this stream. The Pungo River, however, is currently impaired in the recreation category because the Department of Environmental Health (DEH) Recreational Water Quality Monitoring had posted swimming advisories for greater than 61 days of the assessment period.

The following table provides a summary of population and land coverage figures as reported in the 2004 BWP.

Table 7: Subbasin 03-03-07 Statistics

Land and Water:	
Total Area	1,190 square miles
Land Area	997 square miles
Water Area	193 square miles
Population Statistics:	
1990 Est. Population	44,232 people
Population Density	44 persons per square mile
Land Cover (%):	
Forest/Wetland	55.5
Surface Water	17.5
Urban	0.5
Cultivated Crop	25.5
Pasture/Managed Herbacious	1.0

Source: 2004 Tar-Pamlico River Basinwide Water Quality Plan.

b. Subbasin 03-03-08

This subbasin, with the exception of Ocracoke along the Outer Banks, is one of the most rural throughout the coastal areas of North Carolina. The predominant land use in this area is forest and wetland, with some concentrations of cultivated cropland. This subbasin encompasses a majority of Hyde County (57.4%), and its boundaries fall entirely within the county. There are seven NPDES wastewater discharge permits throughout this subbasin.

There are several impaired waterbodies throughout this subbasin. These waterbodies are classified as impaired because they are either prohibited or permanently closed for shellfishing. The following stream segments fall into this category: Portions of the Pamlico River, Rose Bay, Germantown Bay and Tributaries, Swanquarter bay, Juniper Bay, Wysocking Bay, Middle Town Creek, Cedar Creek, Lone Tree Creek, Far Creek and Tributaries, Berrys Bay, Long Shoal River. The Department of Environmental Health Shellfish Sanitation Division will continue to monitor bacteria levels in all of these impaired waterbodies. DWQ, DEH, and DCM are working together to identify more efficient and comprehensive methodology for monitoring water quality. These efforts are aimed at supporting necessary closures due to impaired water quality conditions. Additionally, DWQ is working with local communities to establish methods of reducing bacteria levels throughout the county. Additionally, Lake Mattamuskeet and Boundary Canal were identified as having indications of water quality issues, however these areas are not classified as impaired.

The following table provides a summary of population and land coverage figures as reported in the 2004 BWP:

Table 8: Subbasin 03-03-08 Statistics

Land and Water:

Total Area	1,220 square miles
Land Area	356 square miles
Water Area	864 square miles

Population Statistics:

1990 Est. Population	9,053 people
Population Density	25 persons per square mile

Land Cover (%):

Forest/Wetland	21.3
Surface Water	71.0
Urban	0.2
Cultivated Crop	7.3
Pasture/Managed Herbacious	0.2

Source: 2004 Tar-Pamlico River Basinwide Water Quality Plan.

c. Registered Animal Operations in the Tar/Pamlico River Basin

Agriculture is an extremely important component of the economy in the Tar-Pamlico River Basin. As evidenced by the land cover data presented previously in this section, almost one-quarter of the entire area of the Tar-Pamlico Basin is comprised of cultivated cropland. Within the entire state, Pitt County is ranked as number one in tobacco production and number two in wheat production, and Beaufort County is ranked as the top producer of corn, wheat, and sorghum (NC Department of Agriculture, 1998).

Animal agriculture is also prominent in the Tar-Pamlico River Basin. In the last several years, much attention has been given to this sector of agriculture due to concerns for environmental impacts associated with these operations. In 1992, the Environmental Management Commission adopted a rule modification (15A NCAC 2H.0217) establishing procedures for managing and reusing animal wastes from intensive livestock operations. The rule applies to new, expanding or existing feedlots with animal waste management systems designed to serve animal populations of at least the following size: 100 head of cattle, 75 horses, 250 swine, 1,000 sheep or 30,000 birds (chickens and turkeys) with a liquid waste system. These facilities are also required to obtain an approved waste management plan certification. In 1996, Senate Bill 1217 required any operator of a dry litter animal waste management system involving 30,000 or more birds to develop an animal waste management plan by January 1998. The plan must consist of three specific

items: 1) periodic testing of soils where waste is applied; 2) development of waste utilization plans; and 3) completion and maintenance of records on-site for three years (source: BWP, page 26).

Table 9 below provides statistics on registered animal operations in the subbasins of the Tar/Pamlico River Basin in which Hyde County is located.

Table 9: Registered Animal Operations in Subbasins 03-03-08 and 03-03-07 of the Tar/Pamlico River Basin, 2004

Subbasin	Swine		Cattle		Poultry	
	No. of Facilities	No. of Animals	No. of Facilities	No. of Animals	No. of Facilities	No. of Animals
03-03-08	4	15,412	0	0	0	0
03-03-07	18	79,988	0	0	0	0

Source: Tar-Pamlico River Basinwide Management Plan.

3. *Tar-Pamlico Buffer Rules and Nutrient Sensitive Waters*

The Tar-Pamlico River Basin was designated as Nutrient Sensitive Waters (NSW) by the Environmental Management Commission as a result of finding nutrient levels in excess within the basin. The NSW designation required the development of a strategy that would decrease the nutrient levels. The strategy consisted of three phases. Phase I initially targeted point source pollutants but evolved into a collective nutrient trading program between point source and nonpoint source pollutants. Phase I was effective from 1990-1994. Phase I successfully reduced overall nitrogen and phosphorus loads by about 20% and an association of dischargers was formed that consisted of 14 dischargers. Phase II covered the period from 1995-2004 and the major goal was to establish nutrient reduction goals for nonpoint sources and point sources and to implement a plan for the nonpoint source reductions. The goals were to reduce nutrients by 30% and to have no increase in phosphorus loads. Phase III covers the period through December 2014 and involves continued nutrient control for point source dischargers, reaffirms loading goals set in Phase II, and proposes time frames for restoration of nutrient related estuarine use support. The nutrient rules for the Tar-Pamlico River follow:

Buffer Rules. Existing vegetated riparian buffers in the basin must be protected and maintained on both sides of intermittent and perennial streams, lakes, ponds, and estuarine waters. Fifty (50) feet on each side of water bodies (Zone 1 - within the first 30 feet is to remain undisturbed with some exceptions; Zone 2 - the outer 20 feet must be vegetated with certain uses allowed).

Nutrient Management Rule. Requires people that apply fertilizer, other than residential homeowners applying fertilizer to their own land, to take either a state-sponsored nutrient management training course or have a nutrient management plan in place for the land on which they apply fertilizer.

Stormwater Rule. Requires stormwater programs to be implemented within six municipalities and five counties within the basin. The entities were selected based on their possible nutrient contribution.

Agricultural Rule. Requires farmers to implement land management practices that achieve certain nutrient reduction goals – reduction in nutrient loading and control of phosphorus levels.

H. ANALYSIS OF LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT

1. Introduction

This section of the plan will aim to address existing land use throughout the county, and provide some analysis of existing issues and problems related to current development trends. The Division of Coastal Management Land Use Plan Guidelines (15A NCAC 7B.0207) require that existing land uses and water uses be mapped. The land and water use maps in conjunction with the land suitability map should be utilized as working documents and serve as a basis for the development of the future land use map(s). Specifically, this plan should address the following:

- Significant land use compatibility problems;
- Significant water use compatibility problems including those identified in any water supply plan appendix and those identified in the applicable Division of Water Quality basinwide plan;
- Significant problems that have resulted from unplanned development and that have implications for future land use, water use, or water quality;
- An identification of areas experiencing or likely to experience changes in predominant land uses, including agricultural and forestry land being converted to other uses and previously undeveloped shoreline areas where development is now occurring;
- Significant water quality conditions and the connection between land use and water quality.

2. Existing Land Use in Hyde County

In order to address future development within the county, it is necessary to establish a snapshot of what portions of land are currently developed or undeveloped. Conducting a land use survey allows for a review of existing land use patterns. This survey will assist in identifying land use patterns and trends that exist throughout Hyde County. This process will serve two main purposes: identifying key conflicts in land use and addressing the issue of water quality in relation to existing land use.

Existing land use within Hyde County has been broken down into two separate discussions. Land use for the rural parts of the county, and land use within each of the community core study areas as follows: Engelhard, Swan Quarter, Ocracoke, Scranton/Sladesville, Fairfield, and Ponzer.

The following tables provide approximate land use acreage summaries for the Hyde County and each of the community core study areas.

Table 10: Hyde County Existing Land Use

Land Use	Acreage by Land Use	% of Total County Acreage
Agricultural	84,038	19.1
Campground	55	<0.1%
Forest/Open Space/Vacant*	165,921	38.0%
Industrial	580	0.1%
Office and institutional	54	<0.1%
Residential	5,757	1.3%
Unbuildable**	173,672	39.6%
Utility	2	<0.1%
Study Areas	8,864	1.8%
Total	438,943	100.0%

*Includes the National Wildlife Refuge and Gamelands.

**Includes Coastal Wetlands, National Seashore, and Water.

Source: 1992 CAMA Land Use Plan, 1997 CAMA Land Use Plan Update, Holland Consulting Planners, Inc.

Table 11: Engelhard Existing Land Use

Land Use	Acres	% of Total
Commercial	32.3	2.4%
Transportation	0.0	0.0%
Office and Institutional	25.5	1.9%
Recreational	4.9	0.4%
Industrial	11.2	0.8%
Residential	158.9	12.0%
Utility	2.0	0.1%
Vacant	1,089.4	82.3%
Total	1,324.1	100.0%

Source: Holland Consulting Planners, Inc.

Table 12: Fairfield Existing Land Use

Land Use	Acres	% of Total
Commercial	26.5	1.8%
Transportation	0.0	0.0%
Office and Institutional	17.2	1.2%
Recreational	0.0	0.0%
Industrial	5.3	0.4%
Residential	263.9	17.9%
Utility	0.0	0.0%
Vacant	1,168.7	78.8%
Total	1,481.6	100.0%

Source: Holland Consulting Planners, Inc.

Table 13: Ponzer Existing Land Use

Land Use	Acres	% of Total
Commercial	0.0	0.0%
Transportation	0.0	0.0%
Office and Institutional	0.0	0.0%
Recreational	0.0	0.0%
Industrial	0.0	0.0%
Residential	29.8	31.0%
Utility	0.6	0.7%
Vacant	65.5	68.3%
Total	95.9	100.0%

Source: Holland Consulting Planners, Inc.

Table 14: Ocracoke Existing Land Use

Land Use	Acres	% of Total
Commercial	35.7	5.3%
Transportation	12.8	1.9%
Office and Institutional	31.6	4.7%
Recreational	0.0	0.0%
Industrial	0.0	0.0%
Residential	350.0	51.5%
Utility	0.0	0.0%
Vacant	275.1	36.7%
Total	705.2	100.0%

Source: Holland Consulting Planners, Inc.

Table 15: Scranton/Sladesville Existing Land Use

Land Use	Acres	% of Total
Commercial	0.0	0.0%
Transportation	0.0	0.0%
Office and Institutional	1.0	0.2%
Recreational	0.0	0.0%
Industrial	0.0	0.0%
Residential	65.0	10.4%
Utility	0.0	0.0%
Vacant	563.2	89.5%
Total	629.2	100.0%

Source: Holland Consulting Planners, Inc.

Table 16: Swan Quarter Existing Land Use

Land Use	Acres	% of Total
Commercial	12.0	0.3%
Transportation	108.9	2.4%
Office and Institutional	48.4	1.0%
Recreational	0.0	0.0%
Industrial	75.6	1.6%
Residential	383.6	8.3%
Utility	1.7	< 1.0%
Vacant	3,996.5	86.4%
Total	4,626.7	100.0%

Source: Holland Consulting Planners, Inc.

3. *Land Use as Related to Water Quality by Subbasin*

This section will serve to take a closer look at how land use in Hyde County relates to water quality. This section has been compiled with information provided by the North Carolina Division of Water Quality (DWQ). Under the Basinwide Management Program, the DWQ completes Basinwide Water Quality Plans.

Basinwide water quality planning is a non-regulatory, watershed-based approach to restoring and protecting the quality of North Carolina's surface waters. Preparation of a basinwide water quality plan is a five-year process, which is broken down into three phases. While these plans are prepared by the DWQ, their implementation and the protection of water quality entails the coordinated efforts of many agencies, local governments, and stakeholder groups in the state. The first cycle of plans was completed in 1998, but each plan is updated at five-year intervals.

It should be noted that the results of the monitoring efforts are not intended to provide precise conclusions about pollutant budgets for specific watersheds. Since the assessment methodology is geared toward general conclusions, it is important not to manipulate the data to support policy decisions beyond the accuracy of the data.

Two primary methods of water quality testing were performed in Hyde County. The details of this methodology are described below so that the information on the results of this testing can be better understood. The methods utilized were Benthic Macroinvertebrate Monitoring and the Ambient Monitoring System. DWQ also observes water bodies for the existence of algal blooms, which are an indication of poor water quality.

Benthic macroinvertebrates are organisms, primarily aquatic insect larvae, which live in and on the bottoms of rivers and streams. The use of macroinvertebrate data has proven to be a reliable water quality monitoring tool because most macroinvertebrates are immobile and sensitive to subtle changes in water quality. Benthic communities also respond to, and show the effects of, a wide array of potential pollutant mixtures.

The Ambient Monitoring System (AMS) is a network of stream, lake, and estuarine (saltwater) water quality monitoring stations (about 420 statewide) strategically located for the collection of physical and chemical water quality data (or parameters). Water quality parameters are arranged by freshwater or saltwater water body classification and corresponding water quality standards. Under this arrangement, Class C waters are assigned minimum monthly parameters with additional parameters assigned to waters with classifications such as trout waters and water supplies.

Prolific growths of phytoplankton, often due to high concentrations of nutrients, sometimes result in "blooms" in which one or more species of alga may discolor the water or form

visible mats on the water's surface. Blooms may be unsightly and deleterious to water quality causing fish kills, anoxia, and taste and odor problems.

Water quality monitoring is conducted and reported at the subbasin level. Hyde County falls within two major river basins, and within these two basins four separate subbasins. The subbasins that fall within Hyde County are the Tar-Pamlico River Basin (subbasins 03-03-07 and 03-03-08) and the Pasquotank River Basin (subbasins 03-01-51 and 03-01-53). The following provides a summary of water quality issues within each of the subbasins, as well as how land use in these areas impact the overall water quality ratings.

a. Tar-Pamlico River Basin (Subbasin 03-03-07)

This subbasin falls primarily along the eastern portion of the Tar-Pamlico River Basin. In addition to Hyde County, the area encompassed by the subbasin takes in portions of Beaufort, Craven, Pamlico, Tyrrell, and Washington counties, and the following municipalities: Washington, Belhaven, Bath, and Aurora. Overall, there has been little population growth in the subbasin, and this pace is expected to continue. There are currently 20 NPDES wastewater discharge permits in the subbasin. None of the largest recorded dischargers are located within Hyde County. The Tar-Pamlico River Basin was designated as Nutrient Sensitive Waters. This designation required a strategy to improve water quality by decreasing nutrient levels. More information about this designation can be found in the Water Quality section on page 103 of the Land Use Plan.

The following table provides a summary of the use support ratings for ambient monitoring stations located within Hyde County. The table provides the 1998 and 2004 ratings. The table also provides an overview of the predominant land uses surrounding these monitoring sites, as well as an indicator of how rapidly development is occurring in these areas.

Detailed information regarding all four subbasins is provided in Section G, above. Discussions within this section include recommendations for improving water quality within the subbasin. It should be noted that there are currently no impaired water within this area.

Table 17: Ambient Monitoring Stations and Predominant Adjacent Land Use - Hyde County

Site #	Waterbody	DWQ Classification	Use Support Rating 1998*	Use Support Rating 2004*	Adjacent Land Use	Development Intensity
A-32	Pungo River	SC; NSW	ST	NR	Rural-Single Family Residential/Agriculture/ Open Space	Low
A-33 - A-39	Pungo River	SB; NSW	ST	S	Rural-Single Family Residential/Agriculture/ Open Space	Low

Site #	Waterbody	DWQ Classification	Use Support Rating 1998*	Use Support Rating 2004*	Adjacent Land Use	Development Intensity
A-40 - A-43	Pungo River	SA; NSW	ST	S	Rural-Single Family Residential/Agriculture/Open Space	Low
A-44 - A-45	Pamlico River	SA; NSW	ST	S	Rural-Single Family Residential/Agriculture/Open Space	Low

*S - supporting; ST - supporting but threatened; NR - not rated.
Source: NC Division of Water Quality.

b. Tar-Pamlico River Basin (Subbasin 03-03-08)

This subbasin covers the majority of Hyde County. Included in this subbasin are the Swan Quarter, Engelhard, Fairfield, and Ocracoke communities. This subbasin is one of the most rural on North Carolina’s coast. Land use within this subbasin in Hyde County is predominantly forested/open space and includes Lake Mattamuskeet and the Swan Quarter National Wildlife Refuge with higher concentrations of development within the communities mentioned above. There are currently seven NPDES wastewater discharge permits in the subbasin. It should be noted that there are currently no impaired water within subbasin 03-03-08.

c. Pasquotank River Basin (Subbasin 03-01-51)

This subbasin is located primarily along the northern border of the county. There are no major Hyde County communities in this subbasin. This subbasin does include the Alligator River and its tributaries, Alligator (New) Lake, part of Albemarle Sound, Croatan Sound, Roanoke Island, and Roanoke Sound. The Alligator River upstream of US 64 and all of its natural tributaries (not canals, Alligator Lake or ICWW) are classified as Outstanding Resource Waters. Two tributaries to Shallowbag Bay are classified as High Quality Waters. Land use within this subbasin is agriculture and forested/open space. This subbasin has the lowest population density in the Pasquotank River Basin. There are currently six NPDES permitted dischargers in the subbasin. There are no impaired waters in the subbasin.

d. Pasquotank River Basin (Subbasin 03-01-53)

This subbasin covers a small portion of northeastern Hyde County. The Scuppernong River, which drains to the Albemarle Sound, is the largest river system in this subbasin. This subbasin contains many public lands and significant natural heritage areas. Land use within this area is forest/open space. There are currently seven permitted NPDES dischargers in the subbasin, all of which are minor permits. It should be noted that there are currently no impaired water within the subbasin.

The biggest concern related to water quality is the degradation of shellfishing waters. While waters in the subbasins mentioned above are not impaired, there are several areas that are closed to shellfishing.

I. LAND USE/DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND IMPLEMENTING ACTIONS

1. Introduction

The purposes of the Coastal Resources Commission (CRC) management topics are to ensure that CAMA Land Use Plans support the goals of CAMA, to define the CRC's expectations for the land use planning process, and to give the CRC a substantive basis for review and certification of CAMA Land Use Plans. Each of the following management topics (Public Access, Land Use Compatibility, Infrastructure Carrying Capacity, Transportation, Natural Hazard Areas, Water Quality, and Local Areas of Concern) include three components: a management goal, a statement of the CRC's planning objective, and requirements for the CAMA Land Use Plan. These policies apply to the entire county including the six future land use study areas. The local concerns which should be addressed in this plan are identified on pages 4-5. These concerns and issues were utilized to develop the goals and objectives which are included in this plan. Most of the policies and implementing actions are continuing activities. In most situations, specific timelines are not applicable. Please note: Policies and Implementing Actions are number consecutively throughout this document with the letter "P" denoting a policy and the letter "I" denoting an implementing action.

2. Impact of CAMA Land Use Plan Policies on Management Topics

The development of this land use plan has relied heavily on the CAMA-prescribed land suitability analysis which is included in Section 5(j) of the Land Use Plan. It is intended that this document is supportive of the CAMA regulations for protection of AECs (15A NCAC 7H).

This plan is intended to support the Hyde County vision statement which was developed based on the key issues identified on pages 4-5 of this document and the CAMA AEC regulations. No negative impacts are anticipated by the implementation of the goals, objectives, and policies which are included in this plan.

Note: It is intended that all policies are consistent with (do not exceed) applicable State and Federal requirements when State and Federal requirements apply.

3. *Public Access*

a. **Management Goal**

Hyde County will maximize public access to the estuarine shorelines and public trust waters of the coastal region.

b. **Planning Objective**

Hyde County will develop comprehensive policies that provide beach and public trust water access opportunities for the public along the shorelines within the planning jurisdiction.

c. **Land Use Plan Requirements**

The following are Hyde County's policies/implementing actions for waterfront access and apply to both the Mainland and the Village of Ocracoke unless otherwise specified. All policies are continuing activities.

Policies:

- P.1 The county supports the Greater Hyde County Chamber of Commerce and tourism and recreational related developments that protect and preserve the natural environment while promoting the county as a tourist destination. It supports the private and public development of waterfront access through private funds and grant monies. It also supports the work of the Northeastern North Carolina Economic Development Commission.
- P.2 Hyde County supports providing shoreline access for persons with disabilities, including the CAMA shoreline access grant proposal for an interpretive waterfront site and boardwalk.
- P.3 Hyde County supports the frequency of shoreline access as defined by 15A NCAC 7M, Section .0300, Shorefront Access Policies. However, emphasis will be placed on providing access to the southern shorelines of Hyde County, especially along the Pamlico River and Sound shorelines.
- P.4 Hyde County supports state/federal funding of piers for crabbing and fishing.
- P.5 Hyde County supports the development of estuarine access areas to ensure adequate shoreline access within all areas of the county. Areas that have traditionally been used by the public will be given special attention.

P.6 Hyde County opposes the loss/abandonment of any facilities dedicated to public shoreline/water access.

Implementing Actions:

- I.1 Hyde County will prepare a shoreline access plan and request Division of Coastal Management funding for the preparation of the plan, including preservation of existing public access sites. *Schedule: Fiscal Year 2007-2008.*
- I.2 Hyde County will pursue funding under the North Carolina CAMA Shoreline Access funding program (15A NCAC 7M, Section .0300, Shorefront Access Policies). *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*
- I.3 Hyde County will pursue private sources of funding for the development of shoreline access facilities, including donation of land. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*
- I.4 In areas adjacent to Lake Mattamuskeet, Hyde County will pursue funding from the Department of Archives and Natural History and the federal government for the provision of shoreline access sites. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*
- I.5 The county will cooperate with state and federal agencies to secure estuarine access areas to ensure adequate shoreline access within all areas of the county. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*
- I.6 Visual access to estuarine areas on Ocracoke Island is important and will be protected through the Ocracoke Village Development Ordinance. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*

NOTE: Other than the north end of Ocracoke Island for ferry loop protection, there are no shoreline areas within Hyde County's jurisdiction targeted for shoreline/beach nourishment.

4. *Land Use Compatibility*

a. **Management Goal**

Hyde County will vigorously support residential, commercial, and industrial development which does not adversely affect the county's natural and cultural resources or existing land uses.

b. Planning Objectives

In all local government decisions affecting land use, Hyde County will utilize this Land Use Plan to provide direction for its planning process. NOTE: All planning decisions and land use related regulatory documents should consider/reflect the land use/planning principles which are identified in Section 6(D)(1), Policies/Implementing Actions Introduction of the Land Use Plan.

c. Land Use Plan Requirements

Hyde County will utilize the following policies/implementing actions to accomplish land use compatibility. These policies/implementing actions will apply to both the Mainland and the Village of Ocracoke unless otherwise specified.

Policies - Residential:

- P.7 On the Mainland, Hyde County will support the expansion of both seasonal and year-round residential development as a top priority to stabilize its tax base.
- P.8 On the Mainland outside of the community study areas, Hyde County desires to avoid undue concentrations of residential development which are not adequately supported by infrastructure.
- P.9 Residential development should be consistent with the county's ability to provide services.
- P.10 Residential development should be sensitive to the preservation of environmentally sensitive areas including Mainland prime agricultural lands, and should take into account of and respect the preservation of historic structures and areas, aesthetic values, and the traditional way of life on Ocracoke Island.
- P.11 Hyde County will support redevelopment efforts to improve its housing inventory.
- P.12 Hyde County considers the preservation of its housing inventory essential to effective commercial and industrial development.

Implementing Actions - Residential:

- I.7 Until zoning and subdivision ordinances may be adopted/updated, Hyde County will continue to enforce the Ocracoke Village Development Ordinance. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*

- I.8 Hyde County will update its county-wide subdivision ordinance to regulate development, including residential properties. This will include an emphasis on maintaining/improving water quality. *Schedule: Fiscal Year 2007-2008.*
- I.9 Hyde County will pursue adoption of county-wide zoning to regulate development, including residential properties. *Schedule: Fiscal Year 2008-2009.*
- I.10 Hyde County will pursue grants and/or technical assistance to prepare/update subdivision and zoning ordinances. *Schedule: Continuing Activity until completed.*
- I.11 The county will update its minimum housing code to ensure that all occupied residential structures are fit for human habitation. *Schedule: Fiscal Year 2008-2009.*
- I.12 Hyde County will pursue Community Development Block Grant, North Carolina Housing Finance Agency, and United States Department of Agriculture funds from state and federal sources for rehabilitation or redevelopment of substandard housing. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*
- I.13 Hyde County supports providing adequate conservation/open space buffers between areas designated for residential development as indicated on the future land use map and any adjacent non-residential land use, except agricultural areas. This action will be supported by the zoning and subdivision ordinances when adopted/updated. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*
- I.14 All residential development must comply with 15A NCAC 7H use standards and applicable ORW management plans in estuarine shoreline, estuarine water, and public trust areas. This action will be regulated by state, federal, and local guidelines. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*

Policies - Commercial

- P.13 Hyde County supports an increase of its restaurants, lodging, and commercial establishments.
- P.14 Hyde County supports commercial development to aid in reversing out-migration and to provide jobs and services which support the desired population growth.
- P.15 Hyde County supports concentrating commercial development in the existing village areas of Engelhard, Fairfield, Swan Quarter, Scranton, Ponzer, and Ocracoke.

- P.16 Commercial development should be regulated by zoning and subdivision ordinances.
- P.17 Commercial development should not infringe on environmentally sensitive areas or established residential areas.
- P.18 Hyde County will pursue available funding opportunities for commercial projects to enhance economic development in the area.

Implementing Actions - Commercial

- I.15 Hyde County will update its county-wide subdivision ordinance to regulate development, including commercial properties. *Schedule: Fiscal Year 2007-2008.*
- I.16 Hyde County will pursue adoption of county-wide zoning to regulate development, including commercial properties. *Schedule: Fiscal Year 2008-2009.*
- I.17 Hyde County will pursue all available state and federal funding to support commercial development. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*
- I.18 Hyde County will pursue state/federal funding for and support of eco-tourism. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*
- I.19 Further commercial development on Ocracoke Island should follow existing patterns of small businesses locally owned and operated. Such real estate development – for motels, restaurants, shops, and other commercial enterprises – is in keeping with the traditional character of Ocracoke and would emphasize and preserve the community’s unique character. Tourism has become the most important element in Ocracoke’s economy. Visitors come, in numbers, from many places, including some at great distances. They are attracted by the unique character of Ocracoke. This needs to be safeguarded in the interests of the Island’s economy. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*
- I.20 All commercial development must comply with 15A NCAC 7H use standards and applicable ORW management plans in estuarine shoreline, estuarine water, and public trust areas. This action will be regulated by state, federal, and local guidelines. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*

Policies - Industrial

- P.19 Hyde County supports industrial development which complies with all local, state, and federal requirements, including 15A NCAC 7H.

- P.20 Hyde County supports properly permitted mining activities within its borders.
- P.21 Hyde County supports the recruitment and siting of environmentally compatible light industrial establishments within its borders in areas that are already similarly developed or in public or private industrial parks to minimize the sacrifice of prime agricultural lands for such development.
- P.22 Hyde County supports the Northeastern North Carolina Economic Development Commission in its efforts to promote economic development in the county. The county does not encourage the conversion of prime farmland to industrial use.
- P.23 Industries which are noxious by reason of the emission of smoke, dust, glare, noise, odor, and vibrations, and those which deal primarily in hazardous products such as explosives, should not be located in Hyde County.
- P.24 Industry should be located in conformance with the county's land use plan. This includes placing emphasis on light industrial development.
- P.25 Industrial development is crucial to economic growth in Hyde County.
- P.26 Hyde County supports infrastructure and service delivery capability to improve the options for industrial development.
- P.27 Hyde County supports subdivision and zoning controls to regulate and protect industrial development.

Implementing Actions - Industrial

- I.21 Hyde County will update its county-wide subdivision ordinance to regulate development, including industrial properties. *Schedule: Fiscal Year 2007-2008.*
- I.22 Hyde County will pursue adoption of county-wide zoning to regulate development, including industrial properties. *Schedule: Fiscal Year 2008-2009.*
- I.23 Hyde County opposes industrial development on Ocracoke Island except for businesses related to commercial fishing and traditional cottage industries. Until zoning may be adopted, this action will be implemented by the Ocracoke Village Development Ordinance. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*

- I.24 Hyde County will not adopt any local regulations to prohibit development in Mainland 404 wetland areas. On Ocracoke Island, the Ocracoke Village Development Ordinance should be utilized to aid in the regulation of 404 wetlands. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*
- I.25 Hyde County will communicate grievances to appropriate state and federal agencies, as necessary, concerning mining activities. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*
- I.26 When economically feasible, Hyde County will support the extension/provision of infrastructure and county services for industrial park development and expansion. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*
- I.27 Hyde County will apply for state and federal funding to support expansion and establishment of industries. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*
- I.28 All industrial development must comply with 15A NCAC 7H use standards and applicable ORW management plans in estuarine shoreline, estuarine water, and public trust areas. This action will be regulated by state, federal, and local guidelines. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*

Policies - Conservation

- P.28 Hyde County supports the maintenance of its rural atmosphere.
- P.29 Except as allowed by applicable State and Federal regulations and the policies contained in this plan, residential, commercial, and industrial development will not be allowed in coastal wetlands.
- P.30 Residential, commercial, and industrial development which meets 15A NCAC 7H use standards will be allowed in estuarine shoreline, estuarine water, and public trust areas. In all other areas, development will be allowed that is consistent with applicable local, state, and federal regulations.
- P.31 Hyde County supports the enforcement of local, state, and federal regulations and programs that minimize the threat to life and property from flooding.
- P.32 Hyde County reserves the right to object to amendments and/or changes to the guidelines of the Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA) and the efforts and programs of the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Division of Coastal Management and the Coastal Resources Commission to protect the ocean, coastal wetlands, estuarine waters, estuarine shorelines, and public trust waters of Hyde County.

- P.33 Hyde County supports the use of erosion control structures in estuarine shoreline areas.
- P.34 All development should be designed to protect Protected Lands and Significant Natural Heritage Areas.
- P.35 Hyde County reserves the right to object to amendments to the US Army Corps of Engineers' regulations and applicable guidelines of the Coastal Area Management Act.
- P.36 Hyde County objects to the use of any local land use ordinances to regulate development in freshwater swamps and marshes.
- P.37 Hyde County supports state and federal programs and regulations designed to protect maritime vegetation and forests.
- P.38 Hyde County acknowledges that it is subject to existing 404 wetland rules but supports enforcement, on the Mainland, only in areas adjacent to open water. Additionally, Hyde County opposes any 404 wetlands mitigation projects on the Mainland of the County undertaken to replace 404 wetlands outside of Hyde County. Hyde County acknowledges that this policy may not be enforceable.
- P.39 Hyde County supports reduction of the federal 404 wetlands regulations. Hyde County acknowledges that this policy may not be enforceable.
- P.40 Hyde County opposes the establishment of any state freshwater wetlands regulations.
- P.41 Hyde County acknowledges that it is subject to outstanding resource water restrictions but reserves the right to object to amendments and/or changes to the guidelines of the Coastal Area Management Act and the efforts and programs of the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Division of Coastal Management and the Coastal Resources Commission to protect outstanding resource waters of Hyde County.
- P.42 Hyde County does not oppose the use of off-road vehicles.
- P.43 Hyde County supports the construction of new marinas on the Mainland which comply with the policies of this plan and all other state/federal regulations. On Ocracoke Island, the Ocracoke Village Development Ordinance will regulate marina construction.

- P.44 Hyde County supports the efforts and programs of state and federal agencies with jurisdiction to regulate the upland excavation of land for marina basins but reserves the right to object to amendments and/or changes to regulations and/or programs.
- P.45 Hyde County opposes the use of floating homes on Ocracoke Island and discourages the use of floating homes on the Mainland portion of Hyde County.
- P.46 Hyde County supports construction of dry stack storage facilities on the Mainland and supports the regulation of such facilities on Ocracoke Island.
- P.47 Hyde County supports the construction of docks and piers if they are in compliance with applicable policies of this plan and state/federal regulations.
- P.48 Hyde County supports regulation by the Ocracoke Village Development Ordinance of the construction of docks and piers on Silver Lake.
- P.49 State and federal agencies are requested to comply with 15A NCAC 7H use standards for all ocean and inlet hazard areas under their jurisdiction.
- P.50 Hyde County generally supports the efforts of state and federal agencies with regulatory authority to monitor and regulate development in areas susceptible to sea level rise and wetland loss, but reserves the right to object to amendments and/or changes to regulations and/or programs.

Implementing Actions - Conservation

- I.29 Hyde County will coordinate all housing code enforcement/redevelopment project/public works projects with the NC Division of Archives and History to ensure the preservation and identification of significant historic structures and archaeological sites. Significant historic sites are identified on page 165 of the Land Use Plan. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*
- I.30 Hyde County will design/update any adopted subdivision and zoning ordinances to protect significant conservation areas, including AECs, historic sites, and to protect existing water quality and natural resources within those waters. *Schedule: Fiscal Years 2007-2008 and 2008-2009.*
- I.31 In order to protect property and ensure public safety, Hyde County will implement the following:
- Continue to enforce its Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance.

- Implement its Storm Hazard Mitigation Plan, as necessary.
- Continue to coordinate development within special flood hazard areas with the County's Building Inspections Department, North Carolina Division of Coastal Management, Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the US Army Corps of Engineers.
- Continue to enforce the Ocracoke Village Development Ordinance.
- Participate in the Federal Flood Insurance Program. *Schedule: Continuing Activities.*

I.32 Hyde County will rely on the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Division of Coastal Management to regulate development through the CAMA permitting process. Also, it will rely on the regulations of other state and federal agencies with regulatory authority, as well as existing local development regulations, to mitigate threats to AECs. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*

I.33 Hyde County will rely on the US Army Corps of Engineers to monitor development proposals for compliance with Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and will continue to enforce local land use ordinances. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*

I.34 Hyde County supports the use of erosion control structures when:

- A building or property is in immediate danger of being damaged by erosion;
- Relocation of the building would impose a severe hardship on its owner;
- Adjacent property will not be damaged by the erosion control structure;
- It protects property from the adverse effects of sea level rise; and
- Public trust rights will not be significantly violated.

This action will be supported by the Ocracoke Village Development Ordinance, adopted zoning and subdivision ordinances, and the CAMA permitting process. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*

I.35 Hyde County will study and may develop and adopt a local ordinance designed to regulate the removal of natural vegetation. *Schedule: Fiscal Year 2008-2009.*

I.36 Hyde County will seek state technical assistance and funding to study and prepare a management plan for its remaining maritime forest. *Schedule: Fiscal year 2008-2009.*

I.37 Hyde County will develop and adopt a specific plan for the establishment of mooring fields. *Schedule: Fiscal Year 2008-2009.*

I.38 In order to monitor possible sea level rise, Hyde County will implement the following:

- Rely on the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Division of Coastal Management to monitor and regulate development in areas susceptible to sea level rise and wetlands loss.
- Rely on state and federal agencies to monitor the effects of sea level rise and cooperate with local, state, and federal efforts to inform the public of the anticipated effects of sea level rise.
- Consider updates or amendments to its land use plan policies as necessary to protect the county's public and private properties from rising water levels.
- Support bulkheading on the Mainland to protect its shoreline areas from intruding water resulting from rising sea level.
- Consider establishing setback standards, density controls, bulkhead restrictions, buffer vegetation protection requirements, and building designs through the Ocracoke Village Development Ordinance and Hyde County Building Code which will facilitate the movement of structures.
Schedule: Continuing Activities.

I.39 Until county zoning regulations are adopted, Hyde County will rely on state and federal agencies with jurisdiction to regulate upland excavation for marina basins.
Schedule: Continuing Activity.

I.40 Hyde County will request assistance through the NC Department of Commerce to assist local marina operators in researching options available for upgrading and expanding marina facilities. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*

I.41 Hyde County will rely on the Ocracoke Village Development Ordinance to regulate the construction of new marinas in the Village of Ocracoke. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*

I.42 Any adopted Hyde County subdivision and zoning ordinances will regulate construction of marinas. *Schedule: Fiscal Years 2007-2008 and 2008-2009.*

Policies - Stormwater Control

P.51 Hyde County recognizes the value of water quality maintenance and supports the protection of fragile areas and the provision of clean water for recreational purposes.

- P.52 Hyde County supports the discharge of stormwater runoff into coastal wetlands if the associated construction and development does not damage coastal wetland areas, and is permitted under 15A NCAC 7H.
- P.53 Hyde County supports reducing soil erosion, runoff, and sedimentation to minimize the adverse effects on surface and subsurface water quality.
- P.54 Hyde County supports implementation of the Pasquotank and Tar-Pamlico River Basinwide Water Quality Plans (see Section 5(F)(3), page 94 of the Land Use Plan).
- P.55 Hyde County supports requiring developers to address stormwater management.

Implementing Actions - Stormwater Control

- I.43 Hyde County will rely on the Division of Land Resources of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to enforce stormwater control on all sites one acre in size or greater. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*
- I.44 Hyde County will support control of agricultural runoff through implementation of Natural Resources Conservation Service “Agricultural Best Management Practices” program. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*
- I.45 Hyde County will support control of forestry runoff through implementation of “Forestry Best Management Practices” as provided by the NC Division of Forest Resources. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*
- I.46 Hyde County will consider adopting a landscaping ordinance to require that a buffer of trees/vegetation be left between rights-of-way and any clear cut areas, consistent with applicable state and federal regulations. *Schedule: Fiscal Year 2008-2009.*
- I.47 Hyde County will encourage local farm organizations to maintain ongoing educational programs and demonstrations that will keep farmers informed of best management practices and available assistance. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*
- I.48 Hyde County will cooperate with the NC Department of Transportation, the NC Department of Environmental and Natural Resources, and other state agencies in mitigating the impact of stormwater runoff on all conservation classified areas. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*

- I.49 Hyde County will seek funding and technical assistance to study the effect of mosquito and other man-made ditches on the estuarine system. See policy P.141, effective mosquito control is essential to the health and welfare of Hyde County. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*
- I.50 Hyde County will seek funding and technical assistance to prepare a county-wide master drainage plan and develop a stormwater management plan and ordinance to aid in eliminating standing water, and to require that all development address stormwater management. This should include a water quality component. *Schedule: Fiscal Year 2008-2009.*
- I.51 Hyde County will coordinate all stormwater control actions with the Hyde County Soil and Water Conservation District. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*
- I.52 Hyde County will identify locations currently discharging significant loads of nitrogen and phosphorus and implement retrofitting opportunities. *Schedule: Fiscal Year 2007-2008 and continuing.*
- I.53 Hyde County will implement a public education campaign regarding the impacts of stormwater runoff and methods of reducing stormwater runoff pollution, particularly among the County's farmers and animal operation managers. *Schedule: Fiscal Year 2007-2008.*
- I.54 In Swan Quarter, Hyde County will support a sustainable pump system and the pumping of stormwater on the landward side of the Swan Quarter dike system. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*

NOTE: Hyde County (Mainland or Ocracoke) does not meet the threshold requirements for community-wide NPDES permits (see Section 5(G)(16), page 120 of the Land Use Plan).

5. *Infrastructure Carrying Capacity*

a. **Management Goal**

Hyde County will ensure that public infrastructure systems and community facilities are appropriately sized, located, and managed so that all service needs are met and quality/productivity of AECs/fragile areas are protected.

b. **Planning Objectives**

Hyde County will plan for infrastructure capacity to meet projections of population and land use needs.

c. Land Use Plan Requirements

The following are Hyde County's policies for infrastructure carrying capacity. All policies are continuing activities.

Policies:

- P.56 Hyde County supports the extension of central sewer service into all areas of the County Mainland including, when unavoidable, the construction of lines to and through conservation areas to serve development which meets all applicable state and federal regulations.
- P.57 Hyde County supports all efforts to secure available state and federal funding of the construction and/or expansion of public and private sewer systems.
- P.58 Development of a public sewer system is not appropriate for the Village of Ocracoke at this time.
- P.59 Hyde County supports the discharge of waste effluent into 404 (freshwater) wetlands areas on the Mainland but does not support the installation of package treatment plants and septic tanks that discharge waste in areas classified as coastal wetlands or 404 wetlands in the Village of Ocracoke.
- P.60 Hyde County supports wetlands "created" to aid in treating waste effluent.
- P.61 Hyde County supports the development and expansion of central sewer system(s) to serve the Engelhard, Fairfield, Swan Quarter, Ponzer, and Sladesville communities.
- P.62 The county supports the installation and use of properly permitted septic tank systems and the enforcement of District Health Department regulations and local development regulations regarding lot sizes and waste disposal system placement. The county will also encourage the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources to investigate the feasibility of using alternative waste processing systems such as flushless toilets, incineration, and artificial wetlands in areas with severe soil limitations.
- P.63 The county supports the use of properly permitted and maintained package sewage treatment plants within its borders but outside of proposed sewer service areas. Package sewer treatment plants will only be allowed in developments which have been approved by the county. If any package treatment plants are approved, the county supports requirement of a specific contingency plan specifying how

ongoing private operation and maintenance of the plant will be provided, and detailing provisions for assumption of the plant into a public system should the private operation fail.

- P.64 Hyde County will support investigations by the District Health Department and North Carolina State University concerning the use of package treatment plants as a method of solving some of the severe sewage disposal problems.
- P.65 Hyde County supports providing water and sewer services to identified industrial areas when county resources are sufficient in order to encourage industrial development.
- P.66 Hyde County supports the provision of public recreational facilities and areas and will pursue grant funds for recreation facilities.
- P.67 Hyde County supports programs and efforts to provide an affordable, adequate, and dependable supply of electric power with reserve capacity and looping designs.
- P.68 Hyde County supports programs and efforts to provide affordable, adequate, and dependable cable television services.
- P.69 Hyde County supports the expansion of natural gas service within the county.

Implementing Actions:

- I.55 Malfunctioning septic tanks will be inspected by the Hyde County Health Department and corrective action recommended for implementation by the owner. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*
- I.56 Hyde County will identify and contact state and federal agencies that provide typical and non-typical funding sources for assistance in providing central sewer to the Mainland. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*
- I.57 Hyde County will request that the state establish an interagency task force to work directly with the Hyde County Board of Commissioners and Manager to identify solutions and sources of funding for infrastructure. *Schedule: Fiscal Year 2007-2008.*
- I.58 Hyde County will enforce current development regulations of the NC State Building Code and District Health Department relating to building construction and septic tank installation/replacement in areas with soils restrictions. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*

- I.59 Hyde County will amend the future land use map, when needed, to reflect the county's water and sewer extension projects as they are planned. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*
- I.60 Hyde County will consult the future land use map when considering new public facilities and private development. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*
- I.61 Hyde County will consider revising water and sewer extension policies to ensure that public/private cooperation in the provision of infrastructure to serve new development is encouraged. *Schedule: Fiscal Year 2006-2007.*
- I.62 Hyde County will rely on the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to oversee the operation and management of all package treatment plants in the county. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*
- I.63 Hyde County will consider adopting an operating and capital financing plan for the development of water and sewer systems outside of the proposed water and sewer service areas. *Schedule: Fiscal Year 2008-2009.*
- I.64 Hyde County will coordinate development activity with appropriate County and state regulatory personnel, and in particular, with the Hyde County Sanitarian. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*
- I.65 Hyde County will continue to work with the Ocracoke Sanitary District to supply safe drinking water to everyone in Ocracoke. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*
- I.66 Hyde County will ensure that water systems are constructed with lines designed and sized for adequate fire protection and sufficient water pressure. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*
- I.67 Hyde County will consider the adoption of a local ordinance requiring water-conserving plumbing fixtures in all new construction on Ocracoke Island. *Schedule: Fiscal Year 2008-2009.*
- I.68 Hyde County will not encourage the construction of large non-domestic water users on Ocracoke Island which rely on public water supply. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*
- I.69 Hyde County will consider the adoption of a local ordinance designed to regulate water consumption. *Schedule: Fiscal Year 2008-2009.*
- I.70 Hyde County will encourage cable television service provider(s) to provide facilities and service to ensure affordable, adequate, and dependable cable television services to the citizens of Hyde County. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*

- I.71 Hyde County will encourage electrical service provider(s) to provide facilities and services to ensure adequate supplies of uninterruptible electric power to the citizens of the County. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*
- I.72 Hyde County will include provisions to allow for the dedication of public park property and/or open space in any subdivision ordinance updates. This may include a provision for payment in lieu of dedication if approved by the County. *Schedule: Fiscal Year 2007-2008.*
- I.73 Hyde County will consider establishing a land banking fund for public facility improvements into which the county may annually contribute funds. *Schedule: Fiscal Year 2008-2009.*
- I.74 Hyde County will provide sufficient emergency management personnel and facilities to adequately serve the projected population growth. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*
- I.75 Hyde County will coordinate the development of recreational facilities with the school system, when feasible. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*

6. *Transportation*

a. **Management Goal**

Hyde County will support a safe, efficient transportation system within the county.

b. **Planning Objective**

Hyde County will plan for development which supports its transportation systems.

c. **Land Use Plan Requirements**

The following are Hyde County's policies/implementing actions for transportation. All policies are continuing activities.

Policies:

- P.70 Hyde County supports participation in the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) Adopt-A-Highway program.
- P.71 Hyde County reserves the right to oppose transportation-related controls which are deemed to limit economic development.

- P.72 Hyde County supports the preparation and implementation of a landscaping plan (which will include more parking) by the North Carolina Department of Transportation for the ferry terminal facilities at Swan Quarter.
- P.73 Hyde County supports establishment of a farmer's market on ferry terminal property.
- P.74 Hyde County supports the establishment of a high speed ferry or pedestrian ferry between Ocracoke Island and the Mainland.
- P.75 Hyde County will work with NCDOT to establish State right-of-way policies for roads within Ocracoke Village to protect the aesthetics of buildings and for consistency with the Ocracoke Village Development Ordinance.
- P.76 Hyde County supports the development of a transportation plan for Ocracoke Island.
- P.77 Hyde County supports state and federal funding for maintenance/dredging of the Intracoastal Waterway.
- P.78 Hyde County supports the provision, enhancement, and/or the prevention of loss of access for public fishing when bridges are replaced as part of the transportation system.

Implementing Actions:

- I.76 Hyde County will seek the aid of the North Carolina Department of Transportation to develop a comprehensive transportation plan. *Schedule: Fiscal Year 2008-2009.*
- I.77 Hyde County will seek grant monies and technical assistance to study ways to aggressively mitigate traffic congestion and parking problems on Ocracoke Island. *Schedule: Fiscal Year 2008-2009.* The study shall, at a minimum, address the following:
- provision of off-street parking;
 - vehicular/pedestrian traffic conflicts;
 - high-speed pedestrian ferry access to the Mainland;
 - replacement of the Oregon Inlet bridge;
 - preservation of Ocracoke's residential streets;
 - shuttle bus operation to beach areas and provision for parking and recreation park outside Ocracoke Village in the National Seashore Park Area;

- street improvements;
- protection of and improvements to NC 12; and
- continued operation and improvement of the Ocracoke Island Airport.

I.78 Hyde County will study the implementation of county-wide mapping, structure numbering, and emergency reporting telephone systems (E-911). *Schedule: Fiscal Year 2007-2008.*

I.79 Hyde County will request speed limit studies and adjustments as cases present themselves or as development patterns dictate. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*

I.80 Hyde County will encourage NCDOT to utilize “annuals” which will add color to the site if a landscaping plan for the ferry terminal at Swan Quarter is developed. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*

I.81 Hyde County supports visual improvement of the entrances to Swan Quarter. Three improvement areas exist: (1) the intersection of US 264 and NC 45; (2) the intersection of US 264 and SR 1129; and (3) the intersection of NC 45 and SR 1129. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*

I.82 Hyde County will seek assistance from the NCDOT Division of Highways to design a planting/landscaping plan for selected intersections. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*

I.83 Hyde County will solicit local civic organizations to commit to the beautification of selected areas which will require initial labor for construction/planting and long-term regular maintenance. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*

I.84 Hyde County will request NCDOT Division of Highways to implement its wildflower research project and the Adopt-a-Highway program along US 264 from the Hyde County Airport west to the Hyde County line. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*

I.85 Hyde County supports the following transportation system improvements:

- The improvements as identified in the Transportation Improvement Program 2006-2012. *Schedule: Continuing Activity to 2012.*
- Replacement of the bridges along State Roads 1110 and 1340. *Schedule: Per NCDOT Schedule.*
- Establishment of the National Park Service Ocracoke Island trolley service. *Schedule: Per National Park Service Schedule.*
- Replacement of all portions of NC Highway 12 which are subject to overwash. *Schedule: Per NCDOT Schedule.*

- Replacement of Ocracoke Bridge, including all bridges providing access to the Island. *Schedule: Per NCDOT Schedule.*
- Improvements to the Leechville Bridge. *Schedule: Per NCDOT Schedule.*

7. *Natural Hazard Areas*

a. **Management Goal**

Hyde County will support preservation of valuable natural resources while pursuing economic and population growth.

b. **Planning Objective**

Hyde County's land use planning related decisions will be based on consideration of protection of its natural resources and minimizing threats to public safety.

c. **Land Use Plan Requirements**

The following are Hyde County's policies/implementing actions for natural hazard areas. All policies are continuing activities.

Policies:

- P.79 Hyde County recognizes the uncertainties associated with sea level rise. The rate of rise is difficult to predict. Thus, it is difficult to establish policies to deal with the effects of sea level rise. Hyde County supports cooperation with local, state, and federal efforts to inform the public of the anticipated effects of sea level rise.
- P.80 Hyde County supports hazard mitigation planning. Refer to the hazard mitigation plan section of the Land Use Plan on page 257.
- P.81 Hyde County supports relocation of structures endangered by erosion, if the relocated structure will be in compliance with all applicable policies and regulations.
- P.82 Hyde County supports the efforts of state and federal agencies with regulatory authority to monitor and regulate development in areas susceptible to sea level rise and wetland loss, but reserves the right to object to amendments and/or changes to regulations and/or programs.

- P.83 Hyde County generally supports the development of natural gas or petrochemical energy facilities or related improvements on the Mainland, but opposes such facilities on Ocracoke Island or its surrounding waters.
- P.84 Hyde County does not oppose – on the Mainland – drilling operations and onshore support facilities for which an Environmental Impact Statement has been prepared with a finding of no significant impact on the environment.
- P.85 On and around Ocracoke Island, Hyde County opposes the location of drilling operations and onshore support facilities.
- P.86 Hyde County will, at a minimum, support 15A NCAC 7H and other local, state, and federal policies to minimize threats to life, property, and natural resources resulting from erosion, high winds, storm surge, flooding, or sea level rise.
- P.87 Hyde County will make efforts to educate citizens and industries regarding the importance of properly storing and disposing of hazardous chemicals on a regular basis.

Implementing Actions:

- I.86 Hyde County will rely on the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Division of Coastal Management to monitor and regulate development in areas susceptible to sea level rise and wetlands loss. ***Schedule: Continuing Activity.***
- I.87 Hyde County will rely on state and federal agencies to monitor the effects of sea level rise and cooperate with local, state, and federal efforts to inform the public of the anticipated effects of sea level rise. ***Schedule: Continuing Activity.***
- I.88 Hyde County will consider updates or amendments to its land use plan policies as necessary to protect the county’s public and private properties from rising water levels. ***Schedule: Continuing Activity.***
- I.89 Hyde County will support bulkheading on the Mainland to protect its shoreline areas from intruding water resulting from rising sea level. ***Schedule: Continuing Activity.***
- I.90 Hyde County will not oppose allowing migrating shorelines in Ocracoke Village coastal wetlands areas in order to preserve coastal wetlands. ***Schedule: Continuing Activity.***

- I.91 Hyde County will consider establishing setback standards, density controls, bulkhead restrictions, buffer vegetation protection requirements, and building designs through the Ocracoke Village Development Ordinance and Hyde County Building Code which will facilitate the movement of structures. *Schedule: Fiscal Year 2007-2008.*
- I.92 Hyde County will press state and federal agencies with regulatory authority, and will use local development regulations, to monitor and regulate outer continental shelf exploration. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*
- I.93 Hyde County will press the state to rigorously review drilling or exploration proposals and support State efforts to mitigate any adverse effects such activities may cause. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*
- I.94 Hyde County will enforce the density controls in a zoning ordinance (if established) and the subdivision ordinance in redevelopment areas to control growth intensity. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*
- I.95 In response to possible sea level rise, Hyde County will review all local building and land use related ordinances and consider establishing setback standards, density controls, bulkhead restrictions, buffer vegetation protection requirements, and building designs which will facilitate the movement of structures. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*
- I.96 Hyde County will utilize the future land use maps to control development. These maps are coordinated with the land suitability maps and proposed infrastructure maps. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*
- I.97 As a part of the hazard mitigation planning process, Hyde County will support educating its citizens and businesses on the importance of properly storing hazardous materials. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*

8. *Water Quality*

a. **Management Goal**

Hyde County will protect its surficial and surface water quality including enhancing water quality in all coastal wetlands, rivers, streams, and estuaries.

b. Planning Objective

On a case-by-case basis, Hyde County will adopt policies to help ensure that water quality is maintained if not impaired, and improved if impaired.

c. Land Use Plan Requirements

The following provides Hyde County's policies/implementing actions on water quality. All policies are continuing activities.

Policies (see also policies P.56, P.57, P.61, and P.62):

- P.88 At a minimum, Hyde County will rely on 15A NCAC 7H to protect water quality.
- P.89 Hyde County supports protection of its surficial waters and potable water supply.
- P.90 Hyde County recognizes the value of water quality maintenance to the protection of fragile areas and to the provision of clean water.
- P.91 Hyde County will not encourage the construction of storm drains, drainage ditches, or mosquito ditches in the Village of Ocracoke which discharge directly into estuarine waters.
- P.92 Hyde County supports the enforcement of local, state, and federal regulations and programs that protect water quality.
- P.93 Hyde County supports wetlands "created" to aid in treating waste effluent.
- P.94 Hyde County supports conserving its surficial groundwater resources.
- P.95 The county supports commercial and recreational fishing in its waters and will cooperate with other local governments and state and federal agencies to control pollution of these waters to improve conditions so that commercial and recreational fishing will increase.
- P.96 Hyde County opposes the disposal of any toxic wastes, as defined in the US Environmental Protection Agency's Listing of Hazardous Substances and Priority Pollutants (developed pursuant to the Clean Water Act of 1977), within its planning jurisdiction.
- P.97 Hyde County recognizes the value of water quality maintenance to the protection of fragile areas and to the provision of clean water for recreational purposes and

supports the control of stormwater runoff to aid in the preservation of water quality. The county will support existing state regulations relating to stormwater runoff resulting from development (Stormwater Disposal Policy 15 NCAC 2H.001-.1003)

P.98 Hyde County supports regulation of underground storage tanks in order to protect its groundwater resources.

P.99 Hyde County supports the policy that all State of North Carolina projects should be designed to limit to the extent possible stormwater runoff into coastal waters.

P.100 Hyde County supports implementation of the Pasquotank and the Tar-Pamlico River Basin Water Quality Management Plans.

P.101 The county supports protection of those waters known to be of the highest quality or supporting biological communities of special importance.

P.102 Hyde County opposes the installation of package treatment plants and septic tanks or discharge of waste in any areas classified as coastal wetlands, freshwater wetlands (404), or natural heritage areas. This policy does not apply to constructed wetlands.

P.103 Hyde County supports the following actions by the General Assembly and the Governor:

- Sufficient state funding should be appropriated to initiate a program of incentives grants to address pollution of our rivers from both point sources and nonpoint sources.
- An ongoing source of state funding should be developed to provide continuous support for an incentives grant program.
- The decision-making process for the award of incentives grants should involve river basin organizations representing local governments and other interest groups in the review of all applications for state funding.

P.104 Hyde County supports all aquaculture activities which meet applicable federal, state, and local policies and permit requirements. However, Hyde County reserves the right to comment on all aquaculture activities which require Division of Water Quality permitting.

P.105 Hyde County supports the development and maintenance of ordinances and regulations that protect water quality.

Implementing Actions:

- I.98 Hyde County will enforce development regulations of the North Carolina State Building Code and District Health Department relating to building construction and septic tank installation and replacement. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*
- I.99 Hyde County will coordinate development activity with state regulatory personnel and the Hyde County Sanitarian. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*
- I.100 Hyde County will enforce the Ocracoke Village Development Ordinance. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*
- I.101 Hyde County will implement the following actions through local ordinances to improve water quality:
- Use watershed-based land use planning
 - Protect sensitive natural areas, including coastal wetlands
 - Establish buffer network
 - Minimize impervious cover in site design
 - Limit erosion during construction
 - Maintain coastal growth measures
 - Restoration of impaired waters
 - Management of the cause and sources of pollution to ensure the protection of those waters currently supporting their uses allowing for reasonable economic growth.
 - Reduction of nutrients in Hyde County waters. *Schedule: Review local ordinances annually.*
- I.102 Hyde County will rely on the technical requirements and state program approval for underground storage tanks (40 CFR, Parts 280 and 281), and any subsequent state regulations concerning underground storage tanks adopted during the planning period. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*
- I.103 Hyde County will continuously enforce, through the development and zoning permit process, all current regulations of the NC State Building Code and North Carolina Division of Health Services relating to building construction and septic tank installation/replacement in areas with soils restrictions. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*
- I.104 Hyde County supports regulation of well fields and land uses near such fields by the North Carolina Department of Health and Natural Resources. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*

- I.105 Hyde County will update its land use control related ordinances to control non-point source discharges. *Schedule: Fiscal Year 2008-2009.*
- I.106 Hyde County will comply with CAMA and the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources stormwater runoff regulations, and by coordinating local development activities involving chemical storage or underground storage tank installation/abandonment with Hyde County Emergency Management personnel and the Groundwater Section of the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources. The county will plan for an adequate long-range water supply. In the planning process, Hyde County will cooperate with adjacent counties to protect water resources. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*
- I.107 Hyde County will review the subdivision ordinance to ensure water quality protection regulations have been addressed. The county will make revisions as necessary, and seek grant funding for necessary review and revision. *Schedule: Fiscal Year 2007-2008.*
- I.108 Hyde County supports shoreline development, including public access, which will protect water quality through the use of riparian buffer zones as required in the Tar-Pamlico NSW strategy. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*

9. *Local Areas of Concern*

a. **Management Goal**

Hyde County will adopt policies which are consistent with CAMA's overall goals.

b. **Planning Objective**

Hyde County will address local concerns including cultural and historic areas, scenic areas, economic development, or general health and human service needs.

c. **Land Use Plan Requirements**

The following identifies Hyde County's policies/implementing actions on local areas of concern. All policies are continuing activities.

Policies - Cultural, Historic, and Scenic Areas:

- P.106 Hyde County supports the preservation of important cultural resources and supports local, state, and federal efforts to protect historic properties within its borders and to perpetuate its cultural heritage (see page 165 of the Land Use Plan).

P.107 Hyde County supports preservation of its scenic areas.

P.108 Hyde County will protect historic and potentially historic properties and perpetuate its cultural heritage.

Implementing Action - Cultural, Historic, and Scenic Areas:

I.109 Hyde County supports preservation of historically significant sites within the county to include the following:

- All properties listed in the Fairfield Historic District (National Register)
- All properties listed in the Ocracoke Historic District (National Register)
- All properties listed in the Lake Landing Historic District (National Register)
- George V. Credle House and Cemetery (National Register)
- Hyde County Courthouse (National Register)
- Mattamuskeet Lodge (National Register)
- 1823 Ocracoke Light Station (National Register)
- St. John's Episcopal Church
- Albin B. Swindell House and Store (National Register)
- Wynne's Folly (National Register)
- Ocracoke United Methodist Church
- The Barksdale and Rondthaler Houses
- The Hurricane House
- The Kugler and Serendipity Cottages
- The House at Community Square
- Ocracoke Preservation Society Museum

I.110 Hyde County will encourage a county-wide survey of historical sites by local volunteers or state and federal agencies and will seek grant monies for the complete inventory of historically significant structures and sites. ***Schedule: Fiscal Year 2008-2009.***

I.111 Hyde County will coordinate housing code enforcement/redevelopment projects with the NC Division of Archives and History to ensure that any significant architectural details or buildings are identified and preserved. ***Schedule: Continuing Activity.***

I.112 Hyde County will coordinate public works projects with the NC Division of Archives and History to ensure the identification and preservation of significant archaeological sites. ***Schedule: Continuing Activity.***

I.113 Hyde County will support local historic preservation districts and commissions in the county and will seek financial and technical assistance to study the development of zoning regulations which would include historical areas. ***Schedule: FY2008-2009 and continuing.***

- I.114 Hyde County may revise the Ocracoke Village Development Ordinance to require coordination of redevelopment in Ocracoke Village with the NC Division of Archives and History to ensure that any significant architectural details or buildings are identified and preserved. *Schedule: Fiscal Year 2008-2009.*
- I.115 Hyde County may study the development of a local historic district ordinance or historic preservation regulations to be incorporated into the Ocracoke Village Development Ordinance. It will request that a representative of the Division of Archives and History be assigned to work with Hyde County in the development of controls. Historic preservation controls should comply with North Carolina General Statutes. *Schedule: Fiscal Year 2008-2009.*
- I.116 Hyde County will, until such time as a historic commission may be established, notify (through its Building Inspector) the North Carolina Department of Archives and History of any proposals to demolish buildings. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*
- I.117 Hyde County will encourage efforts to maintain and repair historic structures in Ocracoke Village. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*
- I.118 Hyde County will update local regulations to require that redevelopment efforts be consistent with the historic preservation policies contained in this plan update. *Schedule: Fiscal Year 2007-2008.*
- I.119 Hyde County will develop a plan that will identify specific scenic sites on the Mainland and Ocracoke Island and identify implementing actions to protect/preserve those sites. *Schedule: Fiscal Year 2009-2010.*

Policies - Economic Development:

- P.109 Hyde County supports the recruitment and siting of environmentally compatible industry and commercial establishments on the Mainland in areas that are already similarly developed or in public or private industrial parks to minimize the sacrifice of prime agricultural land for such development and protection of commercial fisheries.
- P.110 Hyde County supports local, state, and federal efforts to minimize the adverse impact of man-made hazards within its borders.
- P.111 Hyde County opposes the bulk storage of man-made hazardous materials as defined by the US Environmental Protection Agency in Ocracoke Village, with the exception of bulk fuel storage tanks used for retail and wholesale sales, public power generation, and individual heating fuel storage tanks.

P.112 Hyde County opposes the disposal of any toxic wastes, as defined by the US Environmental Protection Agency's Listing of Hazardous Substances and Priority Pollutants, within its jurisdiction.

P.113 Hyde County supports land use practices and regulations that:

- support industrial and commercial development;
- promote the health and general welfare of its citizens;
- provide adequate light and air;
- prevent the overcrowding of land;
- avoid undue population concentrations; and
- facilitate the adequate provision of transportation, water, sewer, educational and public facilities, recreation, and other public requirements.

P.114 Hyde County supports properly placed and tastefully designed signs within its borders.

P.115 Hyde County generally supports the development of natural gas or petrochemical energy facilities or related improvements on the Mainland, but opposes such facilities on Ocracoke Island or its surrounding waters.

P.116 Hyde County considers eco-tourism to be a strong asset for economic and commercial development.

P.117 Hyde County generally supports the efforts of the NC Department of Transportation to improve access to the county.

P.118 Hyde County generally supports projects that will increase public access to shoreline areas.

P.119 Hyde County generally supports the activities of the NC Division of Travel and Tourism; specifically, the monitoring of tourism-related industry and efforts to promote tourism-related commercial activity and efforts to enhance and provide shoreline resources.

P.120 Hyde County supports development of the Engelhard, Swan Quarter, and Ocracoke Harbors as community focal points and tourist attractions.

P.121 Hyde County aggressively supports NC Department of Transportation projects to maintain access to Ocracoke Island, including Oregon Inlet bridge, the ferry and NC 12.

- P.122 Hyde County supports continuation of the present status and arrangement of the Ocracoke Lighthouse, with the Coast Guard and the National Park Service in charge of maintenance and preservation.
- P.123 Hyde County supports programs and efforts to provide an affordable, adequate, and dependable supply of electric power with reserve capacity and looping designs.
- P.124 Hyde County will encourage industrial and commercial development in areas with existing infrastructure that does not infringe on areas not having infrastructure.
- P.125 Hyde County supports the Strategic Plan for the Engelhard Community, September 2004.
- P.126 Hyde County will support preservation of its commercial fishing industry.
- P.127 Hyde County will pursue available funding opportunities for commercial projects to enhance economic development in the area.

Implementing Actions - Economic Development:

- I.120 Hyde County will continue to rely on state technical requirements and programs to regulate underground storage tanks. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*
- I.121 Hyde County will utilize its development controls and will rely on state and federal agencies with jurisdiction to minimize the impact of man-made hazards. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*
- I.122 In order to support eco-tourism and provide a solid foundation for overall economic development, Hyde County will:
- Encourage the appropriate state and/or federal agencies to take a lead role in the effort to establish a State program for regular maintenance and dredging of the Far Creek Channel and the Swan Quarter Channel.
 - Seek the assistance of the United States Coast Guard in marking channels.
 - Request assistance from the United States Coast Guard to remove abandoned or sunken vessels.
 - Request that the United States Soil Conservation Service take the lead role in providing technical assistance to accomplish “snagging” and general cleanup.
 - Request that cleanup programs be coordinated among local, state, and federal agencies as appropriate.

- Consider providing part of the cost of a general cleanup with the remaining portion coming from the state.
- Request that local, state, and federal agencies work together to develop a plan of action to deal with abandoned or sunken vessels.
- Request that all sand and dredge spoil materials be stockpiled.

Schedule: All work items listed above are Continuing Activities.

I.123 Hyde County will review proposals for development of electric generating plants on a case-by-case basis, judging the need for the facility (whether for the Mainland or Ocracoke Island) against identified possible adverse impacts. ***Schedule: Continuing Activity.***

I.124 Hyde County will rely on state and federal agencies with regulatory authority, as well as existing local development regulations, to monitor and regulate energy facility siting and development. ***Schedule: Continuing Activity.***

I.125 Hyde County will consider and seek assistance for the establishment of a tourist/visitors center to be located at the intersection of US 264 and NC 45. This location will serve traffic traveling through the county and traffic traveling to and from the Ocracoke-Swan Quarter ferry. Hyde County will seek technical assistance from the state (Division of Travel and Tourism) to develop plans and guidelines for the center and to identify sources of funding. In addition, the county will consider the need and seek assistance for the establishment of a second center on US 264 at the Octagon House. ***Schedule: Continuing Activity.***

I.126 Hyde County will consider and seek assistance for improvements to visual and pedestrian access to the Swan Quarter and Engelhard harbors. ***Schedule: Continuing Activity.***

I.127 Hyde County will consider the development of plans to address public and private improvements to make Engelhard and Swan Quarter more attractive to tourists and visitors. ***Schedule: Fiscal Year 2008-2009.*** The key elements of such a plan may include but are not limited to:

- Removal of dilapidated buildings adjacent to the harbor;
- Removal of all abandoned or sunken vessels;
- Establishment of a local and maritime history museum;
- Development of a public parking lot;
- Development of shoreline access sites;
- Development of a landscaping plan for public right-of-way surrounding the intersection of US 264 and Engelhard Harbor; and
- Development of picnic/park facilities adjacent to the harbor areas.

- I.128 Hyde County will investigate strategies such as providing self-guided tour materials or promoting and cooperating with the functions and committees of the Chamber of Commerce to increase tourist activity at local historic sites. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*
- I.129 Hyde County will seek grant monies and/or technical assistance to update the subdivision regulations for the Mainland and Ocracoke Island. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*
- I.130 Hyde County will seek grant monies and/or technical assistance to study the development of zoning regulations for the Mainland and Ocracoke Island. *Schedule: Fiscal Year 2007-2008.*
- I.131 Hyde County will seek grant monies and/or technical assistance to study the development of a signage ordinance for the Mainland and Ocracoke Island. *Schedule: Fiscal Year 2007-2008.*
- I.132 Hyde County will enforce the Ocracoke Village Development Ordinance. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*
- I.133 Hyde County will continue to support the activities of the NC Division of Travel and Tourism; specifically, the monitoring of tourism-related industry, efforts to promote tourism-related commercial activity, and efforts to enhance and provide shoreline resources. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*
- I.134 Hyde County will solicit private investors to open and/or operate facilities and services on the Mainland including:
- Restaurants;
 - Motels;
 - Marina facilities;
 - Pamlico Sound fishing charters;
 - Bed/breakfast facilities;
 - Mainland and sound nature tours (including Lake Mattamuskeet); and
 - Other tourism-related facilities and services. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*
- I.135 Hyde County will request assistance to conduct a survey of the incomes of business and property owners to determine owner eligibility for possible grant-funded commercial rehabilitation. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*
- I.136 Hyde County will request assistance from the state to prepare competitive applications for funds. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*

- I.137 Hyde County will coordinate economic development plans and activities with the Chamber of Commerce. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*
- I.138 Hyde County will encourage and work with the Chamber of Commerce on programs to promote Hyde County. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*
- I.139 Hyde County will encourage/support community events such as:
- Craft shows, bake sales, and bazaars;
 - Engelhard Seafood Fest;
 - Fairfield Heritage Bass Tournament;
 - Mattamuskeet Fun Ride;
 - Hyde Ride; and
 - Ocracoke Festival. *Schedule: Continuing Activities.*
- I.140 Hyde County will consider applications for Small Business Community Development economic development funds on a case-by-case basis. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*
- I.141 Hyde County will encourage all aquaculture activities which meet applicable local, state, and federal policies and permit requirements. However, Hyde County reserves the right to comment on all aquaculture activities that require Department of Environment and Natural Resources permitting. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*
- I.142 Hyde County will develop a specific plan of action to preserve its commercial fishing industry to include but not be limited to the following:
- Preserving existing seafood operations.
 - Encouraging the use of new technologies and practices.
 - Preventing conflicts between existing and future seafood operations and new residential/commercial development.
 - Planning for reuse of land on and near failed and failing seafood operations. *Schedule: Fiscal Year 2008-2009.*
- I.143 Hyde County will support implementation of the 2007 Hyde County Economic Development Strategic Plan. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*

Policies - General Health and Human Services Needs

- P.128 Hyde County supports the provision of governmental services to its citizens and the extension of water services from existing systems and encourages the use of central systems for new developments – whether residential, commercial, or industrial in nature.

- P.129 Hyde County supports the continued provision of solid waste disposal, law enforcement, and educational services to all citizens of the county.
- P.130 Hyde County supports the provision of elementary and secondary education to all Hyde County citizens.
- P.131 Hyde County supports the formation of a Community Appearance Committee to be appointed by the Board of Commissioners.
- P.132 Hyde County opposes the establishment of military outlying land fields (OLFs). Hyde County acknowledges that this policy may not be enforceable.
- P.133 Hyde County supports efforts and initiatives to provide or construct safe and accessible facilities for senior citizens.
- P.134 Hyde County supports regulated dredging activities by governmental entities but does not support the expenditure of county funds for such activities.
- P.135 Hyde County supports, subject to available funds, a comprehensive recreational program to provide a broad range of recreational facilities for its citizens.
- P.136 Hyde County supports improved pedestrian and vehicular access to Lake Mattamuskeet and its shoreline.
- P.137 Hyde County generally supports efforts, initiatives, and programs – both public and private – that provide new buildings and facilities, or serve to make existing buildings and facilities accessible and available to physically challenged persons.
- P.138 Hyde County supports efforts and initiatives to provide quality, affordable health care to its citizens including support of the construction of a hospital or primary care facility in or near the county, and the continued effective operation of the Hyde County Health Department.
- P.139 Hyde County supports improvement and expansion of fire protection and emergency management services including fire/rescue services.
- P.140 Hyde County generally supports efforts, programs, laws, and regulations that create a safe, crime free environment for its citizens and visitors.
- P.141 Hyde County supports state and federal efforts and initiatives to control mosquitos.

P.142 Hyde County supports efforts and measures to efficiently and economically collect and dispose of solid waste, and supports recycling and the establishment and maintenance of recycling centers.

P.143 Hyde County supports North Carolina Division of Waste Management regulation of underground storage tanks.

Implementing Actions - General Health and Human Services Needs:

I.144 Hyde County will continue to provide governmental services including solid waste disposal, law enforcement, educational services, and fire/rescue services to all areas of the county at current service levels. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*

I.145 Hyde County will study the implementation of county-wide mapping, structure numbering, and emergency reporting telephone systems (E-911). *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*

I.146 Hyde County will appoint a Community Appearance Committee with a charge to establish guidelines and procedures for community appearance awards and to conduct studies and make recommendations addressing problems of litter on beaches and along roads. *Schedule: Fiscal Year 2007-2008 and continuing.* Activities will include the following:

- Promote “Adopt-a-Beach” and/or “Adopt-a-Highway” programs and educate the public through local media concerning community appearance needs.
- Consider locating recycling containers at beach accesses, if developed, and the installation of roadside litter receptacles.
- Use prison labor to clean up and remove debris from road rights-of-way.
- Select recipients of Community Appearance awards and advise the Board on methods by which the community’s appearance might be improved including studies and recommendations as may be necessary to address the problem of litter on beaches and along roads.

I.147 Hyde County will rely on the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Division of Coastal Management and other state and federal agencies with regulatory authority to regulate and monitor dredging activities. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*

I.148 Hyde County will seek grant monies and/or technical assistance to study the development of a recreational facilities plan. *Schedule: Fiscal Year 2008-2009.*

- I.149 Hyde County will seek grant monies and/or technical assistance to study the development of a capital improvement plan. *Schedule: Fiscal Year 2009-2010.*
- I.150 Hyde County will request that the National Park Service not issue any commercial leases or permits for retail sales and food concessions on National Park Service property. *Schedule: Fiscal Year 2007-2008 and continuing.*
- I.151 Hyde County will ask and encourage the US Fish and Wildlife Service to maintain its facilities in usable condition. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*
- I.152 Hyde County will continue to support and fund its public school system. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*
- I.153 Hyde County will continue to support and fund the Hyde County Sheriff's Department. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*
- I.154 Hyde County will rely on state and federal law enforcement agencies and personnel for crime prevention and crime investigation services. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*
- I.155 Hyde County will seek state and federal assistance to initiate progress to control mosquitos. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*
- I.156 Hyde County will enforce the solid waste ordinance which addresses illegal dumping and abandoned/inoperable vehicles. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*
- I.157 Hyde County will rely on the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Division of Coastal Management and other state and federal agencies with regulatory authority to regulate, monitor, and limit the use of coastal airspaces. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*
- I.158 Hyde County will lobby state legislators and officials for consideration when area-wide health services plans are discussed for inclusion as a candidate for a hospital or primary care facility. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*
- I.159 Hyde County will seek state and federal technical and financial assistance to provide facilities for physically challenged persons. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*
- I.160 Hyde County will investigate, with the Institute of Government, the use of impact fees as a way of making new development pay for the services demanded. *Schedule: Fiscal Year 2007-2008.*

I.161 Hyde County will seek educational grants to subsidize in-county continuing education by nearby colleges and universities and support community education programs. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*

I.162 Hyde County will implement the following concerning potential releases from home heating oil underground storage tanks:

- Removal of any abandoned or out-of-use underground storage tanks as recommended by the NCDENR Washington Regional Office Underground Storage Tank (UST) Section.
- Installation and maintenance of above-ground fuel tanks in accordance with applicable local, state, and federal regulations.
- Contain and properly restore areas impacted by any chemical or petroleum spills. Ensure that spills of significant quantity are reported to the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Division of Water Quality (Washington Regional Office).
- Report immediately to the local Fire Marshall any soils excavated during demolition or construction that show evidence of chemical or petroleum contamination to determine whether explosion or inhalation hazards exist. *Schedule: Continuing Activities.*

Policies - Redevelopment:

P.144 Hyde County supports repair and reconstruction of privately-owned dwelling units through private funds and/or grants. It supports the enforcement of existing regulations of the District Health Department regarding sanitary conditions.

P.145 Hyde County will not displace families or unreasonably require building demolition.

P.146 Hyde County will support redevelopment as specified in the county's Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Implementing Actions - Redevelopment:

I.163 Hyde County will study regulations to require that redevelopment efforts be consistent with the historic preservation policies contained in this plan update. *Schedule: Fiscal Year 2007-2008.*

- I.164 Hyde County may revise the Ocracoke Village Development Ordinance to require coordination of redevelopment in Ocracoke Village with the NC Division of Archives and History, to ensure that any significant architectural details or buildings are identified and preserved. *Schedule: Fiscal Year 2007-2008.*
- I.165 Hyde County will seek state and federal financial and technical assistance for community improvements. The county may apply for Community Development Block Grants for the rehabilitation of areas of substandard housing by identifying same. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*
- I.166 Hyde County will consider updating its minimum housing code. *Schedule: Fiscal Year 2009-2010.*
- I.167 Hyde County will allow the reconstruction of any structures demolished by natural disaster which will comply with all applicable local and state regulations. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*
- I.168 Hyde County will accept donations of unbuildable lots. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*
- I.169 Hyde County will consider the need to purchase unbuildable lots on a case-by-case basis. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*
- I.170 Hyde County will cooperate with owners who may have to move threatened structures to safer locations and will expedite local permit approvals. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*
- I.171 Hyde County will support reconstruction at densities as specified by the Ocracoke Village Development Ordinance, but will allow that an existing home destroyed by a natural disaster may be replaced in kind. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*
- I.172 Hyde County will coordinate redevelopment efforts with the Hyde County Building Inspections Department. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*

Implementing Actions - Funding Options:

- I.173 Hyde County will continue to support state and federal programs that are deemed necessary, cost-effective, and within the administrative and fiscal capabilities of Hyde County. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.* These include:
- Community Development Block Grant Program
 - Area Agency on Aging

- Emergency Medical Services
- JTPA Work Program
- Coastal Area Management Act, including shoreline access funds
- Small Business Association
- Economic Development Administration Funds
- Farmer's Home Administration – Federal Grant Program
- Federal Emergency Management Program
- Aid to Families with Dependent Children
- MEDICAID
- Day Care
- Crisis Intervention

I.174 Hyde County will selectively support state and federal programs related to Hyde County. The county, through its boards, commissions, and committees, will monitor state and federal programs and regulations. It will use opportunities as they are presented to voice support for or to disagree with programs and regulations that are proposed by state and federal agencies. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*

I.175 Hyde County officials will continue to work with the US Army Corps of Engineers and any other state and federal agencies to ensure continued dredging and maintenance of channels and rivers as needed to keep these facilities open to navigation. These efforts shall comply with applicable state and federal regulations. Providing borrow or spoil areas and provision of easements for work will be determined on case-by-case basis. The county would encourage spoil material being placed in those areas where easements for such use already exist. Channel maintenance has major economic significance and is worthy of state and federal funding. *Schedule: Continuing Activity.*