

Albemarle RC&D



*Wisely Conserving Natural Resources
& Creating Opportunities for
Positive Economic & Community Development*



E-News, Number 9

March 2008

New Stormwater Wetlands at Perquimans Commerce Centre

Perquimans County, with assistance from the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Perquimans Soil and Water and the Albemarle RC&D, has almost completed construction of three stormwater wetlands at the Perquimans Commerce Centre. A wetland next to the Perquimans Community Center will help filter stormwater from a paved parking lot and recreational ball fields before it drains into the adjacent Perquimans River. Wetlands have also been constructed at two main drain ways to help filter stormwater from future business development. The three wetlands will be planted at the end of April or early May.

The stormwater wetlands project is funded by the Clean Water Management Trust Fund and Perquimans County.



The wetland next to the Perquimans Community Center will help filter stormwater from a paved parking lot and recreational ball fields.



A wetland along a major drainage outlet will help filter stormwater from future business development at the Commerce Centre.



An existing straight-line drainage ditch has been converted to a stormwater wetland with a meandering shoreline.

The Albemarle Resource Conservation and Development Council (RC&D) is a 501(C)(3) private non-profit organization that serves the people of Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Hyde, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Tyrrell & Washington Counties.

730 N. Granville St., Suite B, Edenton, NC 27932 Tel: 252-482-7437, Ext 4; Fax: 252-482-3428

Great Dismal Swamp State Park Opens in Camden County



The Great Dismal Swamp State Park in Camden County officially opened for business on March 21st. Visitors access the park by an 80-foot-long floating bridge over the Dismal Swamp Canal. There are 16.7 miles of hiking/biking trails, a 300 foot boardwalk into the swamp forest, and a visitor's center with interactive displays of the park's environment and history.

Council member J.C. Rountree served on the local advisory committee for the park's construction.

Council members J.C. Rountree, Marshall Stevenson (pictured above) and Ann Coughlin attended the opening ceremony for the Great Dismal Swamp State Park.

Council Members Receive Special Training

Scarlet Colombo, Council Administrative Assistant is meeting with groups of council members to review and discuss the new RC&D program manual, and the council's new five-year Area Plan. Training sessions have been held for council members in Chowan, Perquimans, Pasquotank, Camden Currituck, and Dare Counties. Training sessions will be held in the next month for council members in Gates, Washington, Tyrrell and Hyde Counties.



Council members Mike Doxey (Chairman), Ann Coughlin, and Louise Hanson (far right) participated in a training session with Scarlet Colombo at Ann Coughlin's house in Manteo.

Legislative Update

Federal Funding

The President's FY 09 budget has \$0 for the RC&D program. The National Association of RC&D Councils (NARC&DC) is lobbying members of congress to restore full funding for the RC&D program.

Congress was back in session March 30th after a two week District work period. Legislative issues of interest to RC&D are the Appropriations Bills and the Farm Bill. The final version of the Farm Bill is still in negotiations. The current Farm Bill was extended until April 18, 2008. The Appropriations Committees held hearings the first week of April. The House Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee held a hearing on the Natural Resources and Environment (NRE) Budget request on Thursday, April 1st.

For more information on the RC&D program including updates on federal funding, visit the web site of NARC&DC: www.rcdnet.org

State Funding

Rep. Edith Warren, Co-chair of NER Sub-committee on Appropriations has agreed to be a primary sponsor with Rep. Tim Spear on a bill to provide RC&D Councils with seed money to leverage on new projects.

In 2006, RC&D Councils raised \$13 for every \$1 of RC&D appropriation to directly support conservation and economic development in communities across North Carolina.

Council Adopts New Five-Year Area Plan

For over 30 years the Albemarle RC&D has partnered with local governments, state and federal agencies, schools and universities, non-profit groups and others to plan and implement projects that have successfully balanced resource conservation and economic development. And looking into the future, the council's mission and work will be critical for maintaining the quality of water in the Albemarle and Pamlico Sounds, and the quality of life for the area's citizens.

The Albemarle RC&D Council's programs and services are driven by a five-year Area Plan, which the council develops with public input from across the ten-county area. The new Area Plan addresses challenges and opportunities over the next five years, 2008-2013. The new mission and vision statements and main goals are presented below.

Mission

Wisely conserve natural resources and create opportunities for positive economic and community development.

Vision

We work in partnership with private citizens, community groups, businesses, and local, state, and federal units of government or agencies to implement projects that create a better place for our citizens to live, work, and play. Projects that we help design and implement are based on sound science and practical experience.

Water Management Element

GOAL 1: Assist 10 counties to develop new or update existing county-wide water management plans by 2013.

GOAL2: Increase protection of water quality in all 10 counties.

Land Management Element

GOAL: Help five counties install innovative land-management practices on residential, commercial and public lands to protect water quality and air quality, and to improve drainage.

Land Conservation Element

GOAL: Create partnerships between local governments, state and federal agencies and local groups to identify and protect key riparian areas along streams, rivers and canals in the 10-county area.

Community Development Element

GOAL 1: Increase land and water recreation opportunities and help create and retain jobs in tourism in the Albemarle region.

GOAL 2: Improve awareness of the RC&D program through outreach and information/education opportunities to internal and external customers.

Alligator & Goat Neck Drainage Project in Tyrrell County



Tyrrell County has replaced 28 driveway culverts in the Alligator and Goat Neck communities to increase movement of water through drainage ditches. The county also has installed three tide gates in the Goat Neck community to help control water coming in from the Alligator River.

The county installed three tide gates in the Alligator Community last year, and the NC Department of Transportation (DOT) dipped out about four miles of ditches.

This project is being implemented with grants from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources—Water Resources Division, The Rural Center, cash contributions from the Alligator and

Goat Neck communities, and in-kind support from NCDOT.

On-Going Projects

Camden County

- Camden Community Park
- Dismal Swamp State Park Boardwalk and Nature Trail, Camden County
- Hurricane Isabel Stream Cleanup Phase III Supplemental Funding

Chowan County

- Red Bank Farm Recreation Park
- Cape Colony Neighborhood Access
- Chowan County Water Quality & Water Management Study
- Hurricane Isabel Stream Cleanup Phase III Supplemental Funding

Currituck County

- Whalehead Club Shoreline Protection and Water Quality Improvement
- Hurricane Isabel Stream Cleanup Phase III Supplemental Funding

Dare County

- Roanoke Island Festival Park Canoe/Kayak Access and Maritime Forest Trail

Hyde County

- Ocracoke Resource Development Project
- Hurricane Isabel Stream Cleanup Phase III Supplemental Funding

Pasquotank County

- Albemarle Hospital Boardwalk & Nature Trail
- Frog Island Public Boat Access
- River Road Middle School Constructed Wetlands
- Regional Baseball Heritage Project
- Upper Little River Watershed Protection
- Hurricane Isabel Stream Cleanup Phase III Supplemental Funding

Perquimans County

- Commerce Park Shoreline Restoration and Constructed Wetlands
- Perquimans County Nature Tourism Development Project
- Perquimans County Community Center Phase II
- Perquimans County Community Center Fishing Pier and Canoe/Kayak Access

- Water Quality Improvement and Water Management Study
- Perquimans River Riparian Forest Conservation Project
- Hurricane Isabel Stream Cleanup Phase III Supplemental Funding

Tyrrell County

- Alligator and Goatneck Community Drainage Improvements
- Hurricane Isabel Stream Cleanup Phase III Supplemental Funding

Washington County

- Plymouth Riverfront Restoration Project
- Hurricane Isabel Stream Cleanup Phase III Supplemental Funding

Regional

- Albemarle-Pamlico Regional Water Quality Study

RC&D Calendar

Executive Board Meeting, April meeting April 9th, 9:30 am, USDA Service Center, Edenton.

Regular Council Meeting, May 13th, 6:30 pm, Nixon's Catering, Highway 32, Edenton.

All programs and services of the Albemarle RC&D Council are offered on a non-discriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, age, marital or family status, disability or political beliefs.