



Minutes of the April 17, 2017, Meeting of the Base Sustainability and Community Affairs Committee
City Hall, 200 N. Center Street, Goldsboro, NC

MEMBERS PRESENT

MGen Bob Dickerson, USMC Ret., CMTE Chairman
Mr. Sonny Roberts
Col. Frank Bottorff, USMC Ret.
Ms. Pat Walker
Hon. Chuck Allen

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES

Mr. Ron Massey, City of Jacksonville
Mr. Will Best (A/R Dept of Commerce)
Mr. Sebastian Montagne (A/R DOT)
Mr. Paul Friday (MCI-East)
Mr. Robert Hosford (A/R Dept of Ag)
Mr. Marc Finlayson, ACT
Mr. John Nicholson, (A/R DEQ)
Mr. George Miller
Mr. Tad Davis, RLUAC
Mr. Jim Dougherty, RLUAC
Mr. Glen Prillaman, RLUAC
Mr. Jason Cain, AS for Mil Affairs, DMVA
Mr. Mike Klein, State Demographer
(by phone for Bob Coats)
Mr. Willie Casey, DMVA
Ms. Kelly Barretto, DMVA

OPENING REMARKS

Chairman Dickerson called the meeting to order at 9:35am, passed around a sign-in sheet, which will be used to prepare travel reimbursements to Commissioners. Attendees introduced themselves.

CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Dickerson requested a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting of the Committee in October 2016. Mr. Roberts made the motion, which was seconded by Ms. Walker and passed by unanimous vote with no further discussion.

PRESENTATIONS

Grant Status / Governor's Budget:

NCDMVA Assistant Secretary for Military Affairs, Jason Cain, stated on behalf of the Department that he looked forward to working with the Commission whose work is essential. He discussed his prior work with

US Department of Veterans Affairs where he was Director of Intergovernmental Relations, and his work on Governor Cooper's transition team. He introduced newly-retired LTC Willie Casey, DMVA's Installation Coordinator who will be building relationships with installations leadership to maintain awareness of issues affecting each. Kelly Barretto will be the Commission's point of contact at DMVA. Mr. Cain briefed the Committee on the following using Power Point slides:

- Service member and Family Coordinator will be a part-time role (30 hours/week), as the result of budget constraints, and person will have National Guard experience
- Additions of general counsel, legislative /communications liaison, Interagency Coordinator, Installation Coordinator and Service member and Family Coordinator, accountant and accounting manager positions added to DMVA.
- Secretary Hall will give full, detailed budget briefs at upcoming meetings; Joe Kelly has agreed to stay and is helping with the budget process; DMVA's first fully-developed budget was created by Mr. Kelly and the Department accounting manager. Secretary Hall briefed the Department budget to the Governor's team and submitted it with the Commission's requests. The Governor's office reduced the \$5 million requested for the lift fan project to \$3million for the budget recommendations to the General Assembly. Chairman Dickerson added that private donors should be included in the conversation. He referenced the community relations branch at Duke Progress who come up with additional monies from the private sector. He did not think \$5million would be a problem for Duke Progress. One of our biggest requests of Legislature would be to convert the base sustainability fund from a one-time, to a recurring fund, per AS Cain.
- The Seymour Johnson / Dare County Bombing Range JLUS; this has been a two-year process that is concluding. The study was borne of the Amazon Wind project. It is out for public comments. There are at least five pieces of drafted wind legislature. Our main talking point to the GA is that this two-year study (JLUS) done by DoD should be taken into consideration before creating legislation. JLUS findings and recommendations are expected in the next two weeks. Will Best of Commerce added that 100 comments were received from Civil Engineering Squadron and that a report is expected to be ready by end of month for release to the policy committee, who will review to ensure OEA requirements are met. A final draft is expected in 30 days.

Chairman Dickerson provided a brief background regarding tall structure issues over the past four years when wind generators were being put up. We found out quickly there was no vetting process, and DoD could not get involved. The State found out and was concerned about sites being near ranges, flight routes or the ROTH facility. It was not that the Commission was opposed, it just wanted a vetting process. We should keep our fingers on the pulse to ensure it is compatible growth.

- The Department of Defense OEA Grant Award status. NC State is the lead and DMVA is the sub-awardee. We will get a position from this funded at 85% for a communications director for the project. The 3 aims of the project are: a) a supply chain mapping study to identify contractors and subcontractors in North Carolina; b) a pilot program starting with ten companies to help them diversify to become less dependent on DoD; and, c) diversifying NC's overall defense industry. We will apply for follow-on funding to implement that plan, contingent on DoD's budget

decreases. There is an advisory board for the grant. Ms. Walker suggested SBA and Chairman Dickerson suggested DLA.

- Military Presence Stabilization Funds (BRAC Fund) and Community Grant Program status. We are seeking that this be a recurring fund. There was discussion about use of “BRAC-proofing” in lieu of BRAC. The legislature approved \$200k for Community Grants. A process was created, but the back end of the process was undeveloped. That will be AS Cain’s priority. Internal Audit from OSBM has been in to review the program and identified the deficiencies. They will assist with creating a monitoring program to monitor grantees. Still dependent on Department of Administration for contracts processes, but having an accountant manager on board will expedite many of these processes. We will use the same processes for pending MOU’s. Ms. Walker talked with Brad Helton regarding the money given to EDPNC and did not get a good read on what he is pursuing and how much he is pursuing strictly for us versus the Partnership. Ms. Walker reiterated that we saw what was given as seed money for the position and its purpose.

Ms. Walker added that at the OEA grant rollout Ms. Bullock discussed additional money coming from the grant with the JLUS being high on the list. Ms. Walker asked if this included or contemplated joint air space, e.g., balloons and drones, and Ms. Bullock seemed to think it would. Ms. Walker pointed out that another grant could come from a study of air space.

Regional Land Use Advisory Commission (RLUAC)

Spring Lake City Manager Mr. Tad Davis, briefed the Committee on his military background, and gave a presentation on the purpose, membership, major accomplishments of RLUAC, and a need for budget assistance from the NCMAC to meet a shortfall in the amount of \$50,000, annually, to fulfill its mission. Secretary Hall and Senator Meredith suggested he brief the Committee. The Commission consists of 14 municipalities and 8 counties surrounding Fort Bragg and Pope. The Organization has existed for 25 years, has completed 3 JLUS’s, and is beginning a fourth. In the past ten years or so, they have received funding at the \$45k-\$50k level with funding coming from the communities at about \$13k and from Fort Bragg at \$35k to allow them to assist Bragg and the local communities with land use issues. They’ve done work with land use, cell towers, placement of wind and solar farms, review of construction activity on Bragg and Camp Mackall, residential development outside of the installation, etc., considering the needs of both the community and military. They must approach communities individually every year, and Bragg having been impacted by sequestration has not been able to secure funding as of last year, as in the past. They are fortunate to use the JLUS program management funding that has supported the executive director position. This JLUS is a \$500,000 effort and does not cover operating funds. In the past, the information would be shelved. Looking forward to funding at the back end that would allow the implementation of recommendations to make it a successful effort. He stressed the good that has come out of the Organization and thanked the Committee for the opportunity to make a presentation. Chairman Dickerson agreed the State and local governments need to step up. He noted the advisability of considering private donors and partnerships. Col. Bottorff commented on the restricted use of grant funds against administrative and operational costs. Chairman Dickerson stated that the MAC could support this, but the result would rest with the Department and the NCGA. It should look like a matching grant with the support of the local communities.

Motion: Frank Bottorff made a motion that the Committee partnering to include financial support with local and regional advocacy groups that support NC Installation sustainability. The motion was seconded by Mayor Allen, and the motion passed unanimously without discussion.

Chairman Dickerson added that, if they submit a grant, they should be specific about the purpose and have an end state in mind. We don't want to give out money with no requirement to show what was accomplished.

Farmer Veteran Mentor Program

Mr. George Miller of Food and Fuel for the Forces presented using power point slides on Sentinel Landscapes and establishing a mentoring program in North Carolina that will match experienced farmers with transitioning veterans starting out in the farming business to encourage the cultivation of the next generation of farmers based on veterans with an income and ability to buy or lease at least 5 acres of land. Working with NC Farm Bureau, NC State University and others to put together this pilot program with the hope of becoming a self-sustaining program. Developed a 30-page manual. Have applied for two major grants and have not received them, and need a letter of support from a military organization. The grant funding is for logistics, incentivized travel, training. He will seek a letter of support from the MAC at some point. He has not yet briefed the Department of Agriculture. They are not seeking state funding. They have not been able to show a strong enough association with a military organization. Chairman Dickerson asked if Mr. Miller had been in touch with NC Serves who would be a very appropriate connection. He would like to see the idea matured in order to get a letter of support tied in to obtaining grant funds.

Frank Bottorff suggested language for and made the following motion:

The NCMAC Base Sustainability and Community Affairs Committee moves that Sentinel Landscape Food and Fuel for the Farmers present to the full Commission and support the efforts of Sentinel Landscape Food and Fuel for the Farmers, and specifically, the Farmer / Mentor Pilot program in its efforts to get veterans into farming and forestry, the most compatible land uses around our training areas and installations.

Discussion: A general letter that states that support is okay, per Frank Bottorff.

Motion seconded by Pat Walker. Chairman Dickerson put it up for vote, and the motion passed unanimously.

Sentinel Landscapes

Mr. Paul Friday gave an update on Sentinel Landscapes. He commended Mr. Miller on the intent of his program. NC is in its 8th or 9th year in the process, and various designations have been given to the State. NC is still reviewing legislation to informalize the Sentinel Landscapes program. There is an MOU in place in the meantime. There are efforts to go all in to build a program that includes action by USDA and the NCGA. If all goes according to plan, we will go from \$1 million or \$2million to much more. We are optimistic that this year will produce an outcome from the program. The Services have reviewed the mission footprint. Within the next two to three weeks we will hear the REPI announcement, and are hopeful that North Carolina fares well in the process.

Chairman Dickerson asked for additional questions. There were none. He asked Ron Massey for a brief update on the Census. Mr. Massey stated that per Bob Coats' update, he has been given encouraging information. Revised rules are not yet officially published. There are no issues anticipated with the proposed change to counting deployed military.

OPEN COMMENTS:

John Nicholson is pleased to be back. He is disappointed that DEQ was left out of the process and trying to correct that.

AS Cain added there are 3 openings on the Commission with pending notifications, and we appreciate Pat for continuing to Chair the MAC.

Ms. Walker asked for term expirations.

Question by the Chair: there was a group of grants submitted to DMVA that were to go the General Assembly. One was Haynes Aquifer. AS Cain understands it, that list of ten were hypothetical requests. \$1million for Commission, \$1million for grant funding, and \$3million for lift fan facility.

Frank Bottorff asked about last budget cycles that had encroachment management projects (CWMTF and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund got \$1million in DOAg's budget and DEQ's budget). Has this been requested in this year's budget? Mr. Nicholson discussed the difference between non-DoD funds and federal funds being applied to NC that are waiting on state funds to tie to them. Frank Bottorff stressed the importance of the relationship with the Clean Water Management Trust Fund.

Ms. Walker added that she would like Mcrae Collins, a contractor, to speak to the MAC regarding the potential of having a tethered balloon at the boundary of Hoffman Forest and Jones County, and to expand the Spartan Ranch for drone operators and military, in light of their anticipated growth by 2025. The Navy has been supporting this. Having a school there could be an economic opportunity. Brad Helton of EDPNC put her in touch with Kyle Snyder of NC State to present a contrasting view to the MAC. She would have them to the ESG. Per Paul Friday, they have met with proponents of the project. UAV traffic is the concern.

At Razor Talon, it was learned that a joint threat emitter would give them an expanded capability for training at a cost of \$3 million, which DoD will not fund. This would increase the opportunity for range exercises and enhance base sustainability. Seymour Johnson maintenance facility – lack of constant power for lighting – generators are used, and electric power is inconsistent making running diagnostics difficult. Air Force will not approve a milcon project to run a conduit that would carry power. If we could do a matching fund, it would bring them under the \$3 million threshold. This is a quality of life issue. Both operators had medical issues from hauling generators back and forth. This costs in time, money, pension and disabilities. Can we conjunctively fund this? Per AS Cain, Joe Kelly is meeting with Duke Power to seek out assistance.

Following this discussion, Chairman Dickerson requested a motion to adjourn, which was so moved by Frank Bottorff, seconded by Sonny Roberts, and passed by unanimous vote.

ADJOURNMENT

11:54 am

DRAFT