

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 30, 2015, MEETING OF THE
NCMAC BASE SUSTAINABILITY & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

MEMBERS PRESENT:

MGen Bob Dickerson, USMC Ret.
Sonny Roberts
Col. Frank Bottorff, USMC Ret. (by phone)
Pat Walker
BG Paul Dordal, USAF Ret.

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES

Ron Massey, City of Jacksonville
Will Best (A/R Dept of Commerce)
Bryan Gossage (A/R DNCR)
Tyler Harris (MCAS Cherry Point)
Joe Peel, Elizabeth City Mayor
Sebastian Montagne (A/R DOT)
Paul Friday (by phone) (MCI-East)
Bill Meier (by phone) (MCI-East)
Scott Stevens, Goldsboro City Manager
Whitney Christiansen for ACT
Robert Hosford

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS/AGENDA REVIEW:

Committee Chairman Bob Dickerson welcomed all attendees who introduced themselves, and called the meeting to order.

Minutes Approval

Chairman Dickerson requested a motion to approve minutes of the last Committee meeting, so moved by Paul Dordal, seconded by Sonny Roberts and which passed unanimously without further discussion.

Introduction of New Committee Member

Chairman Dickerson introduced Pat Walker, a new Commissioner and Committee member, and shared Ms. Walker's background with the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense. He

requested a motion to add Ms. Walker as a Committee member, which was so moved by Sonny Roberts and seconded by Paul Dordal. All were in favor and none opposed.

Seymour Johnson

Chairman Dickerson acknowledged and congratulated Goldsboro and Seymour Johnson Air Force Base on the assignment of the KC46-A Pegasus air refueling squadron to the base, and thanked all for their efforts toward this goal.

Census

Mr. Ron Massey briefed the Committee on this issue.

- The Bureau published a notice in February of 2015 regarding accounting rules for the military. Subsequent comments on the notice resulted in a meeting in a September between Bureau staff and communities. Bob Coats of the Governor's office was in meetings in DC with the Bureau providing an opportunity to show how the 2010 count would have yielded different results had they counted deployed military at their duty station.
- We are concerned that about pushing the matter "up the chain" to Department of Defense; the Commission should take this matter on and have the Governor bring the issue to the Pentagon for support of our interpretation of the rule over the course of the year after which the rules will be set.
- It is suspected that we have lost between 6,000 and 8,000 marines in the last count; families were told to exclude the deployed spouse.
- Optimal to resolve at a staff level without need to change law or policy.
- The count affects transit and roads funding, income tax, sales tax, seats in the House.
- Recommends that the MAC keep this on the front burner.
- The Governor signed a letter of support in May; we can prepare another letter to Office of Personnel and Readiness to be sent to the Secretary for his signature.

Bonds

Commission Vice Chairman Dordal updated the Committee on the bond proposal.

- Bond project not approved in the long session of the General Assembly.
- Issues with the understanding by the GA of the requests based on misperception, not for lack of engagement but a lack of understanding on a local level; many legislators questioned why state funding should be applied to federal projects. The economic impact of losing missions is the reason for the bond requests.
- No additional bond projects can be added to the list, but there may be an opportunity to educate legislators in time for the short session. It is possible to approve specific projects with sufficient justification for each.
- It is the expectation and hope that the REMI results will clearly show the impact on state and local communities.

Strategic Plan

Per Vice Chair Dordal, we are requesting input from all installations and communities on the draft strategic plan/report in order to finalize it.

- Full report: 182-page confidential report that includes all input and SWOT analysis put together by the consultant group and by the State. This will not be transmitted digitally but will be made available at the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs for review.
- The public report provides the opportunity to receive comments and input from community groups; the public report has been sent to all key stakeholders.
- December 1 is anticipated date to have a complete product.
- A working group will be formed and plan to meet over next two to three weeks to receive input and revisions to the document for accuracy.
- Maj. Lumsden is collecting input.
- Key messages are to be brought to DC to stress the value of our installations and to show what the State is doing to support them.

Sentinel Landscapes

Robert Hosford of Department of Agriculture briefed the Committee.

- Spent the last week with OSD personnel in Raleigh; on the 5-yard line to complete the deal.

- The Department of Agriculture is agency of record to be recipient of funds vis-à-vis a trust fund.
- Fort Bragg declined to participate in this project. DOD asks why they should be included. Ans.: For the five surrounding counties. They do receive ACUB funding.
- Sentinel Landscapes is a DOD concept that there are certain installations and counties that deserve recognition and incentivized opportunity to receive federal funds. 3 agencies, DOD, US DoAg and Fish & Wildlife of Department of Interior, are involved.
- Submitted ICE map that delineated 7 areas (covering tier 1 and tier 2) at behest of Air Force.
- MCI-East will be delivering a delineated map of tier properties.
- The state gave \$1 million in recurring funding each to DoAg and DENR for matching funds for Sentinel Landscapes.
- Sentinel Lands Group meets quarterly.
- MAC can help by bringing Fort Bragg on board.
- Per Bill Meier, the USMC will not be the sole source of support; he has spoken with the Air Force and will meet with Army to educate on the value of funding the program.
- An announcement will be made early in the next calendar year about the award.

PEDRO

The rescue squadron has been decommissioned at Cherry Point.

NCMAC TOP PRIORITIES (as they relate to Base Sustainability & Comm. Affairs Cmte)

1. Develop strategic plan to protect installations from downsizing, closure, encroachment; all should have opportunity to review public and full document for issues that are pertinent to this Committee (seeks input from Mr. Hosford, Mr. Montagne). Working group/stakeholders dates were given (11/4 and 11/5).
2. Assist NC Working Lands Groups/compatible land use – remain engaged with key stakeholders, i.e., DoAg, DEQ (may transfer to DNCR), NCCC, installations.

5. Support legislation restricting wind turbine construction and tall structures if it impacts military training. The Dare County Range/Pasquotank construction could have an impact on low-level routes and training and should be monitored. MCI-East stands by ready to assist with data layering information.
6. Coordinating and assisting with infrastructure, transportation issues affecting military installations.

Ron Massey commented that we need to keep visibility on the connectivity concerns, e.g., NC 24 between Lejeune and Bragg and the gap in between the two bases. Mr. Montagne stated that that area is highlighted in the NC Transportation Network and similar statewide corridors.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Pat Walker shared a handout detailing the JDIG program that was supplied through Rick Minor of EDPNC.

Chairman Dickerson adjourned the meeting at 11:52.