



Donald I. McRee, Jr.
County Manager

Currituck County

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MANAGEMENT REPORT

To: Board of Commissioners
From: Ike McRee, County Manager
Date: May 2023

Operations:

- **2023 Citizens Academy** – The 2023 session of Citizens Academy ended on Thursday, April 27. The session concluded with a meal and class member participation in the budget exercise game “Budgetopolis” facilitated by the UNC School of Government. Over 11 evenings, the class met with 24 county departments and agencies. The participants were complimentary on the experience and expressed appreciation for their county government and its employees.
- **FY 2024 Recommended Budget** – Over many hours during the month, Assistant County Manager Rebecca Gay, Finance Officer Sandra Hill, Assistant Finance Officer Caron Crouse, Public Information Officer Randall Edwards, Human Resources Director Melissa Futrell and I worked to prepare and draft the FY 2024 recommended budget in a narrative format. That work resulted in FY 2024 Recommended Budget presented to the board on Tuesday, May 30.
- **Ocean Sands North and Crown Point Service District for Watershed Improvements** – I attended a meeting of the service district advisory board on Friday, May 5. John Delucia, Albemarle and Associates, Ltd. engineer, was present and led and presented option to the advisory board for dividing Phase I of the proposed storm water management system into smaller pieces. The advisory board determined a path forward to install portions of Phase I over the next three fiscal years and recommended increasing the service district tax rate to 25.5 cents in FY 2024 to fund the construction program.
- **Hurricane Exercise** – Assistant County Manager Rebecca Gay and I met with Emergency Management Director Mary Beth Newns to discuss plans for a Hurricane Exercise from July 11 through July 13 at the Public Safety Center. The exercise will include simulations of weather briefings, Control Group Meeting, county department head meeting, Emergency Operations Center setup and pre-storm exercise, post-storm and recovery exercise.
- **Meeting With Outer Banks Conservationists** - County Attorney Megan Morgan and I met with the Outer Banks Conservationists’ Executive Director and attorney to

resolve the issue regarding payments owed the county under the settlement agreement resolving the lighthouse ownership issue. With good discussion, and acknowledgement that monies are owed and will be paid to the county, we have resolved differences and agreed to a working relationship. Points that will be memorialized in a proposed amendment to the settlement agreement are removal of Whalehead Preservation Trust as a part with any obligation and term providing that annually the county manager and Outer Banks Conservationist Executive Director will meet to discuss the county's budgetary plans for use of proceeds from Outer Banks Conservationists in the ensuring fiscal year going.

- **Fire-EMS Advisory Board Meeting** – I attended the monthly meeting of the Fire-EMS Advisory Board held at the Pine Island Station in Corolla. During the meeting Carova Beach Volunteer Fire Department Chief Laughmiller expressed concern regarding the age of his department's apparatus. He was presented with the good news that the FY 2024 Recommended Budget includes \$1,000,000 for apparatus that will be located at Carova Beach.
- **Currituck County Safety Committee Meeting** – I attended a meeting of the county's reconstituted Currituck County Safety Committee. The Safety Committee is comprised of representatives from county departments to provide input and help ensure safe work practices in their departments. With a strong turnout, Risk Manager Charlie Gris renewed the discussion about the importance of safe work practice for the well-being of employees, reduction of workers' compensation claims, OSHA compliance and to reduce liability insurance premiums. The Safety Committee will meet regularly to continue safe work practices throughout county government.
- **Opioid Task Force Meeting** – I attended an Opioid Task Force Meeting on May 22. The task force received presentations from school, mental health, and YMCA representatives regarding service and treatment gaps that inhibit or reduce response to or reduction of addictive practices.

Projects:

- **Corolla ABC Store** –Contractor A.R. Chesson is on site and construction is underway. Framing is in place and roof trusses are scheduled for delivery and installation the week of June 12.
- **Ocean Sands Stormwater Emergency Outfall Piping** – Contractor Eastern Carolina Construction completed work in the Crown Point Section and Ocean Sands Section F at the end of April. Final inspection was conducted on May 4 and the project is accepted.
- **Whalehead Drainage – Bonito Street** – A notice to proceed was issued to Enviro-tech Unlimited Construction Services on February 16. The project civil/site work is on schedule with project completion by June 30.
- **Public Works Maintenance Building** – Design-builder Sussex Development Corporation began erection of a pre-engineered metal building which is now complete. The roof system is installed, walls are framed and fitting, finishing of the building is underway. The project is on schedule for substantial completion by the end of September.



- **Dolphin Street Sidewalk Extension** – Sidewalk construction is underway. It is determined that retaining walls will be required along some sections of the sidewalk and drawings for the retaining walls are underway. Substantial completion is expected by the end of June. Staff anticipates receipt of an encroachment agreement from NCDOT within the week.

- **Phase III Walkover Replacement** – Consultant Ardurra Group has completed drawings for the replacement of the Bonito, Sturgeon, and Marlin public access walkovers. County Engineer Michelle Perry and County Attorney Megan Morgan are planning meetings with adjacent property owners about temporary construction easements on their properties due to the narrow easement area for location of the walkovers.
- **Moyock Elementary School Addition and Renovation** – The project is on schedule. Installation of flooring, kitchen work and final painting is underway. Septic system expansion is planned for the week of June 12. **A ribbon cutting is currently planned on Thursday, August 10 with the time to be determined.**



- **Moyock Middle School Addition and Renovation** – The contractor is completing mechanical work and final painting. **A ribbon cutting is currently planned on Thursday, August 10 with time to be determined.**
- **Tulls Creek Elementary School** – Design work and project cost estimation continues with the 70% design budget due July 20. The project will be reviewed by the county's Technical Review Committee the week of June 12. A resolution authorizing requests for proposals from banks for the project financing will be on the board's June 19 agenda. County Engineer Michelle Perry and County Attorney Megan Morgan are planning a meeting with the owner of open space between Campus Drive and the project property to obtain an easement for entry into the property from Campus Drive. The project property is also currently under a farm lease that will end prior to the expected start of construction. The necessity of the UDO text amendment increasing height for educational facilities is due to the design of the two-story school with mechanical equipment to be in the mezzanine level beneath the roof, much like the county building housing the YMCA, Parks and Recreation and Senior Center.



➤ **Mackeral Walkover Replacement –**

Mackeral Walkover is now substantially complete. Next up is a final inspection and acceptance of the project. The missing piece of handrail at the Coral Walkover is now installed.

- **Corolla Village Road Public Access –** Contracts are now being executed with W.M. Dunn Construction, the lowest bidder, to reconfigure the accessway to again allow for handicapped accessible access to the beach. The cost of the project is \$44,900. Staff have engaged Coastal Engineering for design to reconfigure the handicap accessible access at Corolla Village Road.
- **Sound Park Bulkhead Repairs –** Construction is underway. A change order was necessary when unrealized concrete was found along the bulkhead and boat ramp that prevented installation of pilings and necessitated removal of the concrete. Old piles are now removed, new piles are in place and replacement of the walkway is underway. Boat ramp concrete was expected to be poured the week of June 5.
- **Ocean Sands North and Crown Point Ditch Improvement –** Contractor W.M. Dunn Construction has substantially completed cleaning, enlargement, and re-establishment of a flow line of existing ditches within Sections M, N, P and Q in Ocean Sands North. Some additional work is occurring to clean out the culver between Crown Point and the ditch system.
- **Historic Jarvisburg Colored School Siding Restoration –** Work on this project began the week of May 29. After several days, the contractor ran into some issues under the siding that requires project architect review and direction.
- **Historic Corolla Park Playground -** The playground is under construction with the placement of play structures. The safety surface will soon be poured with installation of the fence around the playground by late July.
- **Historic Courthouse Assessment –** Replacement of windows and recommended structural repairs is programmed in the FY 2024 Recommended Budget.
- **SOBWS Deep Well –** After drilling test wells at Historic Corolla Park and Corolla ABC store sites, it is determined that the Historic Corolla Park well adjacent to the Whalehead Club building produces the most water. Design of the permanent well is now underway for its construction at Historic Corolla Park.

- **County Fuel Farm** – After executing contracts, the contractor failed to perform, and the contract was terminated. Requests for Qualifications are being reissued for selection of a contractor.
- **Communications Fiber Project** – The contractor has acquired material necessary to run fiber cable from the Historic Courthouse to the county's newly acquired building on Caratoke Highway and fiber run from Historic Courthouse to the former Sheriff's Office building, then to Public Safety Center and from Public Safety Center, fiber cable on each side of U.S. Hwy. 158 to the tower behind Currituck County High School. Locating utilities in the rights-of-way is now underway.
- **Mainland Deep Well** – Engineers are preparing the bid package for construction of the mainland deep well on Maple Road. Staff is also working with Dominion Energy on how to run electric service to the new well site.
- **Airport Fuel Farm** – Airport engineers have completed the 90% design for replacement of the airport fuel farm. The NC Division of Aviation has provided minor comments which engineers are now preparing to address.
- **Historic Corolla Park Air Up Station Relocation** – Bids for relocation of the Historic Corolla Park Air Up Station are due June 16. A phasing plan is under development for the project.
- **Shoreline Assessment and Monitoring** – Coastal Protection Engineering is on the county's beach the week of June 5 to continue assessment and monitoring of beach dynamics.
- **Whalehead Subdivision Storm Water Management Project At Bonito Street** – Construction continues on the Bonito Street groundwater lowering station and discharge lines and is on track for complete installation by the end of June. Due to manufacturing delays for electrical components, there will be a delay of final completion until December when electrical components will be installed.



- **Purchase of Maple Road Property** – The closing on the property next to the Maple Post Office, and along Maple Road, for the purpose of increasing the airport buffer will take place on June 14.

Board Appointments:			
Advisory Board	Member Name	Term Expires	Commissioner
Animal Services	Laura Hill Nancy VanClief	5/30/2023	Consensus
Game Commission	Robert Romm Trevor Old Andrew Shilling James Cason, Jr.	6/1/2023 6/1/2023 6/1/2023 6/1/2023	Paul Beaumont Owen Etheridge Kevin McCord Kitty Etheridge
Land Transfer Tax Appeals	Wade Morgan	June 2020	Paul Beaumont
Library Board of Trustees	Kerri Engley Charlotte Martin Leigh Dix Sandy Fost Jeff Gardner	6/30/2023 6/30/2023 6/30/2020 6/30/2023 6/30/2023	Bob White Mike Payment Paul Beaumont Owen Etheridge Kevin McCord
Ocean Sands N/Crown Pt. Watershed District	Lynda Garczynski	6/6/2023	Consensus
Senior Citizens	Cindy Scott Janet Lovell Michael Williams	2/1/2023 2/1/2023 2/1/2023	Bob White Mike Payment Paul Beaumont
Whalehead Stormwater	Sid Wilson	1/30/2023	Consensus

***Red – Requires replacement
Green – Eligible for reappointment

Upcoming:	
Advisory Board Meetings	
Tuesday, June 13	Planning Board
Monday, June 26	Opioid Task Force

Monday, June 26	Fire & EMS Advisory
Friday, June 30	Whalehead Service District
Proposed Work Sessions	
Monday, June 19	Work Session – 4:00 p.m. Lot Size/Density Special Use Permits Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance