

**THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF CRAVEN MET IN SPECIAL SESSION ON SEPTEMBER 2, 2011 IN THE COMMISSIONERS' ROOM OF THE CRAVEN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 406 CRAVEN STREET, NEW BERN, NORTH CAROLINA, FOR THE PURPOSE OF UPDATING THE BOARD ON DISASTER RECOVERY PLANS IN THE WAKE OF HURRICANE IRENE. THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 12:17 P.M.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Chairman Steve Tyson  
Vice Chairman Lee Kyle Allen  
Commissioner Scott C. Dacey  
Commissioner Thomas F. Mark  
Commissioner Johnnie Sampson, Jr.  
Commissioner Jefferey S. Taylor

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Commissioner Theron L. McCabe

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Harold Blizzard, County Manager  
Jack B. Veit, III., Assistant County Manager  
Richard F. Hemphill, County Finance Director  
Gwendolyn M. Bryan, Clerk to the Board

County Manager, Harold Blizzard, introduced EMS Director, Stanley Kite, who reported on the current status of the disaster recovery plans. Mr. Kite recapped for the Board the emergency response in preparation for the hurricane. He stated that sustained winds at 46 mph and gusts up to 79 mph were charted before devices went down, and he provided medical statistics and other emergency calls during the storm. A total of 454 evacuees were served during peak shelter occupancy and Havelock reported \$46 million in damages, with New Bern reporting \$8 million in damages. Mr. Kite announced the number for FEMA: 1-800-621-3362, and citizens were encouraged to register. He stated that insurance may not cover some individual circumstances; therefore, it is advisable to be on record with FEMA.

Services are being provided by the following agencies:

- Red Cross (vouchers and meals)
- Salvation Army
- NC Food Bank
- Religious Community Services
- New Song Church
- Baptist Men

The Department of Corrections personnel and equipment will be available to help with debris clearing, starting September 3.

The County website carries an advisory concerning private well sources.

***DSS***

Alfreda Stout, Assistant DSS Director, reported that 70 staffers worked 1,400 hours during the period that shelters were open. Social Services has had 1,500 non-client citizens requesting emergency services, including replacement of food and nutrition benefits. The Department of Social Services has helped 2,700 of its regular client base with emergency food vouchers to date. A total of 7,200 households receive food and nutrition benefits in the County on a regular basis. Up to 50% in additional benefits will automatically be received by clients in the next month, according to the State, except for the 2,700 who already applied. She reported that 300 new client services applications had been taken during the current week.

Ms. Stout stated that starting September 8, DSS will have to administer a disaster assistance program of 5-day duration. To date there is no additional funding available to cover staffing that has been made known. The income scale is higher than the regular scale.

### *Announcements*

Mr. Blizzard announced that Inspectors with the Craven County Planning and Inspections Department will be working through the upcoming weekend and holiday to conduct inspections of repairs so electricity can be restored to dwellings and facilities as quickly as possible.

### *Debris Management Update*

- DOT is taking secondary and primary SR roadside debris
- FEMA has changed rules, and requires competitive bidding for debris management contracts
- Jones County contractor traditionally used to operate sites, chip and haul debris, chose not to comply with the new FEMA requirements and walked off the job
- Harlowe site closed after first day
- Six (6) proposals were received this morning; however, they are quite lengthy and not ready yet for staff recommendations. Staff would like to continue to review them and make recommendations on September 6.
- Assistant County Manager, Jack Veit, stated that he would try to get proposals reviewed and analyzed as soon as possible later in the day to make recommendations on debris removal and monitoring contracts.
- There is an estimated 200,000 cubic yards of debris. The County will, meanwhile, continue to operate the sites until contractors can be put into place.
- Continuing to operate the sites internally would cost an estimated \$500,000 - \$1M.

Commissioner Taylor moved to recess to reconvene tomorrow, September 3, at 1:00 pm. to consider contract award recommendations.

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Chairman Steve Tyson  
Craven County Board of Commissioners

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Gwendolyn M. Bryan  
Clerk to the Board