

**THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF CRAVEN,
SITTING AS THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CRAVEN COUNTY
WATER AND SEWER DISTRICTS, MET IN REGULAR SESSION ON
FEBRUARY 21, 2005 IN THE COMMISSIONERS' ROOM OF THE CRAVEN
COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 406 CRAVEN STREET, NEW BERN,
NORTH CAROLINA. THE MEETING CONVENED AT 9:50 A.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chairman George N. Brown, Jr.
Vice Chairman Perry L. Morris
Commissioner Lee Kyle Allen
Commissioner Johnnie Sampson, Jr.
Commissioner M. Renée Sisk
Commissioner Leon C. Staton

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Commissioner Bill Harper

STAFF PRESENT:

Harold Blizzard, County Manager
Ray H. Moser, Human Resources Director
Gwendolyn M. Bryan, Clerk to the Board
James R. Sugg, County Attorney

STAFF ABSENT:

George B. Sawyer, Assistant County Manager
Richard F. Hemphill, County Finance Officer

Following the roll call, Commissioner Sisk moved that the minutes of January 18 be approved, seconded by Commissioner Sampson and unanimously carried.

WELL SITE PROPERTY SALE

County Attorney, Jim Sugg, reported that the sale at auction of the well site in the Jasper area did not bring what the Board thought the property was worth. There was some discussion concerning the requirement of closing the well and it was stated that David May, Chief in charge of wells at the EPA, had advised that there is no requirement other than capping the old well to prevent water infiltration. He stated that it would not be necessary to dig and fill the well with cement, which would add to the cost associated with transferring the property to a private owner. Water and Sewer Superintendent, Rusty Hayes, stated, however, that the unique aspect of this well is that it was positioned between two aquifers in order to blend the water. He stated that the well would need to be capped in a manner that would prevent cross contamination between the two aquifers. The purchaser of the property, Mr. Oldham, was asked if he would be willing to commit to pay the additional \$1,800 for proper closing of the well. Mr. Oldham responded that he would like to have additional conversation with the EPA. Attorney Sugg expressed his concern about the effect of the well closing process on future owners, future EPA requirements and the County's potential liability in the future. He recommended acquiring a written commitment from the EPA that could be included in the record of the transaction. Commissioner Allen moved to accept the offer but to defer consideration pending clarification from the County Attorney regarding the capping requirement, seconded by Commissioner Morris and unanimously carried.

The Board was declared in recess at 10:00 a.m. and reconvened at 10:15 a.m.

WATER SYSTEM PLANS

Capacity Use Rules and Response

Tom Tant of Hazen and Sawyer Engineering provided the Board an overview of the State's Capacity Use Rules, which will affect Craven County's reliance upon the Black Creek Aquifer as the sole source. Mr. Tant stated that the results of the evaluation of the

Pee Dee Aquifer indicate that it would be sufficient in meeting needs for the first phase of the Capacity Use Plan through 2013. He stated, however, that beyond 2013 the issue of an alternate source still remains. Although the water quality of the Pee Dee Aquifer was originally presumed to require blending, it has demonstrated that it can likely be utilized as a source without blending. He stated that project implementation for accessing the Pee Dee Aquifer is projected at \$1.4 million until 2013 with additional measures being required by 2013. Commissioner Allen suggested desalinization as a long term consideration; however, it is extremely costly.

Water Conservation Plan Proposal

Mr. Hayes stated that amendments to the County's water ordinance may be requested in the future to address conservation. Other measures will include plumbing augmentation and education. A plan is being developed to go into the schools in the County to educate the children about the water conservation requirements, as well as sending information to customers in their billings. Commissioner Sampson commented that the citizens need to be more informed to begin their conservation measures now. County Manager, Harold Blizzard, stated that the plan also needs to address irrigation and possible rule changes to limit irrigation of lawns and other non-essential usage. This type of water usage does not require high quality water and may be addressed through an ordinance. In addition, inclining water rates, which are set higher for high volume usage than for conservative usage, may be a way to encourage conservation. He asked the Board's authorization to move ahead on tapping into the Pee Dee Aquifer and using it as a supplementary source. He stated that this will also require property acquisition for site expansion.

Commissioner Morris moved to proceed, with the staff returning to the Board with specifics as needed. Commissioner Sampson seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. Commissioner Staton inquired if it is too early to begin informing citizens of the possibility of inclining water rates. Mr. Blizzard responded that it is not too early and this should be part of the education effort. He further stated that the schools have already tentatively bought into the idea.

At 10:40 a.m. Commissioner Sisk moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Sampson and unanimously carried.

Chairman George N. Brown, Jr.
Craven County Board of Commissioners

Gwendolyn M. Bryan, Clerk to the Board