



Eastern Carolina Council

ECC Weekly Information Bulletin

March 5, 2010

Quote of the Week: The meaning I picked, the one that changed my life: Overcome fear, behold wonder. *Æschylus*

Census Countdown

Continue to communicate with everyone you know and with your communities that they need to complete their Census forms on April 1st. During each Decennial Census, the Census Bureau undertakes the count of every person residing in the United States, as mandated by Article 1, Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution. To encourage everyone to take 10 minutes to answer the 10 simple questions on the 2010 Census form, we are launching the "Take 10" campaign. Through "Take 10," you can visit <http://2010.census.gov/2010census/take10map/> to get updates on the proportion of households that have mailed back the 2010 Census forms. You also will be able to view differences between your community's participation rates and those of neighboring communities or other areas across the country.

Budgeting for plans and projects to be done next FY

If you need a figure to plug into your budget for a comprehensive plan, citizen survey, PARTF grant application, GIS project, transportation plan, executive search, community outreach, etc., be sure to contact ECC. Planning/GIS Director: Alex Rickard at arickard@eccog.org or Director of Economic and Community Development: Judy Hills at jhills@eccog.org

Coastal NC Water Resources Conference—March 23rd in Wrightsville Beach

March 23 at Holiday Inn Resort at Wrightsville Beach. Cost: \$65 if paid by 3/5, \$85 after. Across North Carolina water resources have become a top priority. The drought in 2007 caused many to look more critically and to question issues surrounding this precious resource. Where does our water come from when we turn on the spigot, and who is in charge of it? What rights do we have as citizens? What rights do small businesses, as well as large corporations have to water? How are these resources allocated and prioritized? Citizens, interest groups, businesses, local leaders, policy makers, and elected officials all recognize the importance and complexity of these questions and the ever-increasing demands that are being exacted on our states water resources. The Wilmington-Cape Fear Homebuilders Association in conjunction with the Business Alliance for a Sound Economy (BASE) will host the state's top water resource experts, and policy makers to provide a regional, statewide, and local perspective of the important policy tools and regulatory strategies that will have an effect on our state's water resources.

<http://www.wcfhba.com/EventCalendar/tabid/66/vw/3/ItemID/51/d/20100323/Default.aspx>

Sustainable Energy Conference

A conference on sustainable energy will be held April 20-21 at the McKimmon Center at N.C. State University. The conference, sponsored by the N.C. State Energy Office, will focus on how to achieve sustainability in a challenging economic climate. The event will feature nationally recognized speakers, including state and federal elected officials, as well as exhibitors from leading conservation and research organizations. Before March 31, registration costs \$109 for private sector professionals and \$59 for public sector professionals and students. Read more or register [online](#).

<http://sustainable-energy-conference.org/> (Source: Rural Partners Update)

Regional economy key to improving rural America

U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack wrote a long op-ed for the Des Moines (Iowa) Register where he outlined "six approaches" for improving rural economies. "In searching for answers about how rural America can transform itself into a place of unprecedented prosperity, all of us should resist the easy temptation of looking back to the "good old days." The answers lie in the future, not in the past. During the past year at USDA, at the instruction of President Obama, we worked on the elements of a new rural economy built on a combination of the successful strategies of today and the compelling opportunities of tomorrow. The framework of the new effort recognizes that the rural economy of tomorrow will be a regional economy. No one community will prosper in isolation." Read the full op-ed at: <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=20101310318>

Division of Coastal Management releases Final Draft of Terminal Groin Study

The long-awaited Terminal Groin Study has been released by DCM. It only addresses these structures at inlets, however. <http://www.nccoastalmanagement.net/CRC/tgs/Terminal%20Groin%20Study%20Final%20Report.pdf>

Nominate your local tax collector for “Outstanding Tax Collector of the Year” award

The North Carolina Tax Collectors’ Association is seeking nominations for the “Outstanding Tax Collector of the Year”. Should you believe your municipality or county has an outstanding Tax Collector, please take the time to nominate them for this wonderful award. The Tax Collector of the Year award is one of highest award that the North Carolina Tax Collectors’ Association presents to a tax collector each year. The award is present at the annual Tax Collectors’ conference in April of each year. Please send your nominations by email to Gary C. Roberts at gary.roberts@buncombecounty.org who is chairing the nominations committee for this selection. All nominations need to be in by March 8, 2010.

Coates Canons: 'Free Speech Rights in Government Social Media Sites'

From the SOG: Government agencies are increasingly recognizing the need to communicate with their constituents and to promote citizen participation in government programs and issues. Government web sites have become standard fare, providing information and mostly one-way communication from the government to the public. Government use of more interactive “social media,” such as Facebook and Twitter, raises questions about whether the public has free speech rights in these forums. Can the government limit, screen, or censor comments by the public on its social media sites? You may view the latest post at <http://sogweb.sog.unc.edu/blogs/localgovt/?p=1970>

Interior Launches WaterSMART Initiative

Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar today signed a Secretarial order establishing a new water sustainability strategy for the United States. Salazar showcased the Department of the Interior’s WaterSMART Initiative at a press conference featuring a geospatial presentation on water supply and demand in the high-tech operations center at the Department’s headquarters. The “SMART” in WaterSMART stands for “Sustain and Manage America’s Resources for Tomorrow.” “The federal government’s existing water policies and programs simply aren’t built for 21st century pressures on water supplies,” Salazar said. “Population growth. Climate change. Rising energy demands. Environmental needs. Aging infrastructure. Risks to drinking water supplies. Those are just some of the challenges.” He noted that the 2011 budget proposed by President Obama for the Department of the Interior doubles the current enacted 2010 appropriations for water programs to move the initiative forward. It includes \$72.9 million for the WaterSMART program, which is a total increase of \$36.4 million over 2010.

http://www.doi.gov/news/pressreleases/2010_02_22_release.cfm

From SOG: Coates Canons: '5 Myths About Tax Foreclosures'

With taxpayers across the state still suffering financially, local governments may be forced to rely on foreclosures more than ever to generate vital property tax revenue. Here are five persistent myths about tax foreclosures that deserve debunking. You may view the latest post at <http://sogweb.sog.unc.edu/blogs/localgovt/?p=1944>

EPA Water & Climate news—White Paper on Water Planning

The Water Utility Climate Alliance Has Released a White Paper: /Decision Support Planning Methods: Incorporating Climate Change Uncertainties into Water Planning /*The Water Utility Climate Alliance has released a white paper entitled /Decision Support Planning Methods: Incorporating Climate Change Uncertainties into Water Planning/. This report outlines planning approaches to help water utilities adapt to climate change and was produced to help water utilities consider and evaluate traditional and emerging planning methods for use in their own climate adaptation efforts. Integrating climate change information into water utility planning is one aspect in the climate change adaptation process, and this paper will help water utilities identify the method(s) most suitable for their planning needs. The report is available at: http://www.wucaonline.org/assets/pdf/actions_whitepaper_012110.pdf

Article examines methods to encourage affordable green housing

Green affordable housing or affordable housing incorporating sustainable building practices and materials can provide significant financial and environmental benefits to residents over the long term. However, the upfront costs associated with green building can be higher when compared to regular building practices. To offset these development costs and promote green affordable housing, many state and local governments offer financial assistance in the form of tax credits, rebate programs, tax exemptions, and funding grants. In this article, we’ll take a look at some regulatory incentives adopted by state and local governments, such as lot size reductions, density bonuses, and expedited approvals. [Read more...](#) (Source: Southern Compass)

Workshops/Meetings/Events/Deadlines coming up soon

- 3/11 ECC Executive Committee Meeting at ECC office—2nd Floor Conference Room 6 PM
- 3/18 Highway 70 Commission meeting in Carteret County <http://www.super70corridor.com/>
- 3/21-23 Governor's Conference on Hospitality & Tourism in New Bern [Governor's Conference agenda](#).
- 3/23 Hearing on proposed reclaimed water rule revisions in Greenville
http://h2o.enr.state.nc.us/admin/rules/codes_statutes.htm
- 3/23 NC Coastal Water Resources Conference in Wrightsville Beach
<http://www.wcfhba.com/EventCalendar/tabid/66/vw/3/ItemID/51/d/20100323/Default.aspx>
- 3/26-27 Latin American migration conference at UNC-CH <http://isa.unc.edu/migration/ConferenceMain.asp>
- 3/29 Water Harvesting Workshop in Raleigh <http://www.bae.ncsu.edu/stormwater/training/waterharvesting.html>
- 3/29-30 NC BIWA Annual meeting at Pine Knoll Shores Aquarium <http://www.ncbiwa.org/RegFormLocGovt10.pdf>
- 3/30-31 WRRI 12th Annual meeting: State of Water Resource in Raleigh <http://www.ncsu.edu/wrri/conference/cfa.html>
- 4/1 CENSUS DAY!! Be Counted!**
- 4/13-14 Project Design and Evaluation Workshop in Beaufort (Pivers Island)
<http://www.nccoastaltraining.net/Scheduled-Workshops/92.aspx>
- 4/20-21 Sustainable Energy Conference at NCSU McKimmon Center. <http://sustainable-energy-conference.org/>
- 4/29 Grant applications due for projects to address nonpoint source pollution--319(h) funds
http://h2o.enr.state.nc.us/nps/Section_319_Grant_Program.htm
- 5/4-5 Coastal Plain Restoration Tour & workshop in Edenton http://www.ncsu.edu/srp/rc_400.html

Note: The material contained in this bulletin is a compilation from a number of electronic and print sources.

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