

**PASQUOTANK COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA  
JANUARY 12, 2015**

The Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners met today in a work session on Monday, January 12, 2015 in the Community Room at the W.C. Witherspoon Memorial Library.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Joseph S. Winslow, Jr., Chairman *(Arrived at 3:20 PM)*  
 Cecil Perry, Vice-Chairman *(Arrived at 3:45 PM)*  
 Jeff Dixon  
 Lloyd E. Griffin, III  
 Dr. William R. Sterritt  
 Frankie Meads  
 Bettie J. Parker

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Rodney Bunch, County Manager  
 R. Michael Cox, County Attorney  
 Karen Jennings, Clerk to the Board

The meeting was convened at 3:10 PM. County Manager Rodney Bunch recognized Cyrena Eitler, Compatible Use Program Director with the Department of Defense Office of Economic Adjustment. Ms. Eitler said she has with her today Captain Jake Johansson, Commander of NSA Hampton Roads Northwest Annex, William Defoe, Community Plan Liaison Officer, and Dr. Pat Mitchell, Assistant Secretary for the North Carolina Department of Commerce Rural Development. She stated that the reason she is here today is because the Navy nominated the Northwest Annex installation for a Joint Land Use Study (JLUS). She noted that they have projects all over the country and currently have about 75 joint land use studies underway at different phases of the process. She said the reasons the military makes these nominations is that they want to promote collaboration with the surrounding communities to help the communities better understand the military's mission, the operations, and help community representatives make more informed decisions as they guide development in the community over time. Ms. Eitler said the role of her office is to engage with state or local governments to get a land use study underway. She stated that they also provide grant assistance as these projects are funded 90% by the federal government with grant funds and a 10% non-federal match is required. She explained that once a study sponsor is identified, she will work with that sponsor and their staff to help put together a grant application, develop a scope of work and get the project underway. She stated that the whole purpose of a JLUS is to promote collaboration between the installation and the surrounding communities and come up with a planning process to help the communities make more informed decisions and promote compatible development into the future. This would enable the installation to continue to operate and conduct their military mission and operations, and the community could also continue to grow and thrive economically.

Ms. Eitler said about five or six years ago her office engaged the National Academy of Public Administration to conduct an overview of the compatible use program and make recommendations on how to improve the JLUS process. She stated that one of the observations noted by the National Academy of Public Administration is that military installations are considered assets and many installations should be considered national treasures because they cannot be replaced. She said the integrity of the installations needs to be protected and the JLUS process is meant to help support that. She explained that over the years there have been additional issues that have come into play where the military is concerned about compatible use in the surrounding communities. She said when the JLUS program began in the mid 1980's most of their projects were at Air Force bases and the focus of the study effort was near the ends of the runways, the accident potential zones, the clear zones, and land development near noise contours. Since then these joint land use studies have expanded significantly. They are now looking at air space capacity, noise impacts, and urban development. Ms. Eitler noted that the purpose of a JLUS is not to stop development, but to make sure the development that does occur near the installation is appropriate and is compatible with continued military operations. She said they are also looking at spectrum or frequency encroachment, and alternative energy such as wind and solar development. She stated that one of the reasons the Navy made a nomination for this installation is a concern for alternative wind energy development in Northeastern North Carolina and making sure that as those projects are proposed and move forward that the Navy

has an opportunity to have a dialogue with the wind developers early in the process rather than later. This would allow decisions on how best to site the energy project so it is done in such a way as to lessen the impact to the continued military operations. Other examples of compatible use issues are air quality and water supply. Examples of impacts to the training and operations of the facility as a result of development include: reduced training days for the installation activities; restrictions and reduced access to the ranges that are used for training, testing and evaluation; and restrictions on flight altitudes for the military aircraft.

Ms. Eitler stated that her office was created to help state and local governments respond to adverse impacts from defense actions. They provide that assistance to state and local governments by providing technical assistance and financial assistance through their grant program. They help the communities plan and carry out strategies in response to whatever the defense action might be and help them engage the private sector to assist in carrying out those strategies. They also work with the military departments to help support that collaboration and that partnership between the communities and the military. Ms. Eitler explained they are an independent field activity with their main offices in Arlington, Virginia and they provide their services through project managers. She said they bring things to the attention of the military and are also looking out for the interests of the communities that host these installations and support the continued military operations. She stated that their program focuses on helping communities respond to base closures and realignments, base expansions, defense industry cutbacks, installation drawdowns, and to promote compatible development around military operations.

Ms. Eitler explained that the Office of Economic Adjustment will provide technical and financial assistance to the local governments to undertake the proposed JLUS and to carry out the recommendations. She said she will work very closely with the study sponsor and the grantee and will help with development of the grant application and scope of work. She will also be available to assist throughout the study process. Once the JLUS is completed and various recommendations are included, they will also be available to help carry out some of the recommendations through technical assistance and potential financial assistance. The JLUS is meant to be a cooperative effort and is a community driven study, although the Department of Navy will be at the table as a technical resource and help local governments understand the military operations and better understand what their concerns are.

Ms. Eitler stated that the military will be a partner and they ask that the installation commander be a member of the JLUS policy committee that provides oversight of the study effort. She said the JLUS will serve as a comprehensive strategic plan to help promote compatible development. She stated that the benefit of the JLUS is that it will promote more of a permanent partnership and working relationship with the installation and continuous dialogue over time. Once the study is completed, she said they would like to see that partnership and collaboration continue indefinitely.

Ms. Eitler explained that one of the first things that needs to be done is to identify the study area and assign a project manager. She said she asked to be assigned to this project because she is already working with some other North Carolina counties on another JLUS. She said after meeting with Captain Johansson and the staff at the Northwest Installation they identified five counties in Northeastern North Carolina as the mission footprint that should probably participate in the JLUS and Pasquotank is one of the five. The other counties include Perquimans, Gates, Camden, and Currituck. Ms. Eitler said there are various technical documents the installation will provide to the counties to help them understand their operations. She explained that another piece of the JLUS is trying to figure out how local governments review proposed development projects and issue permits. She said in dealing with energy developers, local staff might be the first to hear about a proposed project and ideally what they would hope to have happen is that the energy developer would be referred to the local installation so they are aware of the proposed project. This would begin the dialogue and the working relationship to help insure that the proposed energy project is sited in such a way that the military could continue its operations and that it lessens the adverse impacts on the operations. Ms. Eitler said it would be beneficial for the military to become involved in the projects earlier rather than later.

Ms. Eitler stated if the five counties decide to participate, a study sponsor would need to be selected and serve as the grant recipient of the federal funds. The counties would also have to provide the 10% non-federal match which can be met by staff contributing time and expertise to support the effort. Ms. Eitler said they also look to the community to be a leader in the study effort and ensure there is broad based community participation, that the appropriate stakeholders

are engaged in the study effort, and that meetings are publicly advertised in order to get as much community participation as possible. Once the study is completed and various recommendations are made, it would be up to the counties to follow thru and carry out the recommendations. The Office of Economic Adjustment would provide guidance and provide technical assistance to the counties and to the installation. It would also facilitate communications among the jurisdictions, the military, and other parties as appropriate.

Ms. Eitler reviewed the various implementation tools and actions that might be taken once a JLUS is adopted. She said between 1985 and 2014 a total of 103 joint land use studies were completed nationwide.

Commissioner William Sterritt asked if Camden County is one of the five counties included in the proposed JLUS. Ms. Eitler said Camden County is ideally one of the counties, however a letter was received from the Camden County Manager advising that the Camden County Board of Commissioners is not interested in participating in the study. She stated that she is scheduled to meet with the other counties to continue discussions of a possible JLUS.

Ms. Eitler noted that most joint land use studies cost an average of \$250,000 to \$300,000 and in this case the cost may be a little less because the issues are more limited.

Commissioner Jeff Dixon stated that it would be hard for him to justify providing a 10% match from taxpayers' money for a project that might somehow tie the county's hands in the end.

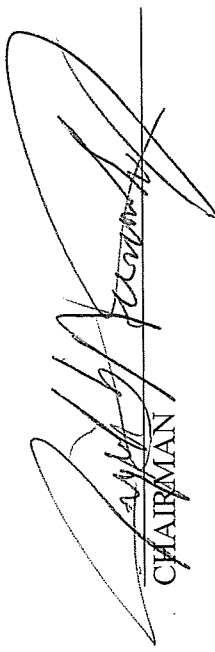
Captain Johansson explained that the radar that operates at Northwest Annex is high frequency ionospheric bounce and is different from air traffic control radar. He said they follow Caribbean drug traffickers and with the downsizing of the military and the redirection of Navy and Air Force personnel to the Mideast, this radar is the only one following the traffickers and the swath is phenomenal. He added that the ROTHAR radar is the one thing they are concerned about with Northeastern North Carolina. He said objects at a distance and nearby electromagnetic interference could be an issue.

Captain Johansson explained that this study will have everyone on the same page when it comes to issues such as wind energy. He noted that he talks weekly with the developer of the wind energy project proposed in Pasquotank County. He said this is a prime example of how a JLUS could work to the military's and the developer's advantage by getting involved early rather than 18 months into the process when the Department of Commerce could shut down a project because it is a matter of national security. He stated that he does not want to curtail economic development and would like to foster communication with the five counties to insure that doesn't happen. He added that he would like to have a closer relationship with the counties and is excited to be part of this collaborative process.

County Manager Rodney Bunch asked how many of the five counties need to agree to participate in the JLUS for the project to move forward. Ms. Eitler stated from the Navy's perspective the two key counties are probably Camden and Currituck. She noted that some of these studies have moved forward even though all of the jurisdictions they would like to participate are not participating.

Ms. Eitler advised that the next step is for the Board of Commissioners to determine if it is interested in participating in the JLUS. She said she will continue her meetings with the other jurisdictions over the next few weeks.

The work session was adjourned at 4:10 PM.



CHAIRMAN



CLERK TO THE BOARD