

PASQUOTANK COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
NOVEMBER 4, 2013

The Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners met today in a work session on Monday, November 4, 2013 in the Community Room at the W.C. Witherspoon Memorial Library.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jeff Dixon, Chairman
Joseph S. Winslow, Jr., Vice-Chairman
Lloyd E. Griffin, III
Cecil Perry
Dr. William R. Sterritt
Gary G. White
Frankie Meads

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

OTHERS PRESENT:

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

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 PM. Interim County Manager Rodney Bunch introduced Mr. Wesley Brown, Hydraulic Engineer with the Corps of Engineers, to present the Knobbs Creek Planning Assistance Hydrology and Hydraulics Study. Mr. Bunch explained that this process began about 19 months ago when the Corps agreed to conduct a study of the Knobbs Creek Tributary.


Mr. Brown gave an overview of the study, where they began, how the study progressed, what they hoped to accomplish throughout the study, as well as their findings to try to help alleviate the flooding issues in Knobbs Creek. He stated that the Knobbs Creek Watershed consists of approximately 29 acres of extremely flat topography. Development in the watershed has exacerbated the flooding problem with the increase of impervious area and the routing of flow away from the natural water course.

Mr. Brown explained that in order to identify potential problems in the Knobbs Creek drainage system, hydrologic and hydraulic models were developed. The models were applied to the November 2009 storm event during which almost six inches of rain fell in the area over a 24-hour period resulting in flooding in several areas of the county. If stream debris and obstruction removal work was conducted in the channel of the Knobbs Creek Tributary, it could result in a water level reduction of about 0.88 foot in the Oxford Heights neighborhood which received the worst flooding in the November 2009 storm, and a reduction of about 0.6 foot in the Northeastern Terrace Subdivision. Another method of improvement to the Knobbs Creek Tributary would consist of widening and shaping the channel in order to increase its capacity. This could result in reduced water levels of over a foot in the tributary. Mr. Brown explained that excavation of the channel will be extremely difficult to obtain a permit for given the habitat in the stream. He said stream debris and obstruction removal would be less of an uphill battle in the permitting process than excavation. He stated that such a project could be pursued by the city and/or the county, however there is currently a moratorium on new project starts under this authority.

Mr. Brown stated that the most effective measure analyzed to eliminate flood damages would be to elevate houses within flood prone areas by 4.5 to 5 feet, however this may not be economically justifiable when the cost of elevating a house exceeds the associated flood damages prevented.

After discussion and questions, the Board thanked Mr. Brown for his report. The meeting was adjourned at 4:22 PM.

Karen Jennings
CLERK TO THE BOARD


CHAIRMAN