

NC STEP, November 17, 2011

NC STEP Advisory Committee Meeting
Pamlico Community College Delamar Center Conference Room
November 17, 2011 @ 5:30 p.m.

Attending: Beth Bucksot, Carla Byrnes, Dr. Cleve Cox, Brian Dodds, Jerry Prescott and Dee Sage.

In the absence of STEP Coordinator, Barbara Baker, who was attending the NC Rural Forum in Raleigh, Beth Bucksot opened the meeting at 5:35 p.m. Mrs. Sage agreed to prepare the minutes for this meeting.

The minutes for the October 20, 2011, meeting were distributed via e-mail. Mrs. Sage recommended some clarification changes regarding the mentoring project and the highway plant beautification project.

MOTION: Mr. Dodds moved and Ms. Bucksot seconded a motion to accept the minutes as amended. The motion passed unanimously. Mrs. Sage will e-mail the amended minutes to Ms. Baker.

Retiree Friendly Community Assessment Project: Ms. Bucksot reported that Ms. Hills has been out of the office and she was unavailable to get an up-date on this project. Since there is unlikely to be another meeting before the brochure projects need to be completed, the committee agreed that Ms. Hill's draft brochure should be e-mailed to STEP members for editing prior to printing.

Waterfront Development Project: Ms. Bucksot reported that the playground equipment has been installed. The project is considered completed despite the formalities of Steve Molar, NC DENR, carrying out a "walk-through" and PARTF signing off on the project. There may be a request to install a walkway for the disabled, but this does not change the completed status.

Tourism Amenities Project: Ms. Bucksot reported that the tourism brochure is ready to be printed. This will be delayed until the retiree brochure is completed so both can be printed and mailed at the same time.

MOTION: Mr. Dodds moved and Ms. Byrnes seconded a motion to authorize the printing of 6,000 tourism brochures and 2,000 to 3,000 retiree brochures as long as the cost remains within the \$1,000 previously approved for printing. The motion passed unanimously.

Hwy Corridor Plant Beautification Project: This project was discussed relative to amending the October 20th minutes. Mrs. Bucksot clarified that the Chamber of Commerce is working toward a goal of getting business owners to work together, which may lead to the possibility of them supporting and implementing a highway corridor plant beautification effort.

B-E Committee Report: The B-E sub-committee met on Monday, November 14, 2011. B-E would like to encourage follow-up with the public school system to assure that the REAL program is attuned to the CBC Strategic Plan. B-E is planning a symposium in late February or

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early March. This will be a follow-up of the March 2009 Countywide Stakeholders Symposium and a time to showcase Bayboro STEP accomplishments. It is anticipated that there will be a panel which will include representatives from Eastern Region, the Department of Commerce and the Rural Center. Pat Sordill will be asked to facilitate a structured question and answer session. B-E will not have a meeting in December. STEP's B-E and Tourism committees will combine and have their first meeting on January 10, 2012, and will be called STEP II. This committee will assume the task of planning and executing the symposium.

Economic Development/Tourism Authority: B-E continues to discuss this matter. Attempts to get someone from the PC Committee of 100 involved in our efforts have not produced any results. It is anticipated that STEP II will take up the task of determining the form the EDTA will take. It is hoped that the upcoming symposium will result in recruitment of new members.

Other Business: NCDOT is holding public workshops in Dare County to get input for development of a long-range plan for the vulnerable main roadway linking the barrier islands. This relates to earlier STEP discussions about a proposal introduced in the publication *The Battle for North Carolina's Coast*, by Stanley R. Riggs, to abandon constant repairs of Hwy 12 and introduce a high-speed ferry system from North Carolina's mainland. Bayboro was mentioned in this proposal as a potential ferry port. Mrs. Sage stated that she is can attend the meeting scheduled for Manteo on Monday, December 5, 2011, from 4:00-7:00 p.m. but would need a ride back to Pamlico County. She invited others who might want to attend this meeting to spend Monday night at her family's home in Dare County. Anyone interested should contact Mrs. Sage soon.

MOTION: Dr. Cox moved and Mr. Dodds seconded a motion to adjourn. The meeting ended at 6:30 p.m.

Note Taker, Dee Sage