



# BOARD BULLETIN

April 4, 2008

## *Legislative Update*

Several key legislative issues were discussed earlier this week at the annual NC Association of Commissioners (NCACC) district meeting in Raleigh. Below please find a synopsis of the key items:

### • **Property Tax Items**

#### 1. Senate Bill 1309

This bill would provide tax breaks to both developers and rental property owners. The benefit for developers would be realized in the fact that land under development in a subdivision would not be taxed at an improved rate until the property is actually sold. With respect to rental property owners, low income rental property would be taxed at the actual rental income value and not the fair market value of the property.

#### 2. House Bill 1889

This bill would expand the present-use value system to include wildlife conservation land taxed at present-use value in lieu of fair market value on a deferred basis. This bill, if passed, has the potential to significantly impact ad valorem tax revenue in Anson.

### • **Mental Health & Criminal Justice Items**

#### 1. Probation and Parole

Given the recent events in Orange and Durham counties, it is expected the Legislature will take a close look at the current resources available for intensive probation cases.

#### 2. JCPC and CJJP Funding

A new formula is being proposed for distributing State funds to local jurisdictions. Further, it appears the funding priority will focus on court-involved youth versus at-risk.

#### 3. County funding of AOC Phone Systems

Pressure will be put on the State Legislature from both the NCACC and AOC to repeal legislation that called for counties to assume the cost of court system phone/voice technology as of July 1, 2008.

## *Legislative Update - Continued*

### • **Water and Drought Items**

#### 1. Improving Leak Detection

The State will continue to urge systems to place more emphasis on leak detection to avoid the loss of treated water. The Governor recently released a plan that calls for water system modernization across the State of NC. This modernization effort includes linking water system action (or inaction) around the development of water shortage plans, leak detection measures, and conservation based pricing to State funding.

#### 2. Water Allocation Study

The State Legislature has mandated a long-term water supply and allocation study within the context of an inter-basin transfer bill. Duke University and UNC have been contracted to assist with the study.

## *Monroe By-Pass Update*

The NC Turnpike Authority has released an updated fact sheet related to the Monroe By-Pass project. The 21.1 mile project is estimated to cost between \$390 and \$720 million. The current project schedule calls for the Turnpike Authority to award the construction contract in December 2009. The construction project is scheduled to be complete and open to traffic sometime during the year 2013.

### **Upcoming Meetings & Events**

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| <b>Joint Meeting<br/>w/SPCC Trustees</b>              | Tuesday, April 15<br>6:00 PM<br>Polkton Depot |
| <b>Special Board Mtg.<br/>Class &amp; Comp Review</b> | Thursday, April 24<br>5:30 PM<br>Courtroom #1 |
| <b>Regular Board Mtg.</b>                             | Monday, May 12<br>6:00 PM<br>Courtroom #1     |