

Chairman Lewis asked Mr. Overman if the Parks & Recreation Department had any use for this portion of Swinson Park that contained wetlands. Mr. Overman said no, noting that it was disjoined from the rest of the usable property.

Commissioner Comer said he would like to get an idea of how much an appraisal of the property would cost so they would have a better idea of the value of the property. He said he would prefer to see the property line run along the center of the creek bed. Commissioner Comer pointed out that there were two Commissioners who couldn't be at the meeting so he preferred to table this item until everyone could be present.

Chairman Lewis said he was in agreement. He asked Mr. Horton if the buyers would be willing to purchase the property based on the line running along the creek bed or a triangle off to the corner. Mr. Horton said it really didn't matter. He said he had talked to Ron Cullipher with Stroud Engineering to see if the wetlands had any value for future impervious and he didn't think it did, given the new regulations. Therefore, he didn't think it mattered if they had them or not. Mr. Horton said he thought any line the County proposed would be fine. He said he thought Mr. Overman was going to talk to the Tax Department to come up with an estimated in-house appraisal but he wasn't sure if he had done that. Chairman Lewis said one problem was not knowing where the lines ran. Mr. Horton asked if they needed to visit the property or get it surveyed.

Commissioner Comer said he would like to hear from staff about what they felt was best for the County. He said he had no problem with getting an appraisal and putting this property out for public bid if that was the consensus of the Board.

Commissioner Crittenton said she would like the value of the parcel to be established. She pointed out that the parcel was completely landlocked.

Motion-Commissioner Comer moved to table this item. Commissioner Smith seconded. **Motion carried unanimously.**

BREAK

XIII. RESOLUTION OPPOSING SUBSURFACE INJECTION OF FRACKING OF WASTE IN EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA, IN CONJUNCTION WITH SENATE BILL 76 "THE DOMESTIC ENERGY JOBS ACT"

Chairman Lewis said the State Senate was considering fracking as a way to recover natural gas from the surface of the earth. He said this was limited to about 7-8 counties where he was lead to believe that this endeavor would take place. Chairman Lewis thanked Representative McElraft for staying alert to this issue. He said there was a proposal to transport the water recovered from fracking to the coastal areas and inject it in our soil on the eastern coast. Chairman Lewis said well water was our number one priority in the coastal areas and for years our aquifer was running dry which caused concern. He said fracking was new to this part of the State and although it hadn't started yet, there was much debate on what was in the chemicals. Chairman Lewis said he felt if the economic benefits were going to be limited to a relatively small area of the State, they should be able to handle their own water. He said he was led to believe that they could clean the water but it was cheaper to transport it somewhere else and inject it into the ground.

Chairman Lewis said this issue was a concern, not only in Carteret County, but across the coastal counties. He said the Board wasn't against fracking but they didn't support transporting and disposing the water that was recovered from fracking to eastern North Carolina.

Commissioner Robinson said he was in favor of this resolution.

Motion-Commissioner Smith moved to adopt a resolution opposing the subsurface injection of fracking waste in Eastern North Carolina. Commissioner Comer seconded. **Motion carried unanimously**

The Resolution was as follows:

RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE SUBSURFACE INJECTION OF FRACKING WASTE IN EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA

WHEREAS, the protection of Carteret County's source of future drinking water supplies is vital to the current and future residents of Carteret County. The proposed Senate Bill 76 will authorize the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to issue permits on or after March 1, 2015 for oil and gas exploration and development activities in the State. Part IV of the proposed legislation is an amendment to the existing statute governing subsurface fluid injection. Currently, the discharge of any wastes to the subsurface or groundwaters of the State by means of wells is prohibited; and

WHEREAS, the intent of Part IV of SB76 is to lift the ban on subsurface injection through adoption of the following specific language: *"The discharge of any wastes to the subsurface or groundwaters of the State by means of wells is prohibited. This section shall not be construed to prohibit (i) the operation of closed-loop groundwater remediation systems in accordance with G.S. 143-215.1A or (ii) injection of hydraulic fracturing fluid for the exploration or development of natural gas resources and water produced from subsurface geologic formations during the extraction of natural gas, condensate, or oil in North Carolina;"* and

WHEREAS, SB76 therefore provides for the termination of the current ban on injection of liquid wastes by means of wells into the groundwater system in North Carolina, and SB76 specifically addresses the disposal of fluids produced during the process of hydraulic fracturing associated with the development of natural gas resources. Although SB76 does not include language which specially identifies where waste disposal (via well injection) will be permitted, there has been a significant amount of public discussion about the disposal of fracturing fluids into the aquifer systems of the North Carolina Coastal Plain. One specific area that has been targeted is the saline part of our Coastal Plain aquifers. The introduction of contaminants via injection wells directly threatens the utilization of all aquifers as potable water sources; and

WHEREAS, the Coastal Plain province is blessed with thick and prolific aquifers that provide the bulk of water for municipal, agricultural, industrial and residential use within the region. Only three communities in the entire Coastal Plain rely partly or solely on surface water. In spite of the presence of these prolific aquifer systems, increasing demands for water resources in the Coastal Plain has required the implementation of stringent water resource management programs, including the Central Coastal Plain Capacity Use Area. Carteret County utilizes both the fresh water and salt water portions of our aquifers to meet our current and future water supply demands. One common misconception is that the saline portions of our coastal aquifer systems are unusable. Nothing could be further from the truth. Indeed, the saline portions of the system will become an increasingly important water source as population demands continue to increase; and

WHEREAS, the fresh and saline groundwater resources of the Coastal Plain of North Carolina are vital to the future of the region and the State of North Carolina as a whole. The protection of these vital resources cannot be compromised. We emphatically state our position that the North Carolina General Assembly not pass SB76, or any other legislation which effectively lifts the ban on injecting liquid wastes into the fresh or saline parts of the groundwater systems of North Carolina without first completing a thorough study of the potential effects of these actions. The coastal groundwater system is complex, and the injection of liquid wastes into this system would prove to be detrimental. There are essentially no unusable portions of the groundwater system in the Coastal Plain, and targeting the saline portions as waste disposal reservoirs is based on lack of understanding of the value of the resource to the current and future viability of the region.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Carteret County Board of Commissioners urges the North Carolina General Assembly to maintain current laws in North Carolina that prevent disposal of hydraulic fracturing waste through underground injection or above ground storage in Eastern North Carolina and to take no action that would weaken these laws before a viable option for disposal of fracking waste is found that does not include Eastern North Carolina.

ADOPTED, this the 15th day of April 2013.

John Gregory Lewis, Chairman
Carteret County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Jeanette Deese, MMC, NCCCC
Clerk to the Board

XIV. MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Overman reported on the following:

NCACC Regional Meeting

Mr. Overman reminded the Board of the NCACC Regional meeting in Greenville on April 24th.

Mental Health Services Forum

Mr. Overman reminded the Board of the upcoming mental health services forum scheduled for May 2nd at Joslyn Hall at Carteret Community College from 7:00-9:00 p.m.

May and June BOC Meetings

Mr. Overman reminded the Board that they would be conducting two regular meetings in May and June. He said their next meeting was scheduled for May 6th and he planned to limit that agenda to minor consent items, with the emphasis on the budget presentation.

Chairman Lewis asked if the Fire & EMS budgets could be addressed first in order to disseminate that information to the towns as soon as possible. Mr. Ford spoke from the audience and said the Fire & EMS Commission expected to complete their budget work the following week so he didn't think this would be a problem.

Mr. Overman said he planned to have each County Department present their budgets to the Board during future budget meetings, as they did in the past. Chairman Lewis said that was acceptable and he recommended that they also present a short briefing on the role of their department, in a condensed manner.