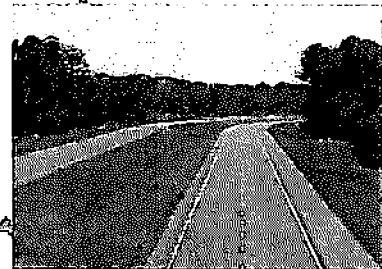
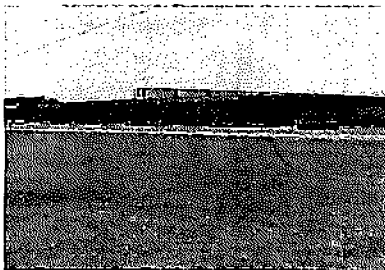
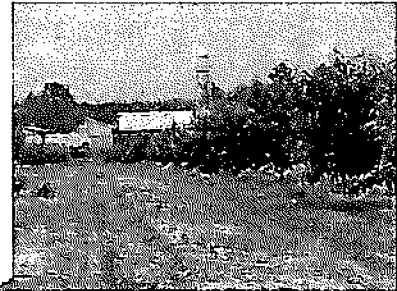
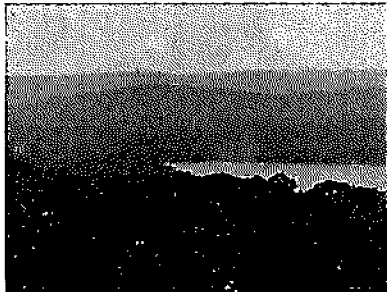


**STRATEGIC LAND USE PLAN
RICHMOND COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
JULY, 2000**



**PREPARED BY:
RICHMOND COUNTY LAND USE COMMITTEE**

**ADOPTED:
RICHMOND COUNTY LAND USE COMMITTEE - JUNE 29, 2000
RICHMOND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS—AUGUST 7, 2000**



RICHMOND COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
Department of Planning and G. I. S. Services
114 E. Franklin Street • P.O. Box 504
Rockingham, NC 28380
910-417-4917

To: Richmond County Board of County Commissioners
From: Harvey Melton, Chairman of the Richmond County
Land Use Committee
Date: Monday July 24th, 2000

RE: Submittal of the Proposed Richmond County Strategic Land Use Plan

After completing a yearlong process, which included 28 meetings, the Richmond County Land Use Committee hereby submits the Proposed Richmond County Strategic Land Use Plan. This plan is the result of 20 committee members taking part in eleven educational meetings, seven community meetings, and ten plan development meetings. I can say on behalf of the entire Land Use Committee, that this plan represents not only the dedication that was shown by the Land Use Committee in pulling this plan together, but the willingness of the citizens Richmond County to come forward and share their ideas on the future of this great county. As we traveled throughout the County having the community meetings, we truly realized what a diverse and beautiful county we call home.

The Land Use Committee would also like to extend their appreciation to the Richmond County Board of Commissioners for their support and encouragement through this planning process. The ability to work in a non-political environment assured the successful completion and submittal of this strategic land use plan. It is hoped that the Commissioners will adopt this plan and begin working toward its many goals and objectives. This plan lays out the strategies for the County to strongly consider towards the state goals and objectives over the next 5 years or so. While not specifically apart of the proposed plan, the Committee does recommend that this planning process be re-created by the year 2005.

The Committee would also like to thank County Planning Director James Armstrong for his leadership and foresight in this planning process. Mr. Armstrong kept the Committee focused on the task at hand and provided a learning environment that enabled the committee to truly understand the scope and depth of this project. As you are aware, the Land Use Committee is a very diverse group of citizens throughout Richmond County, and James did an excellent job facilitating us toward our goal. The Committee would like to recognize the assistance of the many speakers that were made available during the educational meetings, which helped to form the background required to accomplish our charge. Finally the Committee would like to thank the many County staff members that helped during the community meetings, including Hope Bostick, Tammy Leviner, Sharon Covington, Rick Sago, and Jim Haynes.

The Richmond County Land Use Committee respectfully offers this Strategic Land Use Plan for your consideration. If the Land Use Committee or I can be of further service, please do not hesitate to make contact.

Richmond County Strategic Land Use Plan Administrative Summary

Athens expects every citizen to take an interest in public affairs. We do believe in knowledge as a guide to action: we have the power of thinking before we act and of acting too. I would have you fix your eyes on Athens day by day, contemplate her potentiality, not merely what she is, but what she has the power to be. Reflect that her glory has been built up by [persons] who know their duty and had the courage to do it. Make them your examples and learn from them. ~~~ Pericles

The term “land use plan” means many things to many people. In some cases the term means a comprehensive look at development trends, population changes, housing needs, and transportation requirements over a 20-year period. Such comprehensive land use plans can take several years and hundreds of man-hours to complete. Many of these type land use plans wind up “on the shelf” due to their complexity and difficult recommendations. Normally these types of land use plans become nothing more than information overload.

In other cases, this term means a strategic land use plan or a strategic development plan, because it looks at the development strategies in the area being studied. This type of plan looks forward about 5 to 10 years at the most pressing development issues facing a community. It is usually a short compact plan that identifies goals, objectives and strategies to accomplish during the 5 to 10 year planning cycle. The Richmond County Land Use Committee has developed such a strategic plan for land development and growth.

The Richmond County Board of Commissioners deserves credit for recognizing the merits of a strategic land use plan. During their 1999 Commissioner’s retreat, they saw the need for some land use planning in the wake of an exploding school population in the Hoffman area as the result of manufactured homes parks being developed almost over night. The teacher per student ratio in Hoffman elementary school went from 1:15 to almost 1:30 in a short period of time. The reason for this increase seemed to be due, at least in part, to Moore County’s adoption of a land use plan, which restricted manufactured home parks. After hearing from the Moore County Planning Department, the Richmond County Board of Commissioners decided to appoint a land use committee and charge this committee with bringing back a land use plan. Since the Moore County Strategic Land Use Plan was strongly supported by the Moore County citizens, the Richmond County Board of Commissioner’s agreed that the strategic planning process would also work best in Richmond County.

The three basic elements of a strategic land use plan are goals, objectives, and strategies. A goal is the ideal we want to achieve, for instance this plan states one goal is “to preserve, protect, and sustain the rural nature of the county”. There is a sense in Richmond County that the rural nature is our heartbeat, which creates an ideal

community feeling to be protected. An objective is the result we want. An example of an objective is *"to protect the integrity of farming and of rural area"*, which is really what is being desired. And finally the strategy tells us how we might get what we as a community desire. An example may be *"Large-scale subdivision should only be allowed where public water is available and/or inside the rural growth boundary"*. There can be many strategies to a single objective, many objectives to each goal, and they are all designed to meet the objective and to help achieve the goal.

The Richmond County Land Use Committee was made up of 20 voluntary but extremely dedicated citizens. From July 1999 to July 2000, over 28 meetings were held. The Committee enlisted professionals from a wide range of planning topics to help understand all the issues at hand. Seven community-based meetings designed to get citizen involvement and community interaction were held through out the County. Over 300 citizens attended these meeting including a countywide meeting at the Cole Auditorium. The citizen involvement has become the backbone of this strategic plan and will continue to play a key role in its successful implementation. The Richmond County Strategic Land Use Plan is as much a planning process as it is a final document. The process of education, community dialogue, and serious deliberation all point to the axiom – *"If the process is sound, the product will stand"*

While other surrounding counties may already have established a planning process by appointing a planning board and instituting land use regulations (i.e. zoning, subdivision, etc), this is Richmond County's first time in recent history to enter into the planning and land use arena. The Land Use Committee had no known points of departure, but went forward with an open mind and a basic understanding of the key planning and development issues facing Richmond County in 1999-2000. As proposed by the Land Use Committee, this plan attempts to set in motion, the first few steps toward sound strategic development policies. The plan tackles some basic concerns regarding farm protection, environment priorities, citizen input and involvement, governmental processes, housing issues, recreational opportunities, utilities and service expansion, transportation links, and economic principals as they all relate to land use. Because Richmond County did not have an appointed planning board during this planning process, actual land classification and specific development criteria are not made part of this plan. Land classification is, for all intents and purposes, an effort toward zoning, and the NC General Statutes are relatively clear in regard to this matter. The proposed strategic plan does provide some direction for a planning board to begin immediate work on defining development areas, protecting farming rights and integrity, and implementing land use regulations and guidelines that will enhance the way of life for all citizens in Richmond County.

The proposed land use plan has many recommended strategies to be acted upon in coming years. Many of these strategies can be acted upon with out much effort, but several of the strategies will take additional study and discussion among an appointed planning board, Board of Commissioners, and the citizens of Richmond County. A first step would be to move forward with the appointment of planning board members. This would open up many additional opportunities towards implementing other proposed

strategies. Follow-up steps toward zoning and other land use regulations used to implement the proposed strategic land use plan would be to begin an education and information process on zoning and associated processes. Delineation of proposed rural growth boundary based on water distribution system, soil compatibility, and transportation networks is an additional step toward sound decision-making regarding land use and land development. Over the next 5 years, the building of a positive planning process that encourages and incorporates citizen input will help shape the landscape of Richmond County's future that all can appreciate.

Within this 5 to 10 year cycle, a new land use committee should be appointed and directed to again look at the development and community issues of the day. Work through a similar process of education, community dialoged and serious deliberations to expand on the proposals and recommendation found herein. The planning process is a cycle that never stops, but must be kept going to reap all the benefits which is held by the future.

James E. Armstrong, AICP
Richmond County Planner

*I know of no safe depository of the ultimate powers of society but the people themselves; and if we think them not enlightened enough to exercise their control with a wholesome discretion, the remedy is not to take it from them but to inform their discretion by education. –
Thomas Jefferson*

Richmond County Land Use Plan
Vision Statement

After a year-long process that included numerous educational meetings and field trips, plus seven community and citizen input meetings, the Richmond County Land Use Committee has determined a clear need to establish a land use plan that will assist in guiding decisions regarding future development patterns and land use changes. While changes are inevitable and often unpredictable, this land use plan will provide the framework for how changes in the use of land will be incorporated into the fabric of the community and county as a whole.

Elements of the Land Use Plan will promote:

- The preservation of the county's agricultural industries for future generations, as well as support a wide range of economic possibilities;
- A legal framework to advance the orderly, safe, and smart growth of all types of land uses in Richmond County, while encouraging high quality development;
- The incorporation of flexibility into all development guidelines and regulations and insure that development does not outpace public infrastructure and other governmental services;
- The preservation of the small town and rural way of life in Richmond County and promote positive change by continuing the community-input process;
- The conservation and protection of the natural resources and heritage of Richmond County by encouraging the preservation of the landscape, countryside, and open spaces; and
- The protection of property rights, while promoting the enhancement of property values to create a better quality of life for future generations.

Goal 1: To preserve, protect, and sustain the rural agricultural nature of the county

At each community input meeting and especially at those in the north portions of the county, strong sentiments regarding the protection and preservation of family farm operations were continually espoused. The "right to farm" and the support of future generations' "right-to-farm" holds a high priority in the county. Perhaps more importantly, but less obvious, was the endorsement of the rural way of life that a majority of the county enjoys. Not only the farmers and their families, but also those citizens who are not farmers, enjoy the lifestyle and customs most often found in a rural country setting.

Objective 1: To create a regional marketing system for local farmers

- Strategy 1: Develop proper road signage in conjunction with NCDOT program
- Strategy 2: Support efforts of the Hwy 220 Regional Committee.
- Strategy 3: Collect all regional information and encourage existing projects regarding the development of a farmers co-op marketing program. (Review farmers co-op project in Kinston NC)
- Strategy 4: Involve all farmers and farming operations in discussions.

Objective 2: To protect the integrity of farming and rural areas

- Strategy 1: Create a designated rural area through adoption of proper zoning codes
- Strategy 2: Allow only small "minor" subdivisions in designated rural areas
- Strategy 3: Identify all land use that can be or could be found in designated rural areas.
- Strategy 4: Create a Rural Growth Boundary to direct growth to appropriate areas
- Strategy 5: Large-scale development and subdivisions should be responsible for buffers against incompatible land uses.
- Strategy 6: Large sale subdivision should be allowed only where public water is available and/or inside rural growth boundary.
- Strategy 7: Promote the use of existing private preservation and conservation programs.
- Strategy 8: Develop utilities extension policy to coincide with rural growth boundary.

Objective 3: To promote and preserve small business opportunities in rural areas.

- Strategy 1: Allow home occupation of commercial or industrial use with only limitation being a minimum lot size.
- Strategy 2: Create Rural Business District for use as commercial node area around main intersections.
- Strategy 3: Create no non-conforming uses.

Goal 2: *The protection, preservation, and conservation of the county's environmental and heritage resources*

At every turn, comments and discussions regarding the importance of Richmond County's environmental resources and rich heritage were heard. While the enforcement of litter laws and the cleaning up roadsides were targeted as having high priority, the protection and better utilization of the game lands; the maintaining watershed; the issues surrounding clear cutting; the promoting of scenic beauty in the County; and the preserving of historical buildings, sites, and lands were also highly endorsed

Objective 1: To encourage good air quality standards.

- Strategy 1: Investigate the State livestock odor rules.
- Strategy 2: Encourage cluster development patterns.
- Strategy 3: Investigate local air quality and standards

Objective 2: To identify and protect historical sites, neighborhoods, buildings, and areas.

- Strategy 1: Support existing efforts of preservation.
- Strategy 2: Work with existing State/ County / City grant to identify all county historical properties.
- Strategy 3: Work with State Division of Archives on preservation issues.
- Strategy 4: Investigate need for County Historical Preservation Commission.

Objective 3: To protect the quality of Richmond County's water resources of the Blewett Falls Reservoir and watershed.

- Strategy 1: Adopted low-density residential zoning regulation for area surrounding reservoir.
- Strategy 2: Adopt low impact recreational zoning regulation for area surrounding reservoir.

Objective 4: To preserve the integrity of all surface and ground water.

- Strategy 1: Review upcoming storm water drainage regulation from State
- Strategy 2: Review existing County wellhead ordinance and the State's septic tank regulation.
- Strategy 3: Map location of all known well head and septic locations into county's geographic information system

Objective 5: To encourage clear cutting practices that do not damage county's scenic beauty.

- Strategy 1: Promote reforestation of clear-cut land within appropriate time frames.

- Strategy 2: Promote rules and regulations that keep forestland in timber production, Best Management Practices.
- Strategy 3: Promote current land use tax breaks for land in timber production.

Objective 6: To promote a clean environment in Richmond County

- Strategy 1: Support the efforts of Keep Richmond County Beautiful
- Strategy 2: Review, update, and enforce the current solid waste ordinance
- Strategy 3: Fill and maintain the current position of Solid Waste Enforcement Officer.

Goal 3: The creation of a planning process designed to continue the community and citizen participation and information program.

Several statements on more community and citizen involvement were heard throughout the Community Meeting Series. Not only did the community meeting participants appreciate the Land-Use Committee's holding meetings in the communities, but also the committee unanimously agreed that it was extremely important and educational for the committee members to invest time visiting different parts of the county.

Objective 1: Insure opportunities for public involvement in the land use planning and development process

- Strategy 1: Plan and hold regular public forums on development issues facing the county.
- Strategy 2: Coordinate information about planning issues with the county newsletter.
- Strategy 3: Hold community-based meetings with the planning board.
- Strategy 4: Identify all of the "community areas" in the county.
- Strategy 5: Coordinate the dissemination of information through the county's Web Site.
- Strategy 6: Establish and appoint a County wide Planning Board

Goal 4: To cultivate an efficient, user-friendly permitting and development process.

Concerns regarding the administrative approval processes for developments were raised at the community meetings. A sense of an uncoordinated approach to development approval is present among developers and citizens alike and tend to cast a bad light on the proficiency of county government.. Many of the comments revolving around too much government interference centers on this perceived confusing and burdensome process.

Objective 1: To create a coordinated approach to the development permitting process.

- Strategy 1: Work towards a co-location of appropriate county permitting departments
- Strategy 2: Create a unified approach to development standards.
- Strategy 3: Develop citizen "How-to" brochures for application and the permitting process
- Strategy 4: Develop a computerized central permitting process using commercial available software.

Goal 5: The creation of an environment that allows for a wide range of appropriate housing opportunities

Housing issues have been and will remain a priority issue in Richmond County. The influx of manufactured homes in the Hoffman area proved to be one of the catalysts for this land-use planning process. Providing affordable, decent, and appropriate housing for the citizens of Richmond County can assure immeasurable benefits to the health and safety of all.

Objective 1: Maintain the quality of the county housing stock

- Strategy 1: Support manufactured home standards that use industry standards as a basis. (NCMHI).
- Strategy 2: Adopt a Countywide Manufactured Home Park Ordinance. Separate from subdivision ordinance.
- Strategy 3: Investigate grants and other funding sources to revitalized exiting housing stock, (i.e. CDBG grants, loan pools, other alternative funding and project sources).
- Strategy 4: Conduct a housing survey to review current housing stock in county and identify areas of need (i.e. locations, price ranges, amenities, size, etc.).
- Strategy 5: Coordinate activities with the USDA Rural Development (FHA) and other 1st home buyer programs.
- Strategy 6: Develop and adopt minimum housing standard with appropriate staffing and enforcement controls.

Objective 2: To develop equal standards for all typed of housing opportunities.

- Strategy 1: Adopt land use controls that do not distinguish between manufactured housing and site built housing
- Strategy 2: Encourage affordable housing options (garage apartments, granny flats, apartments over retail stores and the like)

Goal 6: The promotion of recreation opportunities and alternatives throughout Richmond County

There are unlimited recreational opportunities in Richmond County, but there appears to be a lack of public knowledge about some of them. The Sandhill Gamelands, Blewett Falls Lake, and many other areas of the County are little-used recreational resources. The new Ledbetter Park is an outstanding example of the recreational needs and desires being realized by the citizens of Richmond County.

Objective 1: To increase utilization of the Sandhill Gamelands.

- Strategy 1: Map out roads, lakes and other items of interest in the Gamelands.
- Strategy 2: Develop communication and investigate opportunities with the appropriate State agency (NC Wildlife Commission, -John Lentz of Ellerbe)

Objective 2: To identify and increase public awareness of the County's natural resources and recreation opportunities.

- Strategy 1: Involve the Richmond County Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Authority in increasing public awareness.
- Strategy 2: Support current efforts and recommendations of the Sustainable Tourism in the Sandhills report from the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service and the North Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Management, NCSU.
- Strategy 3: Include information in County's Newsletter and Web Pages.

Objective 3: To develop more of the recreational opportunities (public and private).

- Strategy 1: Improve access and opportunities around the Blewett Falls Lake area.
- Strategy 2: Support existing efforts of the City of Rockingham in developing the Hinson Lake property in cooperation with the NC Fish and Wildlife Agency.
- Strategy 3: Support effort in all local municipalities and communities in their development of parks and other recreational opportunities.
- Strategy 4: Promote existing NCDOT cycling routes within Richmond County.

Goal 7: Provide utilities and services to support sound development in Richmond County.

At every Community meeting, requests and comments for more and expanded utilities were heard and recorded. While County water led these requests by a large margin, other needs and desires for cable, gas, and telephone services were also expressed. Expansion of utilities can help direct growth to areas more suitable, while limiting this expansion can help control growth in protected areas. An urban services boundary can assist in planning for future expansion by concentrating development to appropriate areas.

Objective 1: To direct growth to appropriate places, away from natural sensitive and/or agriculturally rich lands

- Strategy 1: Encourage cooperative practices among public utilities service providers.
- Strategy 2: Create a Rural Growth Boundary to direct growth to appropriate areas.
- Strategy 3: Insure that public infrastructure and services can support development and expansion of Rural Growth Boundary

Objective 2: To create a 'local call' exchange for all residents within County.

- Strategy 1: Contact Utility Commission regarding development of the Latta program.

Goal 8: Develop transportation services to meet current and future needs and demands

Richmond County has in recent years been an area of transportation improvement activity. The near completion of the U.S 74 Bypass, the routing of Interstate 73 / 74, and the development of a US 1 Bypass will undoubtedly shift land use development patterns. Understanding the dynamics of these interrelationships between major transportation corridors and land use will be a key in any decision making process. Other transportation issues such as public transportation, air service, and local road development may also bear an impact on land use choices.

Objective 1: Interlink land planning decisions with current and future transportation improvements

- Strategy 1: Re-establish the Richmond County Transportation Advisory Committee.
- Strategy 2: Investigate expansion of public transportation among urban areas of county.
- Strategy 3: Develop airport services to meet current and future needs and demands.

Strategy 4: Develop and promote alternative modes of transportation.

Goal 9: Create an atmosphere that promotes sound economic development principals within land use planning practices

Economic Development is at the center stage in the development of Richmond County. Currently, Richmond County is listed as a ' tier one ' county an above average unemployment rate. Many comments derived from the Community meetings point to the fact that more jobs and better pay are needed. Recent developments in attracting new businesses to the County are beginning to pay off with a more diversified job base. A huge investment by CP&L in the development of a natural gas electric generator may prove to be a tremendous boost to the County's economic outlook. While it is understood that economic development activity is being accomplished through a County supported agency, land use planning decisions can play a major role in the County's economic future.

Objective 1: To continue and expand the educational and economic development partnership(s).

Strategy 1: Support and expand Tech Prep and College Prep programs

Objective 2: To balance industrial, commercial, and residential growth through diversity to increase the tax base and promote a lower unemployment rate

Strategy 1: Adopt land use policies to encourage sound industrial, commercial and residential development

Objective 3: To create consistency and integrity between the land use plan and economic development activities.

Strategy 1: Provide periodic meetings and reports from Planning Department, Planning Board and Economic Developer.

Strategy 2: Allow Economic Developer provide recommendation on proposed commercial and industrial rezoning.

Strategy 3: Require an annual economic and land use assessment to identify areas best suited for industrial and commercial development.

Richmond County Landuse Committee Meeting Synopsis – July 1999 – July 2000

- **Thursday, July 29, 1999** - in the County Commissioner's Chambers
Guest Speaker - Nancy Roy, Moore County Planning Department
Ms. Roy spoke on Moore County's experience with these programs and answered questions from the Committee. Moore County Planning Board Chairman, Tim Lea was also present and gave the Committee insight to the process. Both speakers informed the Committee of the need of education and public input.

- **Thursday, August 12, 1999** - in the County Commissioner's Chambers
Guest Speaker – Dr. Michael Walden, NC State University
Dr. Walden gave the Committee insight into demographic, population, and economic trends for the County. He provided the Committee with some numbers that were somewhat interesting as well as challenging for the County.
Guest Speaker – Mr. Mark Young, Richmond County Economic Developer
Mr. Young gave the committee an overview of local economic trends and outlooks. He outlined several accomplishments of the past 18 months and summarized the job growth potential for the County.

- **Tuesday, August 24, 1999** in the County Commissioner's Chambers
Guest Speaker - Dr. Robert Rieman, Appalachian State University Professor Emeritus.
Dr. Rieman currently works as the Planning and Zoning Director for Scotland County. Dr. Rieman guided the Committee through a visioning exercise to begin focusing the future picture of Richmond County. He broke the group up in smaller unites of three. He took the Committee through several exercises by asking questions on different planning issues. Each groups answer was written on a flip chart and posted.

- **Thursday, September 16, 1999** in the County Health Building
Guest Speaker – Bert Coffey, Richmond County Agricultural Extension Director
Mr. Coffey gave the committee insights as to the status of farming and agricultural industry in Richmond County. He mentioned that farming and agricultural are still a major industry in Richmond County.

- **Thursday, September 30th, 1999** in the County Health Building
Guest Speaker – James Armstrong, Richmond County Planning Director
Mr. Armstrong gave the committee a presentation on traditional Landuse regulations and reviewed some of the County's current land development ordinances. He mentioned Zoning, Subdivision Regulation, the Corridor Development Districts, and the Watershed regulated area
Guest Speaker – Jeff Michael, The Land Trust for Central North Carolina
Mr. Michael discussed non-traditional land use controls such as conservation easements. Mr. Michael also discussed the Land Trust organization and the Yadkin/Pee Dee efforts. He showed a slide presentation of many examples of land conservation.

- **Thursday, October 13th, 1999** Committee field trip with Rep. Wayne Goodwin to the Governor's 'Gatherings on Growth', Charlotte, NC
 Eleven members of the Committee attended the Gatherings on Growth. The group heard from a variety of speakers with many different viewpoints. The meeting gave some good lessons on how to conduct a good, informative, and constructive public meeting. All persons who spoke were well received and there were no improper interruptions or disruptions. Rep. Wayne Goodwin attended the meeting and delivered some remarks to the audience on behalf of the Land Use Committee and Richmond County. He talked of balanced growth as well as smart growth.
- **Thursday, October 14th, 1999** in the County Health Building
 Guest Speaker – Janet D'ingazio, Chief Planning and Environmental Officer, North Carolina Department of Transportation.
 Ms. D'ingazio spoke to the Committee about Transportation and land use issues. She will discuss the many intermodal systems of the NCDOT and how the new bypasses and interstates will affect lands use profiles in Richmond County. She stated that the NCDOT is very interested in how the County wanted to develop. She stated that planning for proper transportation modes can take several years.
- **Tuesday, October 26th, 1999** in the County Health Building
 Ms. Evangeline Ezeilo and Mr. Jason Eply of the Division of Community Assistance
 Evangeline and Jason addressed quality of life issues with the Committee. They took the Committee through a S.W.A.T. process that identified Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats. Many ideas and concerns were brought out in this exercise.
- **Tuesday, October 28th, 1999** Committee field trip to Hope Mills North Carolina
 Seven Committee members attended the "Land Development Plan workshop in Hope Mills last Thursday. The group heard from a variety of speakers on the "guidelines" published by the Division of Water Quality that can be used when designing a land-use plan. Each member received a copy of the guidelines, and more copies will be made available to the committee members that were no able to attend. The meeting was very informative, and illustrated that the Committee is right on target with the planning process. A couple of speakers mention the Committee's process and how important education is in developing a working plan. We can discuss the workshop in more detail at our next meeting.
- **Thursday, November 18th, 1999** in the County Health Building
 Guest Speaker – B.K. Jones, Richmond County Department of Environmental Health
 Mr. Jones spoke to the Committee about developable areas in Richmond County, soil types and limitations, and other environmental health issues. He spoke on Watershed regulations and the differences between the 1968 code and the 1993 code.
 Guest Speaker – Rick Sago, Richmond County Engineer
 Mr. Sago addressed the Committee in regard to the current County Water System, future expansions projects, service area limitation. He stated that the water service in the county was self-supporting. He stated that the County was in the process of doing a water expansion feasibility study. Mr. Sago will also touch on information regarding Sewer service within County.

End of educational/informational Meetings

- **Thursday, December 2nd, 1999** in the County Health Building
 Guest Speaker Jim Dougherty, Chief Planner, Division of Community Assistance
 Harvey Melton was elected Chairman of the Land-use Committee. County Planner James Armstrong and Jim worked with the Committee to develop a 'Focus Statement' to move into the Community meetings.
- **Thursday December 16th, 1999** in the County Health Building
 Committee to meet to begin development plan for Community meetings. Decisions on format of meeting, rules of meetings, advertisements of meetings, number of meetings (etc). This meeting will be Committee driven, but staff will be on hand to facilitate any action of the Committee.
- **Thursday January 6th, 2000** in the County Health Building
Continuation of December 16th meeting - Committee to meet to begin development plan for Community meetings.

After decisions are made on Community Meetings... ..meetings will be scheduled

- **Schedule of Community Meetings**

Steeles	- Frank Sides	- January 27 th (postponed to March 23 rd - Snow)
Mineral Springs	- Ken Rankin	- February 10th
Beaver Dam	- Elijah Peterson	- February 17th
Black Jack	- Carlyle Haywood	- February 24th
Rockingham	- Jimmy Quick	- March 2nd
Marks Creek	- Ruby Bruce	- March 9th
Wolf Pit	- Harvey Melton	- March 16 th

- **Meetings after Community Meetings**

April 6 th	}	Meetings to develop Goals and Objective of Land Use Plan using Community Meeting Comments as a basis.
April 27 th		
May 4 th		
May 11 th		
May 25 th		
June 1 st		Public Presentations of Goals and Objectives at the Cole Auditorium
June 8 th		Review of Public Comments and Adoption of Goals and Objectives
June 29 th		Review and Discussion of Strategies for Land Use Plan
July 6 th		Meeting date opened if needed.