



## North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Michael F. Easley, Governor

William G. Ross Jr., Secretary

### Memorandum

**TO:** Senator Charlie Albertson, Co-chair Land & Water Conservation Commission  
Representative Lucy Allen, Co-chair Land and Water Conservation Commission

**FROM:** Bill Ross, Secretary, Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
Dan Gerlach, Senior Policy Advisor for Fiscal Affairs, Governor's Office

**DATE:** December 12, 2006

**RE:** Proposed Recommendations for Land and Water Conservation Commission

As our Commission works on its draft report and move toward the public meetings set for early next year, we have discussed and compiled ideas concerning proposed recommendations for the draft report. Please review and share your comments of the proposed recommendations. There are critical needs to increase the funding of our State's conservation efforts, as well as ways to increase the ways we coordinate, integrate and focus these investments and efforts. We appreciate your leadership as we work to accomplish the objectives that our commission has been given!

#### Planning for Conservation

- The Commission supports efforts for the various governing boards of state-funded land and water conservation entities to focus their work on land and water conservation and to do their work in a more collaborative, systematic, and integrated way so as to maximize the use of investments. While the Commission does not recommend collapsing these existing funds into one, the minimization of administrative overhead is important.
- The Commission supports the application of statewide priorities in the areas of advancing stewardship of working farms and forests; protecting and restoring significant natural resource areas; and protecting and restoring Sounds and Ocean habitats through the Coastal Habitat Protection Plan as set out by DENR in the One North Carolina Naturally initiative and mapping process - to govern investment of state funds.
- The Commission supports data collection efforts to describe the amount of land conserved and protected in North Carolina and publication of the success of those preservation efforts.

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- The Commission supports assistance and incentives to encourage the continuing emergence of a more active local role in land and water conservation.

#### Funding

- The Commission supports efforts to maximize and leverage federal and local dollars for land and water conservation in an appropriate manner.
- The Commission supports the use of funds from the current dedicated revenue sources to defray the cost of borrowing. Similar policies were used to fund Lake James acquisition and military base encroachment mitigation in 2004 through the use of certificates of participation.
- The Commission supports further investigation into the use of appropriate revenue streams to support land and water conservation at both the state and local levels.
- The Commission encourages the use of market pricing for water and sewer services and for nutrient offsets to defray the effects on the environment, and also encourages the coordination of the State's various infrastructure planning activities.

The state's conservation effort must be systematic, integrated and developed with long term management in mind. To that end we hope that you will consider these recommendations in the commission's final report to the General Assembly.

We look forward discussing these recommendations with you and other members of the commission.

Cc: Cindy Avrette  
Canaan Huie  
Kristin Walker  
Joy Hicks  
Dan Gerlach