

MANAGEMENT TOPIC #1– PUBLIC ACCESS

Shoreline Access

Policy PA #1

Dare County supports the preservation and protection of the public's right to access and use of the public trust areas and waters.

Policy PA #2

Dare County reserves the right to review, comment, advocate, or oppose any proposed Federal or State regulations or programs that affect the public trust waters or public trust areas.

Policy PA #3

Dare County supports North Carolina's shoreline access policies and grant programs and recognizes the importance of shoreline access to our local residents and our tourist economy. Thus, the County will continue to seek opportunities to expand access, including opportunities for the disabled, and to secure funding for beach nourishment in order to maintain wide sandy beaches.

Implementation Strategy:

1. Identify and pursue appropriate grant opportunities for access sites to public trust waters and public trust areas. Any new public access sites shall address the needs of handicap persons and address those needs to the maximum extent practicable in working with the natural conditions of the site. (2010-2015)

Policy PA #4

The County recognizes the importance of four-wheel drive vehicles and pedestrian access to the beaches of Dare County that are under the management authority of the federal government. Efforts to prohibit beach driving on these federally-managed areas are opposed. National Park Service management plans for the beaches should acknowledge the historical and established practice of vehicular and pedestrian access to the beaches of Dare County. In addition, impacts on Dare County's local economy are important elements that should be a factor in any decision-making process of the National Park Service. Management plans should emphasize the need to allow these practices to continue in an equitable manner that balances species management activities without eliminating or severely limiting vehicular and pedestrian access to the Dare County beaches.

Implementation Strategies:

1. Continue to actively participate with the National Park Service in developing a plan for vehicular and pedestrian access to all beaches of Dare County. (2010-2015)
2. Defend and assist with legal interventions that would allow continued access for federal beaches. (2010-2015)

Policy PA #5

Plans for the replacement of Bonner Bridge and for the long-term protection of NC 12 on Hatteras Island shall address the need to provide vehicular and pedestrian access for local residents and visitors to all areas of Pea Island and Hatteras Island currently (2008) open to the public. Plans to restrict or limit current levels of access

shall be reviewed on a case by case basis with support or opposition offered depending on the proposal and its potential negative impacts on local residents and our tourist economy.

Implementation Strategy:

1. Continue to monitor efforts of NC Department of Transportation to permit and construct replacement for the Bonner Bridge. (2010-2015)

Working Waterfronts

Policy PA#6

Dare County supports efforts by the State of North Carolina to protect working waterfronts and harbors to ensure their continued viability as working waterfronts and access to public trust waters. Dare County will work with the State and private property owners to identify waterfront sites for acquisition as part of the WAMI (Waterfront Access and Marine Industry Fund) in order to maintain their integral relationship with the commercial fishing industry and for recreational boating access.

Implementation Strategy:

1. Develop a comprehensive inventory of working waterfronts and other waterfront access areas in unincorporated Dare County. (2010)

Shoreline Management

Policy PA #7:

Beach nourishment is the preferred shoreline management alternative along the ocean beaches of Dare County. Access points to beaches identified for nourishment activities shall be provided according to federal standards (every ½ mile) to allow convenient access to all persons. In addition to beach nourishment, the use of terminal groins, off-shore reefs, and other similar techniques are compatible with the shoreline management goals of Dare County.

Implementation Strategies:

1. Support efforts by the Shoreline Management Commission to address issues associated with shoreline erosion, public access, and other related issues that involve the ocean beaches and estuarine shorelines in Dare County. (2010-2015)
2. Support efforts to amend the North Carolina General Statutes to allow the use of terminal groins, offshore reefs, and other similar structures. (2010-2015)

Wildlife Resources

Policy PA #8

Dare County supports the maintenance of wildlife preservation areas and refuges. Access by the public, including vehicular access to beaches, for wildlife harvesting and observation should not be prohibited.

Implementation Strategy

1. Work with federal agencies to allow continued access to federal property in Dare County for hunting (including hunting with dogs), fishing, and other similar activities. (2010-2015)

MANAGEMENT TOPIC #2 – LAND USE COMPATIBILITY

Coastal Heritage

Policy LUC #1

Dare County recognizes the importance of our coastal village heritage and will continue to work toward the preservation of that heritage with appropriate land use guidelines and regulations.

Policy LUC #2

Public sector and private sector development activities should recognize Dare County's coastal heritage and incorporate traits reflective of our heritage in building design and other site features and improvements.

Implementation Strategy:

1. Identify amendments to the Dare County Zoning Ordinance and other land use ordinances that may be necessary to implement management objectives for residential and commercial development. This may include the elimination of drive-thru window service for restaurants (but not all businesses employing drive-thru window service such as banks and pharmacies) in all commercial and S-1 zonings districts and building design standards for commercial structures. (2011-2012)

Residential Development

Policy LUC #3

Residential structures shall be the preferred land use in unincorporated Dare County for both seasonal accommodations and permanent housing. All new residential structures, whether attached or detached, are encouraged to be on a scale that is consistent with existing neighborhood patterns of development.

Implementation Strategy:

1. Administration of existing regulations of the Dare County Zoning Ordinance for minimum lot size, dwelling density, building height and other standards for residential development. Changes in wastewater technology, improved construction practices for "green" buildings, market conditions, and demographic trends should be examined periodically to ensure that the standards of the Dare County Zoning Ordinance are not obsolete and recognize newer technologies that may benefit our existing communities. (2010-2015).

Policy LUC #4

To address the housing needs of the year-round population, multi-family dwellings and other types of residential structures such as accessory use dwellings, are considered appropriate alternatives when located in areas zoned for multi-family structures and constructed on lots or parcels greater than the minimum lot size for single family lots established in the individual zoning districts of the Dare County Zoning Ordinance. This diversification of housing opportunities is important to address the needs of Dare County's workforce.

Implementation Strategy:

1. Administration of Family Housing Incentive Standards (section 22-58.2) of the Dare County Zoning Ordinance to address workforce housing needs. (2010-2015)

Commercial Development

Policy LUC #5

Dare County encourages the continued existence and development of locally owned businesses in unincorporated Dare County.

Implementation Strategy:

1. Inventory of older existing commercial businesses and consideration of zoning amendments to ensure their replacement or repair in the event of damage from a natural disaster. (2011)

Policy LUC #6

Commercial development should be designed to meet the needs of Dare County's unincorporated villages and not to serve as regional commercial centers. The gross floor area limitations of the Dare County Zoning Ordinance and other applicable land use codes shall be used as a tool to manage the footprint of commercial structures. The goal is to manage the size of the commercial structure which serves as a disincentive for regional commercial centers locating in villages.

Policy LUC #7

Commercial businesses, regardless of size, should individualize their sites and building designs to reflect Dare County coastal heritage. Adaptations of corporate or franchise designs to reflect our coastal character are encouraged. This is particularly applicable to the food service industry.

Implementation Strategies:

1. Identify amendments to the Dare County Zoning Ordinance and other land use ordinances that may be necessary to implement management objectives for residential and commercial development. This may include the elimination of drive-thru window restaurant service (but not all businesses employing drive-thru window service such as banks and pharmacies) in all commercial and S-1 zonings districts and building design standards for commercial structures and amendments to Zoning Ordinance and Sign Ordinance as needed for commercial businesses. (2010-2013)
2. Rely on existing dimensional standards of the Dare County Zoning Ordinance for dwelling densities, lot coverage limitations, and commercial gross floor area limitations. These standards should be periodically examined relative to changes in technology for wastewater treatment, improved construction practices, market conditions, and demographic changes. (2011)
3. Study legality of regulations designed to address the proliferation of tourist-oriented retail establishments. (2011)
4. Work with East Lake residents to review zoning alternatives for this area. (2011)

Re-development

Policy LUC #8:

Redevelopment of older structures shall be accomplished in a manner that is compatible with current NC building codes and federal flood insurance regulations and conforms with Dare County zoning regulations. Energy efficient construction standards are encouraged.

Implementation Strategy:

1. Consider development of incentives for “green” building techniques and energy efficient construction standards. (2011)

Industrial Development

Policy LUC #9

The siting of industrial development facilities should be evaluated relative to their impacts on environmentally sensitive natural areas and existing patterns of development. Boat building, commercial fishing, and construction are recognized as traditional occupations and employment sectors in Dare County that are consistent with our coastal heritage.

Implementation Strategy:

1. Rely on the standards of the Dare County Zoning Ordinance for the siting and development of industrial development of both maritime-related uses and non-maritime related uses. (2010-2015)

Policy LUC #10

Diversification of Dare County’s economy to include compatible industries such as medical support services and educational and research facilities, are encouraged. These types of facilities provide employment opportunities and quality of life support for our residents without detriment to our natural resources.

Manmade Hazard Areas

Policy LUC #11

Due to potential land use conflicts and hazardous conditions associated with airports and landing strips, development of adjacent properties should be done in awareness of these potential conflicts and conditions. Proposals to expand existing services at the Dare County Regional Airport or other airport facilities in Dare County shall be reviewed on a case by case basis. Support or opposition may be offered depending on the terms of the proposal, its potential impacts on the community, and its potential economic and transportation benefits.

Implementation Strategies:

1. Enforcement of the Airport Overlay zoning regulations to address land uses, especially building height issues, on land adjacent to and surrounding the Dare County Regional Airport on Roanoke Island. (2010-2015)
2. Adoption of additional airport overlay regulations, as needed, to address land uses on land adjacent to and surrounding the Billy Mitchell Airstrip in Frisco, NC. (2011-2012)

Policy LUC #12

Proposals to expand the area of the existing bombing ranges on the Dare County Mainland should be reviewed on a case-by-case basis with support or opposition offered depending on the terms of the proposal and its potential impacts on the local community.

Land Disturbance

Policy LUC #13

For those mining activities not subject to regulation by the State of North Carolina, Dare County shall rely on the dune alteration regulations of the Dare County Zoning Ordinance to ensure all dune alteration activities are minimal and meet the sloping standards to ensure safety and erosion control.

Implementation Strategy:

1. Administration of Section 22-58.1 Dune Alteration Standards of the Dare County Zoning Ordinance. (2010-2015)

Policy LUC#14

Tree clearing and land disturbing activities on small residential lots or other private property should be done prescriptively or according to the guidelines of NC Cooperative Extension office or the UNC Coastal Studies Institute. The use of fill material on private property, although not currently regulated by the Dare County Zoning Ordinance, should be accomplished in a responsible manner.

Implementation Strategies:

1. Promote best management practices by referrals to State agencies and work with Outer Banks Homebuilders Association to promote best management practices with local general contractors. (2010-2015)
2. Evaluate the need to establish regulations for the placement of fill material on private property to address concerns about impacts on drainage patterns. (2012).

Archaeological/Historic Resources

Policy LUC #15

The Dare County Board of Commissioners supports the protection of structures, lands, and artifacts that have been identified by the NC Department of Cultural Resources, Division of Archives and History, as archaeologically or historically significant. On a case-by-case basis individual protection/management strategies should be implemented to ensure archaeological and/or historical resources are not destroyed.

Implementation Strategy:

1. Explore local interest in establishing a formal historic preservation program focused on the unincorporated areas of Dare County. (2011)

Public Acquisitions

Policy LUC #16

The vast amount of Dare County land currently owned by public agencies and/or non-profit agencies should be recognized by agencies wishing to acquire additional parcels for public and/or non-profit ownership. Additional acquisitions should be evaluated in terms of public purpose benefits and impacts on tax revenues for Dare County.

Maritime Forests

Policy LUC #17

Dare County advocates a combination of managed development guided by the Dare County SED-1 zoning ordinance, and the Limited Conservation classification on the future land use map and a continued program of acquisition of privately-owned lands by the State for the Buxton Woods Coastal Preserve.

Implementation Strategy:

1. Administration of the SED-1 zoning ordinance. (2010-2015)

Commercial Forestry and Agricultural Uses

Policy LUC #18

For those commercial forestry activities that may occur in Dare County, such forestry activities shall be done in accordance with the standards and recommendations of the US Forest Service. Voluntary participation in the State of North Carolina's best management practices for forestry management is advocated.

Policy LUC #19

For those crop agricultural activities that may occur on the Mainland area of Dare County, Dare County advocates voluntary participation in the State of North Carolina's best management practices for farm management.

Policy LUC #20

Wholesale or industrial livestock operations are opposed.

MANAGEMENT TOPIC #3 – INFRASTRUCTURE CARRYING CAPACITY

Wastewater

Policy ICC #1

The current minimum lot size standards, as established in the Dare County Zoning Ordinance for the zoned portions of unincorporated Dare County and the Subdivision Ordinance for the unzoned areas of unincorporated Dare County, shall not be reduced regardless of the availability of central wastewater treatment or the availability of a combination of central wastewater treatment and a central water supply.

Implementation Strategy:

Application of minimum lot size standards of Dare County Zoning Ordinance and the Dare County Subdivision Ordinance for the development of new subdivisions in unincorporated Dare County. (2010-2015)

Policy ICC #2

Maintenance of privately-owned package treatment plants should be supervised by the NC Utilities Commission or other public agencies.

Policy ICC #3

Centralized wastewater treatment and collection systems, for both on-site and off-site service, are considered appropriate methods for wastewater treatment in addition to the use of individualized on-site wastewater systems and traditional septic tank/drainfield systems. Although there are no publicly-owned central wastewater systems in unincorporated Dare County except for the Stumpy Point system, such systems may be beneficial alternatives in terms of water quality protection.

Implementation Strategy:

1. Require the establishment of escrow accounts for maintenance and repairs for any new privately-owned centralized wastewater facilities approved for development in unincorporated Dare County. (2010-2015)

Policy ICC #4

Wastewater treatment facilities subject to review and authorization by the NC Division of Water Quality that employ drip irrigation of treated effluent or other non-traditional systems should not be considered for location in Dare County and particularly should not be located in areas subject to storm surge inundation or located in designated flood hazard VE zones as depicted on FIRM (flood insurance rate map) maps.

Implementation Strategies:

1. Consider standards to address the use of drip irrigation wastewater facilities, especially in VE flood zones. (2011)
2. Require the establishment of escrow accounts for maintenance and repairs for any new privately-owned centralized wastewater facilities approved for development in unincorporated Dare County. (2010-2015)

Water

Policy ICC #5

Public services shall be provided to meet the needs of our permanent and seasonal population and provide a residual capacity for unanticipated contingencies.

Implementation Strategy:

Copies of proposed site plans and subdivisions shall be sent to appropriate Dare County agencies and State agencies for review and comment. (2010-2015)

Transportation

Policy ICC #6

The Bonner Bridge and NC 12 on Hatteras Island are vital to Dare County. The replacement of Bonner Bridge in its current location is the preferred alternative of the Dare County Board of Commissioners. Other alternatives that feature the elimination of public access to areas north of Rodanthe or re-routing of vehicular traffic to the federally owned lands of the Pea Island Wildlife Refuge are not reasonable alternatives due to cost factors and the decreased access to wildlife areas, ocean beaches, estuarine shorelines and other habitat areas.

Implementation Strategy:

1. Continue to lobby State and Federal agencies for replacement of Bonner Bridge and the long-term protection of NC 12. (2010-2015)

Policy ICC #7

Dare County encourages intergovernmental cooperation with the municipalities and its surrounding counties to study the transportation needs of Dare County and our region.

Policy ICC #8

Dare County supports the development and construction of sidewalks, bike paths, greenways, and other walking/jogging trails to provide a safe setting for these types of outdoor recreation and as alternative transportation routes.

Policy ICC #9

Dare County encourages the recordation of roads and streets as “publicly-dedicated” improvements. Dare County shall not be responsible for maintaining or repairing privately owned streets. The proposed layout of new subdivision streets shall be coordinated with the existing road system of the surrounding area and where possible, existing principal streets shall be extended.

Implementation Strategy:

1. Administer Street standards of Subdivision Ordinance for new subdivisions approved in unincorporated Dare County. (2010-2015)

Solid Waste

Policy ICC #10

Dare County will continue to participate in a regional solid waste authority. Other alternatives that are identified as more practicable or economical may be considered on a case-by-case basis. Expanded programs for household hazardous materials disposal and recycling are encouraged.

Implementation Strategy:

1. Consider expansion of residential recycling and commercial recycling programs to facilitate greater volumes of recycling materials. (2012-2013)

Energy Facilities

Policy ICC #11

Dare County is opposed to the development of any petro-chemical energy facility or related improvements within its jurisdictional lands and/or waters. This includes all structures, operations, and activities associated with petro-chemical energy facility development such as but not limited to on-shore support bases for offshore exploration activities, staging areas, transmission and/or production pipelines, pipeline storage yards, and other similar structural activities and improvements related to petro-chemical energy facility development, exploration, or production.

Policy ICC #12

Dare County supports efforts by the federal government to identify methods to decrease the United States’ continued reliance on fossil fuels supplied by foreign sources. A revised national energy policy that fosters alternatives to fossil fuels is strongly encouraged. Proposals for offshore exploration for fossil fuels will be opposed unless it is determined that such proposals are part of a national energy policy implemented equitably throughout the United States and it has been determined that all environmental concerns have been addressed to the satisfaction of all local, state, and federal agencies.

Policy ICC #13

Dare County supports research and development of alternative energy sources, such as wind powered structures and mechanisms.

Implementation Strategy

1. Amend Dare County Zoning Ordinance or other land use codes as may be necessary in response to alternative energy sources. (2010-2015)

MANAGEMENT TOPIC #4 – NATURAL HAZARDS

Ocean Shoreline

Policy NH #1

Oceanfront shoreline development should continue to be managed to protect and preserve the natural and recreational resources along the oceanfront. The appropriate tools for this are the existing CAMA permit program and the Areas of Environmental Concerns (AECs) designated under the CAMA program. Dare County reserves the right to review, comment, advocate, or oppose any proposed regulations or programs that may affect the regulation of ocean hazards areas of environmental concern.

Implementation Strategies:

1. Rely on existing CAMA AEC regulations to address development activities along the ocean beaches, estuarine shoreline, and other public trust areas in unincorporated Dare County. Dare County will continue to participate in the CAMA permitting process with the provision of a local permit officer for unincorporated Dare County. (2010-2015)
2. Rely on existing regulations of the Dare County Zoning Ordinance for development activities along the ocean front. (2010-2015)

Estuarine Systems

Policy NH #2

Estuarine shoreline development should continue to be managed to protect and preserve the natural resources of the estuarine waters and the estuarine shoreline. The appropriate tools for this are the existing CAMA permit program and the Areas of Environmental Concerns (AECs) designated under the CAMA program. Dare County reserves the right to review, comment, advocate or oppose any proposed regulations or programs that may affect the regulation of estuarine waters and/or the estuarine shoreline.

Implementation Strategies:

1. Rely on existing CAMA AEC regulations to address development activities along the ocean beaches, estuarine shoreline, and other public trust areas in unincorporated Dare County. Dare County will continue to participate in the CAMA permitting process with the provision of a local permit officer for unincorporated Dare County. (2010-2015)
2. Rely on the regulations of the Dare County Zoning Ordinance for development activities along estuarine shoreline areas. (2010-2015)

Policy NH #3

Dare County supports the installation and maintenance of estuarine bulkheads. Offshore breakwaters, slopes, rip-rap, and voluntary setbacks are appropriate alternatives for property owners for addressing estuarine shoreline management in lieu of estuarine bulkheads where these other techniques may be equally effective in abating a shoreline erosion problem.

Implementation Strategy:

1. Oppose efforts to eliminate the use of estuarine bulkheads or other efforts designed to prioritize or amend the current State regulations on their installation and maintenance. (2010-2015)

Policy NH #4

Development of estuarine system islands that are only accessible by boat shall be carefully managed. Low intensity uses such as open space, recreation, and detached single family residential development shall be the preferred uses of these islands.

Flood Hazards

Policy NH #5

Dare County supports as current minimum standards, the administration and enforcement of all applicable floodplain management regulations and the National Flood Insurance Program. Dare County reserves the right to review, comment, advocate, or oppose any proposed regulations or programs that may affect the National Flood insurance Program or other flood hazard legislation.

Implementation Strategy:

1. Administration of Dare County Flood Ordinance and continued participation in Community Rating System to result in reduction in flood insurance rates for property owners in unincorporated Dare County. (2010-2015)

Policy NH #6

Dare County shall use construction standards, such as the elevation of buildings and the wind zone requirements for mobile homes and zoning regulations, such as the setbacks from water bodies and erosion-prone areas to mitigate the effects of high winds, storm surge, flooding, wave action, and erosion.

Storm Hazard Mitigation

Policy NH#7

Dare County is committed to maintaining a full-time emergency management department and emergency operation center and places a high priority on storm preparedness and response. The Dare County Board of Commissioners shall be ultimately responsible for supervising the implementation of various policies and procedures regarding reconstruction and recovery after a natural disaster.

Policy NH#8

Recovery priority shall be directed to restoring or repairing infrastructure improvements such as transportation routes, utilities, and medical and emergency management facilities. Once the infrastructure has been restored, recovery priorities shall then be directed at essential commercial and primary residential structures.

Policy NH #9

In the event of extensive storm damage to publicly-owned utilities or other improvements requiring replacement or reconstruction, alternative locations that will mitigate the potential for similar repetitive losses will be examined and implemented whenever feasible and practicable.

Policy NH#10

In the event of a damaging hurricane, storm, or other disastrous event, the Dare County Board of Commissioners may establish a priority ranking system or other administrative measures for the issuance of building permits and/or review of development proposals. Such measures may be established to provide for the orderly processing of permits for reconstruction activities and other construction activities not associated with storm damage recovery with an emphasis on reconstruction activities.

Implementation Strategy:

1. Work with Dare County Emergency Management personnel on storm hazard mitigation and reconstruction issues as needed. (2010-2015

Policy NH#11

The relocation or removal of sand that may be deposited on private property during storm events and ocean overwash episodes is necessary to accommodate storm damage recovery efforts. It is recognized that there is no current local, state or federal regulation to address this issue and this removal/relocation issue will most likely continue to be addressed on a case by case or an as-needed basis.

Implementation Strategy:

1. As may be needed following flooding or overwash events in which the issue of sand relocation may be pertinent.

Climate Conditions

Policy NH#12

Dare County believes the issues of global warming, sea level rise and climate change are issues of international and national debate. Federal and/or State initiatives that may be forthcoming to address these issues will be reviewed as proposed with support or opposition offered depending on the impacts for Dare County.

MANAGEMENT TOPIC # 5—WATER QUALITY

Water Quality

Policy WQ #1

Dare County recognizes the importance of water quality in inland regions which influences and impacts the water quality of the coastal region. This is particularly true where inland communities use point-source discharge of treated wastewater to surface waters that drain into the coastal waters.

Policy WQ #2

Development projects shall be designed and constructed to minimize detrimental impacts on surface water quality, groundwater quality, and air quality. Structures should be designed to fit the natural topographic conditions and vegetation versus modifications to natural conditions to accommodate structures.

Implementation Strategy:

1. Enforcement of dune alteration standard of Section 22-58.1 of the Dare County Zoning Ordinance (2010-2015)

Policy WQ #3

Protection of groundwater resources and public water supply resources is essential for a safe drinking water supply. Protection measures, such as the designation of wellfield areas as CAMA Areas of Environmental Concern are appropriate when nominated by the applicable local government. Development in existing public water supply AECs shall be in accordance with CAMA regulations and any local zoning regulations that may apply, such as increased minimum lot size standards and limited vegetation removal regulations of as the Buxton Woods SED-1 zoning regulations. These zoning regulations are designed to reduce the threat of potential negative impacts and pollutants from affecting the surficial aquifer underneath the Buxton Woods maritime forest.

Implementation Strategy:

1. Implementation and enforcement of CAMA use standards for Buxton Woods wellfield AEC and Buxton SED-1 zoning regulations. (2010-2015)

Stormwater

Policy WQ#4

Efforts to preserve, protect and improve water quality should be managed at the local level. Local level management allows for a regulatory approach designed to specifically address unique local needs and conditions. Existing State stormwater rules should serve as the basis for local programs with adjustments made to address local needs, conditions, and community support.

Policy WQ#5

Efforts to manage stormwater runoff should be based on local conditions and natural features. Properties immediately adjacent to SA classified waters should be developed consistent with the dimensional standards and lot coverage limitations of the Dare County Zoning Ordinance. Vegetative buffers and other low-impact development methods identified by the UNC Coastal Studies Institute are appropriate tools to address stormwater runoff adjacent to SA waters.

Implementation Strategies:

1. Present amendments to the Zoning Ordinance and the Subdivision Ordinance on LID stormwater techniques to the Planning Board and Board of Commissioners for consideration. (2012)
2. Conduct an up-to-date stormwater management study of unincorporated Dare County to identify problem drainage areas. (2013)

Policy WQ#6

Dare County recognizes the public health issues associated with mosquitoes and standing areas of water and the public safety issue for motorists presented by stormwater ponding on roadways.

Implementation Strategy:

1. Continue full-time staff of mosquito control program (2010-2015)

Wetlands

Policy WQ#7

Dare County advocates the use of existing (2010)state and federal regulatory programs for protecting and preserving coastal wetland areas of environmental concern. Dare County reserves the right to review, comment, advocate, or oppose any proposed regulations or programs that may affect the regulation of coastal wetland areas of environmental concern.

Implementation Strategy:

1. Continued support of local permit officer for CAMA for implementation and enforcement of CAMA use standards for coastal wetlands. (2010-2015)

Policy WQ#8

Dare County supports the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers nationwide permit program as administered in 2008. This support is based on the current scope of permitting limits of the nationwide program and not any changes that may result in a different policy. Dare County reserves the right to review, comment, advocate, or oppose any proposed regulations or programs that may affect the Army Corps of Engineers nationwide permit program.

Policy WQ#9

The use of wetland mitigation to compensate for the loss of wetlands is a suitable alternative for projects identified as “public purpose projects” or projects undertaken by Dare County. The use of wetland mitigation for private development projects may be deemed suitable if such projects are consistent with other policies of the Dare County Land Use Plan and recognized as serving a public need by the Dare County Board of Commissioners.

Policy WQ#10

Dare County supports the installation and maintenance of estuarine bulkheads. Offshore breakwaters, slopes, rip-rap, and voluntary setbacks are appropriate alternatives for property owners for addressing estuarine shoreline management in lieu of estuarine bulkheads where these other techniques may be equally effective in abating a shoreline erosion problem.

Implementation Strategy:

1. Oppose efforts eliminate the use of estuarine bulkheads or other efforts designed to prioritize or amend the current State regulations on their installation and maintenance. (2010-2015)

Fisheries Resources

Policy WQ#11:

Dare County also recognizes the importance of our surrounding waters that serve as habitats for the area's abundant fisheries resources. The continued productivity of Dare County's fisheries shall be fostered through restoration and protection of the unique ecosystems upon which they depend. Dare County supports measures to protect and preserve designated primary nursery areas by the Division of Marine Fisheries. New regulatory initiatives that may limit access to fisheries should be subject to extensive public hearings in Dare County.

Policy WQ#12

Management and regulation of fisheries resources by State and federal agencies should balance the needs of both commercial and recreational fisherman. Regulatory programs designed to restore depleted or threatened species should be reviewed on a periodic basis and adjustments made to allow increased access or catch quotas where landing records indicate successful restoration of the species.

Implementation Strategy:

1. Continued support of the Dare County Commission of Working Watermen (2010-2015)

Policy WQ#13

Local efforts to develop aquaculture as a source of fisheries production are supported provided the proposed fishery or fish species does not negatively impact fisheries. Dare County supports efforts by the State of North Carolina to promote locally harvested seafood.

Policy WQ#14

Dare County recognizes the traditional practices of commercial fishing in Dare County and supports the use of traditional shellfish and fish harvesting methods including trawling and beach haul netting. Vehicular access to Dare County beaches by commercial fishermen is essential to their continued livelihood.

Implementation Strategy:

1. As may be needed in response to National Park Service efforts on beach driving. (2010-2015)

Marinas and Floating Structures

Policy WQ#15

Marinas, developed according to applicable State and federal guidelines are identified as appropriate uses in Dare County due to the large amount of water resources within our jurisdiction. Facilities built for dry-stack storage of boats should be consistent with height limits and gross floor area limitations of applicable Dare County zoning codes.

Implementation Strategy:

1. Encourage marina operators to participate in the voluntary Clean Marina certification program administered by the State of North Carolina Division of Coastal Management

Policy WQ#16

Dare County is strongly opposed to the mooring of floating homes and other floating structures designed for habitation anywhere in Dare County and its surrounding waters. This policy shall not be interpreted to preclude the permitting of floating accessory structures for recreational water use associated with kiteboarding or other water use activities.

Implementation Strategy:

1. Consideration of regulations to prohibit floating homes and structures in unincorporated Dare County. (2011)

MANAGEMENT TOPIC #6 LOCAL AREAS OF CONCERN

ORV Access

Policy LAC #1

The County recognizes the importance of four-wheel drive vehicles and pedestrian to the beaches of Hatteras Island that are under the management authority of the federal government. Efforts to completely prohibit beach driving on these federally-managed areas are opposed. National Park Service management plans for the beaches should acknowledge the historical and established practice of vehicular and pedestrian access to the beaches of Dare County. In addition, impacts of Dare County's local economy are important elements that should be a factor in any decision-making process of the National Park Service. Management plans should emphasize the need to allow these practices to continue in an equitable manner that balances species management activities without eliminating or severely limiting vehicular and pedestrian access to the Dare County beaches.

Federal/State Support

Policy LAC #2

Additional Federal or State regulatory programs or expansion of existing programs will be reviewed on a case by case basis. Dare County reserves the right to support, oppose, review, or comment on additional regulations that may impact Dare County and its economy. Local public hearings by federal or state agencies should be extensively advertised and conducted in Dare County before any new regulations are adopted or existing programs are expanded.

Policy LAC#3

The large percentage of publicly-owned lands in Dare County should be recognized by federal and state agencies when drafting new regulations that will apply to Dare County. This disproportionate ratio of public/private lands and the resultant competition for land resources by the private sector to address the needs of our permanent population and our seasonal population creates unique challenges for Dare County.

Policy LAC#4

Dare County encourages federal and state regulatory agencies to consider fast-tracking of public-purposes projects. Where State grant funds have been secured, consideration of an assumed or accelerated permit process is advocated.

Implementation Strategy:

1. Request North Carolina General Assembly to authorize and establish an expedited permit process for projects funded by State grants. (2012)

Policy LAC #5

Dare County encourages federal and state regulatory agencies to consider impacts from activities occurring on their lands on the surrounding privately-owned land and communities. Although Dare County acknowledges that federal and state properties are exempt from local zoning and other land use ordinances, federal and state agencies should coordinate their efforts with local officials whenever practicable.

Tourism

Policy LAC#6

Dare County supports the concept of combining natural resources and tourism to promote the area's ecological values, known as "eco-tourism".

Policy LAC #7

The quality of life of Dare County residents should be carefully balanced with the tourist-based economy of the Outer Banks. Maintaining a good quality of life for our permanent population and ensuring a safe and enjoyable vacation experience should be a goal of all local, state, and federal agencies responsible for the promotion of tourism in Dare County and North Carolina.

Policy LAC#8

Dare County recognizes the importance of tourism to our local economy and supports efforts to maintain our status as a desirable place to live, visit and vacation. Tourist generated revenues should be used to offset the infrastructure needs of our seasonal population and our year-round population.

Public Participation

Policy LAC #9

Dare County supports the active involvement of all interested persons in its land use planning and policy development activities.

Channel Maintenance-Oregon Inlet

Policy LAC#10

Dare County advocates the dredging and other associated maintenance activities of all existing navigable channels, canals, boat basins, marinas and waterways. Such activities are of vital importance to our local residents, fisherman, and tourist economy.

Implementation Strategy:

1. Continue working with the Army Corps of Engineers, State and Federal agencies to secure permit authorization for work as needed. (2010-2015)

Policy LAC #11

Dare County recognizes the importance of Oregon Inlet and its continued need for stabilization, protection and navigable maintenance.

Implementation Strategy:

1. Lobby the US Congress for a dedicated funding source for the maintenance dredging for Oregon Inlet. (2010-2015)

Buxton Coast Guard Base

Policy LAC #12

Dare County will pursue opportunities to acquire and utilize the facilities of the former Buxton Coast Guard base and the housing complex.

Implementation Strategy:

1. Continue to work to acquire selected facilities at the Buxton Coast Guard base. (2010)

Insurance

Policy LAC #13

The Dare County Board of Commissioners will lobby the NC Commissioner of Insurance to ensure that insurance rates in the coastal region remain equitable compared to insurance rates in other regions of the State.