

**Windsor, North Carolina**  
**March 11, 2019**  
**WORK SESSION**

The Bertie County Board of Commissioners met their regular meeting today inside the Commissioners Room, 106 Dundee Street, Windsor, NC. The following members were present or absent:

Present: Ronald "Ron" Wesson, District I  
Greg Atkins, District II  
Tammy A. Lee, District III  
Ernestine (Byrd) Bazemore, District V

Absent: John Trent, District IV

Staff Present: County Manager Scott Sauer  
Clerk to the Board Sarah Tinkham  
County Attorney Lloyd Smith  
Finance Officer William Roberson  
Assistant to the County Manager Dominique Walker  
Tax Administrator Jodie Rhea  
Sheriff John Holley  
Economic Development Director Steve Biggs  
Soil & Water Director Vic Thompson

Town of Windsor Representatives: Mayor James Hoggard  
Town Administrator Allen Castelloe  
Commissioner David Overton  
Commissioner Randy Whitacker

Junior Commissioners: Qudre Joyner

Sarah Stalls of the Bertie-Ledger Advance were present from the media.

## **CALLED TO ORDER**

Vice Chairman Atkins called the meeting to order.

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INVOCATION**

Commissioner Bazemore led the Pledge of Allegiance and gave the Invocation.

## **WORK SESSION**

Dr. Stan Riggs of East Carolina University provided a PowerPoint presentation to the Board. The presentation's focus was eco-tourism and how the County could better utilize one of its most valuable resources, the Roanoke River.

His recommendations included following the steps needed to have the Roanoke River designated as a National Water Trail. He also suggested the County consider placing "hubs" within their already established river access points including in Windsor, Sans Souci, Salmon Creek, Weeping Mary, and Colerain.

Dr. Riggs also suggested the Board find interested and influential County leaders to serve on a committee to help these efforts move forward.

The Board commended Dr. Riggs for his presentation.

Representatives from the Town of Windsor also thanked Dr. Riggs for all of his work. Mayor Hoggard stated his sincere belief in the suggestions being made by Dr. Riggs and he stated that he and the Town of Windsor would be ready to run with the ideas when the County deems it is time to do so.

County Manager Sauer and the Board discussed their shared goals for the next steps including how the Windsor treehouses could play a role, strong marketing efforts, and ways to properly tell "the story" of this project.

Dr. Riggs noted that filming for a program on exploring NC has begun for UNC-TV. He shared that the purpose of the program is to set-up Bertie County as a model for the rest of coastal Carolina. He stated that he would be in touch with the Board to give comments for the film.

Economic Development Director Steve Biggs shared that NC Governor Roy Cooper has mandated the NC Chamber of Commerce to create an outdoor recreation program. He thanked the Board for their vision and efforts for their eco-tourism projects.

---

Greg Atkins, Vice-Chairman

---

Sarah S. Tinkham, Clerk to the Board