



Pender County Government Update

Department

UTILITY OPERATIONS

PENDER COUNTY UTILITIES (PCU) & WATER DISTRICTS:

PCU's new Project Manager, Katie, starts work on Monday July 25th. This will make PCU fully staffed for the first time in over a year (not counting new positions recently approved). We do have 3 open new positions for FY23. We are reviewing candidates for the Water & Sewer Locator position, are currently recruiting for the Wastewater Plant Maintenance Technician position, and plan to recruit for the Well Operator position in August.

RO Plant site search: Staff met last week at a potential site to review/discuss options. We are working on some other potential sites as well, but nothing definite yet. I anticipate finalizing a prospective site within the next 30 days and beginning the evaluation and design process.

Elevated Tank & Wells project: The Board tentatively awarded the construction contract to Harper General Contractors on 7/11, but we are waiting on funding decisions from NCDWI and the LGC for additional financing needed. PCU hopes to begin construction in September. The tank and one well will be located at EMS Station 18 in Scotts Hill, another well located at South Topsail Elementary School, and the third well at the Hampstead elevated tank.

US 421 Sewer to Blueberry Road project: We have a potential sewage pump station site near Blueberry Road and 421. Engineers are working on design of the pump station and pipelines. A 12" water main loop on Blueberry Road is part of project.

Pender Commerce Park Water & Sewer Extensions project: The construction contract was awarded to 274 Construction Group on 6/20. Construction start may be delayed a little due to materials delivery. A pre-construction conference is scheduled for next week, and work should begin within the next few months.

WTP Generator & WWTP Berm project: Design is underway, currently just over 30% complete. Bidding and construction anticipated for late 2022 or early 2023. This project will add a natural gas emergency generator at the water plant and a flood control berm around the back of the wastewater plant.

WTP High Service Pump addition project: Design is underway. Bid documents anticipated to be ready in early Fall. This pump addition will increase the rated capacity of the water plant from 2 to 4 MGD.

Maple Hill Water Interconnection with ONWASA project: Complete and operational. We are working on final payment and contract close-out, as well as finalizing a related property acquisition.

Field staff work and status updates since last report:

- 3 new water taps completed by staff, 26 water meter inspections completed, 30 Bac-T samples taken, numerous water meter sets completed, 100 plus work orders completed.
- Staff repaired 8-inch bell joint leak at Sloop Point Rd in Hampstead, 4-inch main break on Thankful Rd, and hydrant at Manhollow Rd. 2 after-hours emergency calls for staff.
- Staff excavated a leak in Pelican Reef which turned out to be sewer leak.
- 336 locates in last two weeks
- Extensive water line flushing in the Hampstead area. We are continuing to vary the Topsail water tank level more to increase disinfectant level.
- New gravel storage area is being constructed at 210 BPS site by ATMC/Focus to create space for broadband substation.

WATER PRODUCTION NUMBERS:

March 2022 Daily Avg: 1.32 MGD from WP, 0.223 MGD from Wallace, 0.835 MGD to Hamp/SH (thru 210 BPS), 0.007 MGD from Annex & Kiwanis Wells (Total 0.843 MGD for Hamp/SH)

April 2022 Daily Avg: 1.40 MGD from WP, 0.356 MGD from Wallace, 0.980 MGD to Hamp/SH (thru 210 BPS), 0.126 MGD from Annex & Kiwanis Wells (Total 1.107 MGD for Hamp/SH)

May 2022 Daily Avg: 1.50 MGD from WP, 0.480 MGD from Wallace, 1.019 MGD to Hamp/SH (thru 210 BPS), 0.393 MGD from Annex & Kiwanis Wells (Total 1.411 MGD for Hamp/SH)

June 2022 Daily Avg: 1.59 MGD from WP, 0.402 MGD from Wallace, 0.908 MGD to Hamp/SH (thru 210 BPS), 0.560 MGD from Annex & Kiwanis Wells (Total 1.467 MGD for Hamp/SH)

July 2022 Daily Avg (thru 20th): 1.66 MGD from WP, 0.048 MGD from Wallace, 0.736 MGD to Hamp/SH (thru 210 BPS), 0.427 MGD from Annex & Kiwanis Wells (Total 1.162 MGD for Hamp/SH)

MAPLE HILL WATER SYSTEM & WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

Staff has been cleaning up around the water blow-offs on dead ends and cutting grass around the two interconnections to ONWASA. The automated valve for water purchases is working well and regulating the elevated tank level properly. The wastewater plant is looking good but is starting to get a lot of foam. Working on wastewater report for last month and waiting on the results from the lab for July.

WATER TREATMENT PLANT

All State reports for June have been completed and submitted. Tom attended the monthly LCFWASA board meeting virtually. The Board was pleased that we met our projected usage for this past fiscal year.

We took delivery of our new tractor. This piece of equipment will assist staff at both plants to complete smaller projects in house (see photo).

Staff installed and calibrated a new in-line conductivity probe, and it has been added to SCADA. This will help the plant operators with monitoring raw water conditions. Staff repaired a leak on Caustic pump #1. Overall, the plant is running well with no major issues.

Water production numbers for July through the 20th: 33.1 million gallons for an average of 1.66 MGD

PCP WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT - MKKAES (Melinda K. Knoezer Adaptive Ecosystem)

The wastewater plant is running well.

- Received a chemical delivery
- We have been mowing and trimming the yard again (see photos)
- Several call outs for power outages
- Repaired two exhaust fans (see photos)
- Fixed a break in a chemical line
- We have run the new tractor and fixed rain washouts on the side of our roads
- Received some probes for our upcoming project

SOLID WASTE

- The Transfer Station scale house is operating well.
- Waiting time at scales is about 3 minutes in and 4 minutes out.
- Randy, our solid waste maintenance technician, is doing an amazing job! He multitasks between the convenience sites, transfer station and helping Chris at the Maple Hill plant.
- We are still waiting on new desks for the scale house.

SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL TONNAGE FOR JUNE 2022

MSW Kitchen trash collected 2,406.81 tons

Construction & demolition 612.83 tons

Recycling 112.43 tons

Tires recycled 62.53 tons

TV & Electronics 10.49 tons

Scrap metal recycled (shreds) 100.62 tons

Whitegoods recycled 4.43 tons

Out of County 5.84 tons

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Fresh mowing
at PCP-WWTP



Exhaust fan repairs
at PCP-WWTP







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LIBRARY

- On Thursday, July 14, the North Carolina Aquarium at Fort Fisher visited both library locations. Families learned how to identify if a sea creature is a fish, held shark teeth and jaws, and met a real jellyfish!
- The Hampstead Branch Library partnered with Pender County Parks and Recreation to host a Teddy Bear Picnic. Children brought their favorite teddy bear, enjoyed a snack, and listened to stories. Participants were excited to bring their special animals to the library!
- The Hampstead Branch Library hosted its first evening storytime! Evening storytime includes all the fun of daytime storytimes like stories, music, movement, and literacy activities, but is held in the evening at 6 p.m. This program will continue on the third Thursday of every month at 6 p.m. at the Hampstead Branch Library.
- The Mt. Calvary Center for Leadership Development will be in the lobby of the Main Library in Burgaw on Wednesday, July 27 from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Mt. Calvary Center is working to empower and improve the Pender County community's quality of life by providing programs and information about community health, transportation, food insecurity, and more. Free hand sanitizer, COVID-19 home test kits, and N 95 face masks will be available.
- Teens are invited to our Teen Summer Reading Wrap Party on Friday, July 29 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Main Library in Burgaw. The wrap-up party will include snacks, drinks, and water balloons! Bring a towel to dry off and wear clothes you don't mind getting wet!



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COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

County Director and Commercial Horticulture

- Attended County department head meeting, State animal response team hurricane preparedness meeting, and Rotary meeting.
- Gave staff updates at staff conference.
- Attended the Professional improvement conference in Florida for the National Association of County Agricultural Agents where he toured farms to learn new farming techniques to bring back to our Farmers. He also received the Distinguished Service Award for his career work and accomplishments helping Farmers remain profitable and sustainable.

4-H Starts the Down East Dairy Project Monday 25! The sweet babies arrived Monday 18th! This project will allow youth to get hands on experience with gentle calves while learning about their life cycle, animal care, the dairy industry, and preparing for a show. This project will keep the whole Extension team very busy for the next 8 weeks!

-8 Pender County 4-H youth attended Millstone 4-H (Sleep away) Camp, July 10-15th in Ellerbe, NC. They hiked, fished, swam, kayaked, participated in archery, shooting sports, climbing wall, group challenges, giant swing and much more.

-Pender County 4-H Teen brought home a bronze medal for her 4-H State Presentation in the Small Companion Animal category. Competition was held at NC State University.

-3 Pender County teens attended 4-H Congress at NC State University July 16th-19th. They participated in leadership workshops, voted in new state 4-H officers, packed bags for active duty military, attended a formal dance and much more. They stayed in the University dorms and learned what it was like to live as a college student.

-18 youth toured Buckhorn Farm in Rocky Point. They made dream catchers, lemon balm tea, made natural plant fertilizers, rode horses and enjoyed a bouncy house.

-11 youth attended the Bees, Worms and Soil camp. The Pender County Beekeepers' Assoc. taught the youth all about keeping bees and how honey is made, they tried on a beekeepers suit and tasted honey from different areas. The Master Gardeners taught all about soil and the youth had fun eating edible dirt. They learned all about vermicomposting, composting and how to plant black-eyed susans. They also participated in a nature scavenger hunt.

Expanded Food and Nutrition Program (EFNEP)

- Continuing my weekly adult nutrition class at the Burgaw Library. I have 2 participants.
- This Saturday I will be graduating my Teen Cuisine Class at Moore's Creek Baptist Church. I have 2 participants.
- Contacted Penderlea Paces after school about providing classes there. Plan to start in early August. - On August 10th and 14th, I will be providing 2 youth classes, Teen Cuisine and Camp, Cook, Play curriculum, for 6 weeks at Shiloh Baptist Church.
- Planning to provide classes at West Pender and Burgaw Middle Schools in September for 6 weeks using Teen Cuisine curriculum.

Empowering Youth and Families (EYFP) Opioid Prevention

- attending in-service training and making connections with community groups for fall programs.

Consumer Horticulture & Local Foods – Tiffanee Boone

- Has been putting gardening information on the Master Gardener facebook page.
- Has answered 45 phone calls, text messages, emails, and facebook messenger questions about gardening and soils.
- Taught 2 new Extension Master Gardener Volunteer board members how to use the intranet to post email messages and files.
- Prepared supplies for the next initial Extension Master Gardener Volunteer class starting the 2nd week in January with a volunteer. If you are interested in joining the class, please fill out the application here: <https://pender.ces.ncsu.edu/2020/01/nc-state-extension-master-gardener-pender-county-initial-certification-training/>
- Worked with Dairy Specialist to secure dairy heifer feed for 6 calves for the 4-H Down East Dairy Project that starts next week. Staff helped her to unload calves and feed bags at Chris Smith's farm in Rocky Point. Youth will start working with their animals next week.
- Planning the next initial Extension Master Gardener Volunteer training.
- Finished reading A Portrait of Peace book for diversity training.
- Taught Farmer how to perform her own fecal egg counts and worming strategies for her animals.
- Home visit to address weeds in lawn and plan for future grass plantings.
- Extension Master Gardener Volunteers worked in the Hampstead library and Extension demo gardens. Three of them are performing basil downy mildew research for the state. It is a project in many counties across the state to determine resistant varieties.













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TOURISM

Tourism/County Update 7/22/2022

The **North Carolina Beach, Inlet, and Waterway Association** issued their first quarterly newsletter. Tammy serves on the newsletter committee. She provided photos for the newsletter.

The **Southeast Tourism Society** hosted a workshop on telling an advocacy story and obtaining ARPA funding for tourism entities.

Tourism served on the judging panel for **WILMA's Women to Watch**. The awards night will be Oct. 21.

Tourism joined the Greater Topsail Chamber of Commerce in celebrating the ribbon-cutting of **Saltwater Suites**, a new lodging option.

The **Mountains to Sea Trail** land committee met Wednesday, July 13.

On Sept. 10, the **Mountains to Sea Trail will celebrate a birthday** (idea formed in 1977 by Howard Lee). Locations around the state can host 1-mile to 10-mile hikes. We are beginning to plan for those.

Pender County Tourism is working with **Flip.to**, a company hired by Visit NC for social media marketing.

Pender County Tourism, an advocate of **Outdoor NC**, met on July 19.

Stephanie represented Pender County Tourism at the **Topsail Chamber** meeting on July 21.

Pender County Tourism met with **ITS regarding phones** in the office.

We are beginning to work on the **2023 Visitor Guide**, gathering and updating all our tourism-related businesses, history, attractions, accommodations, and agriculture.

Olivia continues to work with **Pender County Long Term Recovery Group**.

Tourism provided information to the state film commissioner as a prospective filming location.

The executive producer of Fireball Run contacted tourism.

Pictured is the Welcome to Flatch photo backdrop. It is available for selfies when visitors stop by. The other photo is by Stephanie Key as she captured a rainbow over the water tower.

Several press releases were sent to our media distribution list.

We fielded many media inquiries.

We updated the social media and website as needed.

We posted on social media the retirement of David Williams.

The Brunswick Nuclear Plant Ingestion Tabletop Exercise is set for the end of the month. Tammy has reviewed the situation manual in preparation of the event in May.



