

OBSERVER REPORTING FORM

League of Women Voters, Lower Cape Fear Organization

Date: 1/16/18

Type of meeting: Regular Session, Brunswick County Government Center

The Brunswick County Board of Commissioners (BCBC) meeting was held 1/16/2018 at 6PM. The agenda discussion topics relevant to LWV positions/programs:

Environmental:

Off Shore Drilling> Public comments were taken on a change in the status of Federal Rules for Off-shore Oil Exploration and Seismic Testing. A standing room only crowd of citizens attended the meeting, approximately 10 signed up to speak for 3 minutes each, and all speakers requested the BCBC adapt a resolution against off shore drilling. Additionally, several speakers called out the BCBC's 2015 resolution to support off shore drilling in Brunswick County coast, which is currently on the books. The public speakers included a professional fisherman, veterinarian, home owners, and retiree that moved to NC from the Texas coast. Several of the public speakers presented arguments against off shore drilling and/or seismic testing. Their arguments compared the economic risk to tourist and fishing industries that occurred on coastal communities such as Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas, with the economic gain of jobs from large corporations operating potential oil rigs. Next, Steve Stone, Deputy County Manager, presented the updated Federal position to the board. The US Department of Interior's proposal would release 90% of the total Outer Continental Shelf acreage for Oil exploration. This includes most of the water off NC coast. Finally, the five board of commissioners verbalized their views and arguments. Two committee members support off shore drilling. They referred to national energy independence and potential natural gas vs oil deposits off the coast, to support their decision. The remaining board comments reflected the economic risks as previously stated. A motion was made to rescind the 2015 BCBC resolution and assume a neutral stance on the issue. District 1 Randy Thompson YES (supported rescinding 2015 resolution), District 2 Marty Cooke NO, District 3 Pat Sykes NO, District 4 Mike Forte YES (supported rescinding 2015 resolution), District 5 Frank Williams YES (supported rescinding 2015 resolution), thus the BCBC rescinded its support for off shore drilling and assumed a neutral stance on the issue. [The State Port Pilot 1-17-18 article](#) pages 1A and 13A

Utilities Water Treatment> A Request for Approval of Engineering Firm for Evaluation of water Treatment Options at the Northwest Water Treatment Plant and Associated Budget Amendment, with the Selection of the CDM Smith, for the evaluation of water Treatment options. A presentation by CDM Smith representatives, outlined a four month project, which included data gap analysis, selected field data collection, and Low Pressure Reverse Osmosis pilot study. The contract for \$599,600 was reviewed and approved. [agenda details](#) see 1/16/18 pages 183-209.

Health Care

> Presentation by David Tart Regional Director presented the Trillium Health Resources Annual Report. The budget in 2017 was identical to the budget in 2016 at \$250,443. The presentations stated 1,269 individuals had received service for the Opioid crisis in a six month period.

Observer: Sarah Hoss

Date report submitted: January 22 2018