

2000 Committee Held Meeting

The Chowan County NC 2000 Committee held their county meeting on Thursday night, Feb. 4, at John A. Holmes High School. A slide presentation was given by Mike Williams, agricultural extension chairman, and then the NC 2000 statewide system was explained, with emphasis on the ballots that will be mailed later this spring.

The group was broken up into four divisions: community, natural resources, economy and people. Members of the steering committee led the discussion in each of these groups. In these sessions concerns were expressed by participants.

Some of the concerns of the community group were: (1) equal rights and affirmative action; (2) crime prevention; (3) child and parent abuse; (4) adult involvement with youth.

In the economy group, some of the major needs expressed were in the line of employment, including seeking industry which pays higher than the minimum wage and also training local people for positions that require higher technological skills than the current job market has available.

Because of the ever increasing number of women who are heads of households, an important consideration is the proper care of pre-school children (Day Care Centers), freeing the mother so that she can be actively employed and not left to depend on social services. It was also felt by this group that the county needs to seek alternative revenue sources such as local income taxes, sales taxes, etc., rather than depend solely on the current property tax structure.

Under natural resources, concerns expressed were: (1) availability of ground water; (2) point and non-point sources of discharges into the river; (3) reforestation and improvement of timberland; and (4) the economic growth that puts pressure on our natural resources.

Under people the concerns dealt with a community center for recreational and educational involvement for all age groups. The second concern was with a transportation system that would be available for educational opportunities to community colleges, universities, medical treatment, employment, etc.

Other concerns that were expressed in the initial meeting were: community chest, county-wide sewage, health costs and availability, safety on the streets and in the home, and a look at the tax system as a means of supporting programs that are designed by the citizens of Chowan County.

As citizens of Chowan County, you will have an opportunity to vote on the concerns that are put together by the State Commission on the Future of North Carolina. If you have questions concerning the NC 2000 planning process, please contact a member of the county steering committee as follows: Pete Thompson, chairman; Mike Williams, Betty Cox, A. C. Hudson, James Taylor, Marvin Smith, T. D. Berryman, April Lane, Louise Darby, Cliff Copeland, or Harriet Abbe.



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