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Watershed Permit Suspended

The Army Corps of Engineers has suspended the construction permit for the Muddy Creek Watershed project because of an apparent excessive amount of spoil material from earlier work on the creek and on the companion Limestone Creek.

Both projects are intended to clear clogged stream channels to reduce flooding. Work began a year ago on the Limestone Creek project. Although bids have been opened on the major portion of the Muddy Creek project, contracts have not been awarded. A smaller portion of the project is under construction.

The permit was suspended until the spoil problem can be resolved, said Charles Hollis, chief of the environmental branch of the Army Corps of Engineers district office in Wilmington. Spoil is material dredged from stream channels or canals and deposited on banks or in areas set aside for the purpose.

A meeting of Soil Conservation Service and corps officials to work out the problem is tentatively scheduled, according to Hollis and Kenneth Futreal, Duplin County soil conservationist. Both men said they believe the problem can be resolved.

Under the federal Clean

Water Act, permits from the corps are required before spoil can be deposited on wetlands, Hollis said.

Watershed projects such as the two in eastern Duplin are managed by the Soil Conservation Service, which has offices in most rural counties. Plans for these projects must be approved by the corps and various state and federal agencies before permits can be issued and contracts awarded.

"The work they have done (in Limestone) has fairly significant problems being in compliance with the permit we issued. We need to get the problem resolved," Hollis said.

The engineering plans approved in the permit called for keeping spoil areas carefully defined and as small as possible, he said.

"They got more material (spoil) than expected, it appears," Hollis said. "The problem appears to stem from over-digging. The extra dirt basically blocks the flow of water between creek and swamp."

Futreal said, "I think it's a difference of opinion on how the work should be done. Our biologist thinks it's fine as it is."

The crops permit covered both the Limestone Creek and Muddy Creek watershed projects in eastern Duplin County near Beulaville. The Limestone Creek channel restoration project has been completed, Futreal said.

The first contract on the Muddy Creek Watershed included channel restoration on four miles of the stream from the Northeast Cape Fear River to N.C. 41, Futreal said. This work is nearing completion.

Another contract will be for about 20 miles of channel restoration and construction of drainage channels from wet areas in the watershed to the creek. Bids on this work have been received, but contracts have not been awarded, Futreal said. If the spoil problem is solved, the contracts may be awarded next month, he said.

Both the Limestone and Muddy Creek projects are planned to improve drainage in an area where sedimentation and trash from two centuries of agriculture and forestry have blocked normal escape routes for excess water, causing flooding of fields and forests. The Muddy Creek project includes 31,000 acres while Limestone involves 41,000 acres.

About 750 people own land in the area, although not all of their land is involved in the projects, Futreal said.



NEW CHAIRMAN ELECTED - The Duplin County Board of Commissioners selected a new chairman at the December 5 meeting at the courthouse in Kenansville. Commissioner Alan Nethercutt of the Limestone District was selected by the Board to fill the position as Chairman.

Nethercutt will replace Commissioner William Costin, who served as Chairman of the Board for 1983. Commissioner Calvin C. Turner was selected to the position of vice-chairman for 1984.

Fund-Raisers Collect \$9,000 For Sprunt Technical College

The James Sprunt Technical College Foundation fund-raising campaign that will end Jan. 1 has collected \$9,000, foundation chairman Tom Yates reported to the college's trustee board last Thursday. A goal of \$20,000 has been set.

The foundation, which has \$25,000 from previous fund campaigns, uses its funds for scholarships and equipment for the school, Yates said.

Also at the trustees' meeting, Gene Ballard, dean of instruction, said the enrollment during the fall quarter was 90 students less than the enrollment at the same time last year.

Alfred Wells, dean of students, said 763 students were enrolled in the fall quarter — 243 in the vocational curriculums, 317 in

technical programs, 99 in general education and 104 in special credit programs. Of the total number of students, 523 students are enrolled for full-time on-campus programs in the fall quarter.

A year ago, he said, the fall quarter enrollment totaled 853 students.

Rita Brown, director of admissions and records, said 13,632 people have enrolled as full-time students since the school was established some 20 years ago. Of that total, 6,271 enrolled in technical, 5,307 in vocational and 2,054 in general education programs. She said 47,708 students have enrolled in continuing education programs.

The number of students graduated from the various full-time programs is much

less than the enrollment. The school has graduated 90 students from general education, 690 from technical, 1,053 from vocational, 158 from an adult high school program, now discontinued, and 710 from general education programs — a total of 1,833 students.

"A lot of times students can get jobs before completing their programs, so they leave because that's what they were here for," said board Chairman Jimmy Strickland about the difference between enrollments and graduations.

Trustee Emmett Wickline of Beulaville said, "If a kid quit school because he was disgusted with the three 'R's' and he's here learning a trade, that's all he's interested in."

Two Firms In Contention For Project In Wallace

Either Dixie General Contractors Inc. of Wallace or T.A. Loving & Co. of Goldsboro is the low bidder for the general contract for wastewater treatment facility improvements in Wallace.

When bids were opened last week in Town Hall, Dixie General appeared to have entered the low bid of \$860,929.30. The next lowest bid appeared to be Loving's at \$863,888.

An inspection of the bids, however, showed that the Loving bid appeared to carry a \$3,000 item that could have been excluded.

If the itemized tabulation finds a \$3,000 error, Loving

would be the low bidder by \$51 at \$860,888.

Don Butler of Henry van Oesen and Associates of Wilmington, the town's engineering firm, said the bids will be tabulated and sent to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for approval.

If the EPA finds the low bid is in order, Butler said, the contract could be awarded this year. The contractor will have 15 months to complete the work.

Five companies bid on the general contract.

Seven companies bid on the electrical contract. Ohms Electric of Lumberton submitted the apparent low bid

of \$41,873.

Other electrical contract bids were as follows: \$42,372 from Tucker Electric Co. of Burgaw; \$46,900, Electric Service Corp. of Wilmington; \$48,424, Watson Electric Constifuction Co. of Wilson; \$49,239, Sutton Electric of Mount Olive; \$52,840, J.W. Campbell Electric Corp. of Wilson, and \$62,000, Roanoke Electric Corp. of Pantego.

These other general contract bids were received: \$894,903 from W.F. Brunkley & Son of Granite Quarry and \$899,747 from R.E. Hayes General Contractor Inc. of Dunn.

Bids were in line with cost estimates. "We allowed \$951,000 and will come out at about \$905,000," Butler said.

Mayor Melvin Cording, who presided at the bid opening, said the town set aside its share of the cost, about \$160,000, several years ago.

Wallace has been under a "no growth" order from the state Environmental Management Commission for several years because of limitations on its sewage treatment capacity and the quality of discharged water, he said, adding, "We had to go to Raleigh to convince the EMC we could handle sewage from a new apartment complex."

The system's treatment capacity of 500,000 gallons per day will be increased to 640,000 gallons per day. The quality of the discharge will also be upgraded.

Because plans call for the installation of a type of filter system never before used in the United States, the EPA will provide 85 percent or \$260,081 of the \$305,978 cost of the filter system. The system is built by EIMCO of Salt Lake City, Butler said.

EPA will pay 75 percent, about \$450,000, of the remaining \$600,000 cost of the project.

Greenevers Receives Reynolds Foundation Grant

Mayor Alex Brown of Greenevers has received notification from Smith Bagley, president of the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, Inc., that the trustees of the Foundation has approved a grant in the amount of \$7,500 for the town. These funds, together with HUD community development block grant funds of \$58,500, will be used to restore the former Little Creek School Building into a community center for the citizens. The application for the grant was prepared

for the town by McDavid Associates, Inc. Community Development office of Kenansville, who are coordinating the restoration project.

The Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation was established in 1936 as a memorial to the youngest son of the founder of the R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. In that year, the foundation and two sisters, Reynolds, provided the grant, inheritance from his estate went to the establishment of a trust for the benefit of the

people of North Carolina. One of the initial trustees of the Foundation was Z. Smith Reynolds' uncle, William Near Reynolds, who at his death in 1951, created a trust which now provides the major portion of the Foundation's annual income.

The Foundation has now made 1,620 grants totaling more than \$114,000,000 to more than 824 recipients in all of North Carolina's 100 counties. Major attention has been given to education and health care, with increased

interest in recent years in improving the criminal justice system in the state, in strengthening grassroots advocacy groups, and in youth programs, family planning, cultural activities, rural life, the handicapped and some 20 other fields of concern.

Murphy Co-Chairman Of Commission

Rep. Wendell H. Murphy of Duplin County has been appointed by House Speaker Liston B. Ramsey as co-



Rep. Wendell H. Murphy

chairman of a special commission to study matters affecting the offices of district attorney and register of deeds.

The legislative research commission study will include the possibility of establishing a standards commission for district attorneys and also consider all aspects of the office of register of deeds, including the question of whether salaries and fees they receive are adequate.

Murphy was appointed to replace Tom Rabon of Brunswick County, who recently resigned.

A farming executive in Rose Hill, Murphy represents Duplin and Jones counties in the 10th House District.

Two Charged In Beating Death Of Mount Olive Man

Police charged two men last week in the death of Jerry Coleman Mercer, 26, of Mount Olive, who was found badly beaten Nov. 7 on the southern bank of Greenfield Lake in Wilmington.

Mercer was found unconscious in bushes in the 1800 block of Lake Shore Drive.

He died that night at New Hanover Memorial Hospital.

An autopsy determined causes of death to be internal hemorrhaging, blood loss and exposure.

Michael David Clemmons, 21, of Wilmington, and Paul Steven Dennis, 26, of Canton, Ohio, were each charged

with one count of first-degree murder in connection with Mercer's death.

Clemmons surrendered to police Thursday and was being held in New Hanover County Jail with no provision for bail at that time. Dennis was being held by authorities in Canton, Ohio.

Jury Returns Verdict Of Guilty In Slaying Of Rose Hill Woman

Herman Leslie Davis, 37, was found guilty last Thursday of second-degree murder in the death of Lillian Miller Groves of North Pine Street, Rose Hill.

Superior Court Judge James Llewellyn of Kinston

sentenced Davis to 35 years in prison. A Duplin County jury deliberated the verdict for 1½ hours.

The victim's body was found at her home on June 18. She was partially clothed

and had been beaten and strangled, said Dewey Hudson, assistant district attorney.

When he was arrested, Davis' address was listed as 2105 Queens Road, Jacksonville.



STUDENTS DECORATE TREE - The James Kean Future Business Leaders of America club members decorated a Christmas tree at the high school last week. The tree is located in the main lobby of the high school. Pictured above are the FBLA officers as they

decorate the Christmas tree at James Kean, left to right, treasurer David Williamson, vice-president Shirley Davis, secretary Cynthia Middleton, reporter Vanessa Williams, president Allyson Stroud, and parliamentarian Marshall Winters.