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Local board member Peter Rascoe, at right, listens during discussion by the NC Clean Water Management Trust Fund board.

STAFF PHOTO BY SEAN JACKSON



State board holds meeting locally

Panel funds public, private water quality projects

BY SEAN JACKSON
The Chowan Herald

The state panel that funds public and private water-quality projects met in Edenton over the weekend, and newly appointed N.C. Clean Water Management Trust Fund board member Peter Rascoe hopes that appearance will

spark interest in the region for seeking state funds.

Rascoe, also special projects officer for Edenton and Chowan County, joined the board of trustees for meetings Saturday, Sunday and Monday in the Panel Room of the 1767 Chowan County Courthouse. Efforts to bring the board to Edenton had been underway for about a year, Rascoe said.

"The fact that they met here," he said, "may create more awareness that there is funding for projects here in the

northeast.

"I do see that there are a lot of (ongoing and proposed) projects around the state," Rascoe added. "I hope there are more (application) submissions from the northeast."

Bill Holman, the agency's director, said the town and county provided perfect accommodations for the board's 3-day visit.

"Folks in Chowan County and Edenton have been great hosts," he said during a break during Monday morning's ses-

sion.

Rascoe was recently appointed to his post by state House Speaker Jim Black, a Mecklenburg County Democrat.

"I'm very pleased that Speaker Black had confidence in me to put me on that board," Rascoe said. "It's a big challenge to investigate (funding applications) and make sure that all the applications that come in have credibility and

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Dannelly to speak at banquet

From Staff Reports

The 35th annual Chowan County Law Enforcement Appreciation Banquet will be held Thursday, Oct. 20, at the American Legion Post 40, 1317 West Queen Street, Edenton. Social will begin at 5:30 p.m. and the banquet at 7 p.m.

Highlights of the evening will include the recognition of an officer for his/her work with the youth of our community, sponsored by the Chowan/Edenton Optimist Club, and the recognition of the Law Enforcement Officer of the Year by a committee of his/her peers.

Guest speaker will be Tim Dannelly. A well-known motivational speaker, he is retired from the U.S. Air Force Military Police. Dannelly is the pastor of the Hobbsville Baptist Church. "Edward G. Bond Post 40 proudly hosts this affair each year to give the citizens and businesses of our community the opportunity to say 'thank you' in a meaningful way to these outstanding men and women who are instrumental in ensuring the quality of life we all strive for," said Legion spokesman E.C. Toppin. "Citizens are encouraged to attend the appreciation banquet and businesses are asked to become co-hosts by making donations to help cover the cost."

All officers of Chowan County who have the power of arrest are provided a free banquet ticket. Two complimentary tickets are provided to each Police Chief and Sheriff in northeastern North Carolina. "This is done in recognition of the fact that cooperation among all agencies is paramount in providing each of us a safe environment in which to live and raise our families," Toppin said. For more information, please call 482-4057.

Cultural tourism plays big role in Edenton, Chowan

Study: 'Heritage' travelers buy more, stay longer

BY EARLINE WHITE
The Chowan Herald

From the Biltmore Estate in Asheville to the Lost Colony in Manteo, cultural tourism landmarks stretch from the Blue Ridge to the Outer Banks. Likewise, Edenton's most marketable traits are its links to history. It's notable structures, worn sidewalks, and historic trails bring visitors from all over the globe to this small cultural oasis. And according to a recent study by the North Carolina Arts Council people are willing to spend more, three times more than the national average in fact, as cultural travelers rather than the day-to-day general travelers.

"The Artful Traveler: Cultural Tourism in the State of North Carolina" found that cultural travelers in North Carolina spend an average of \$102 per person per day the national average is \$70. The per-day spending of North Carolina's general traveler is \$50, compared to cultural travelers who spend \$102.

"We have been blessed for decades by visitors who visit Edenton for cultural heritage experiences, before there was a name for their interest," said Linda Jordan Eure, Site Manager Historic Edenton State Historic Site.

"At the Historic Edenton State Historic Site, our guided walking and trolley tours, special events and programs are all geared toward cultural heritage visitors and area school groups. We hope the students who participate in programs now will grow up to support cultural heritage in their communities and in their travels."



Staff photo by Sean Jackson

Historic Edenton Visitor Center tour guide Debbie Sliva leads visitors on a guided tour of the restored Bandon Plantation outbuildings as well as the James Iredell House. Tours like this are available to tourists and locals by appointment.



The Barker House lures many tourists throughout the year.

In addition to the state historic sites, other organizations such as the Edenton Historical Commission and the Edenton Woman's Club sponsor events that appeal to visitors with a particular interest in our heritage, as do the Chowan Arts Council and shops and art galleries in the downtown area. A strong heritage experience, scenic beauty and downtown charm, all combine to bring 20,000-30,000 visitors to

Edenton's Visitor Center each year, Eure added.

"Travel and Tourism has become a wonderful industry over the years," said Nancy Nicholls, Director of Tourism for Chowan County. "The Tourism Development Authority has worked diligently to make sure that we offer each traveling segment something to enjoy. Our history, architecture, cultural activities and events have already been in place, especially in Edenton, so for the past 7-10 years, we have made great efforts to identify all of our assets throughout the County and where development was needed we have worked at seeing things come to fruition."

The study, conducted on

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County seeks input for recreation plans

From Staff Reports

When the Northern Chowan Community Center opened in 2001, Chowan County not only opened the doors to a beautiful, state-of-the-art public recreation facility, it also sparked the interest of residents in other areas of the county.

Positive comments created a desire for a second facility, just like the Northern Center, to be located closer to Edenton. Other comments included the need for a public swimming pool, racquetball courts, more soccer fields, a skateboard park, and new playgrounds. In fact, the list could go on and on when you ask people what their interests are, and that is exactly what the Edenton-Chowan Recreation Department is asking.

Robbie Laughton, the county's Recreation Director, says his department is seeking input to help plan future recreation facilities and activities. "Through a series of public meetings, surveys, interviews, and meetings with local officials, we want to get a true pulse on the community's wants and needs. People of all ages are being asked to be a part of this very important process. I cannot overemphasize how important the meetings and surveys will be for us", Laughton said. "The information we gather will shape our future by telling us what priorities we need to budget for and where we need to put our planning efforts."

"The process is long and tedious, but necessary to obtain accurate information", he added.

Students from East Carolina University enrolled in the Department of Recreation and Leisure Studies have already been assisting Chowan County with the task of producing a Comprehensive Recreation and Park Plan. Upon completion, the plan will become the



Staff photo by Sean Jackson

Parks and Recreation Director Robbie Laughton highlights the proposed athletic complex as an example of future recreation needs in the county.

major planning document for the County in fulfilling the public parks and recreation needs over the next 2-10 years. The document will also be used to show support when applying for State and Federal Grants. The following is a timeline of meetings and survey distribution.

Beginning on Oct. 17, a short survey will be given to all middle school and high school students asking a few basic questions about their recreation interests and habits. On Tuesday, Oct. 18 and Thursday, Oct. 20, the public is invited to attend either or both public input meetings led by Dr. Robert Wendling of ECU and his students. These public input meetings will begin at 7 p.m. and conclude by 8:30 p.m. The October 18 meeting will be held in the gym of the old D.F. Walker Elementary School and the October 20 meeting will be held at the Northern Chowan Community Center. Each meeting will allow anyone from the public to express their comments, concerns, or praises about recreation facilities and programs in the county. A written survey will be available to all those attending or can be picked up at either site throughout the week.

Also, during the week of Nov. 6-10, the ECU students

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H.L. Bond crabs in color

Smiles light up 'Boogie' night

Despite rain, many come to laugh, dance

BY EARLINE WHITE
The Chowan Herald

As the skies continued to burst open, the idea of dancing beneath umbrellas seemed less than charming. Yet Destination Downtown Edenton Inc.'s second ever Boogie on Broad still drew a crowd.

The event attracted over 100 people to the huge white tents set up in the middle of downtown

Edenton. The Phun Doctors of Chesapeake were a hit playing classic rock, oldies and contemporary tunes. The kids danced themselves silly and the adults showed off their own moves on the dance floor. Those who admittedly had two left feet enjoyed themselves by shopping, eating and hanging out with their friends.

Several businesses remained open after hours to keep the crowd busy. Kristy's Place sold pizza by the slice. Soundfeet Shoes remained open, luring people with a 20% off sale. In fact, Soundfeet manager, Mickey

Willard said that half of his day's sales were done in just those two hours of "boogie-ing". Acoustic Coffee blended warm drinks for the passersby while Peebles rang in the season with their new Christmas gift line past regular business hours.

Edenton Main Street Director, Jennifer Harriss, was pleased with the turnout as she and husband Meader, danced a bit themselves. "Everyone had a great time and we look forward to putting on another Boogie on Broad in April. We hope for another great turnout by the community, and some good weather."



Staff photo by David Singleton

Maurice Bunch and Jean Brown share a dance - and some laughs - during the Boogie on Broad sponsored by Destination Downtown Edenton Inc.