



STAFF PHOTO BY RAHN ADAMS

REV. COY PRIVETTE OF KANNAPOLIS (standing) distributes copies of his Christian Action League publication, "Building a Better Tomorrow Through Today's Actions," to members of the Brunswick Baptist Pastors' Conference last Thursday at Supply Baptist

Church. Local ministers pictured include (seated, clockwise from left) Vic Potter Jr., Truette Rogers, Wint Hale, S.L. Doty Jr., Jessie Bentley, Bryan Dasher, Bill Buchanan, James Whitworth and Donald Hardwick.

Pastors' Conference To Urge Repeal Of 'Sports Club' Bill

BY RAHN ADAMS

With less than three weeks until the May 3 Democratic primary, incumbent State Rep. David Redwine has drawn criticism from local Baptist ministers over legislation he sponsored last year that allows Brunswick County sports clubs to obtain ABC permits.

The Brunswick Baptist Pastors' Conference Monday "unanimously expressed its disapproval" of the legislation and voted to seek repeal of Redwine's bill, according to the group's vice president, Rev. Franklin Myers.

"They (pastors) did not take any action on supporting one candidate or another," Myers said. "What we are going to do is get a resolution up and send it to the candidates and representatives, and express a desire to get it (the sports club bill) repealed."

Redwine, who is seeking his third elected term to the 14th District N.C. House seat, faces challenger Glen Peterson in the upcoming Democratic primary. Republican candidate Rozell Hewett is unopposed in the GOP primary.

Emphasizing that they do not want to "get into personalities," Myers said the pastors intend to inform their church members about Redwine's bill and "let them make a decision" about whom to support.

According to Myers, more than 20 pastors were present at Monday's meeting. The Brunswick Baptist Association is composed of 44 churches.

The conference's action this week followed a special meeting that was held last Thursday at Supply Baptist Church. Rev. Coy Privette of Kannapolis, who is head of the N.C. Christian Action League and also serves with Redwine in the N.C. House, met with 12 pastors to discuss the sports club bill and other statewide issues.

During the 1½-hour meeting,

Privette told the ministers that Redwine's bill was the "hole in the dike," because it was the first time that ABC legislation was approved without a vote of the people in the affected area. He cited a 1981 countywide ABC referendum in which Brunswick County voters soundly defeated on- and off-premises beer and wine sales in unincorporated areas of the county.

Last year, Redwine's House Bill 1093 passed the House by a 57-41 margin and gained Senate approval on a 33-7 vote. Redwine is chairman of the House ABC Committee, of which Privette also is a member.

"Redwine's bill basically circumvented the will of the voters," Privette said last Thursday. He noted that it was a statewide bill that had strictly local implications, since it affected only sports clubs, such as golf courses, in Brunswick County.

"He just took our vote and threw it out the door," commented Rev. S.L. Doty Jr. of Woodburn First Baptist Church. Earlier in the meeting, Doty said local pastors also were concerned about the "secretive way this took place in Raleigh."

Privette added that the bill "set the pace" as a precedent for other similar legislation last year which allowed beer sales at Charlotte Motor Speedway in Cabarrus County and ABC permits at an Allegheny County resort, even though voters in both counties earlier had defeated ABC referendums as had Brunswick voters.

"I don't know where in the world Redwine's bill is going to leave the state of North Carolina," Privette said.

In an interview last Thursday, Redwine told The Brunswick Beacon that the purpose of his legislation was not to override the 1981 referendum, but to allow "better control" of alcoholic beverages at local golf clubs and to allow them an "amenity" that was already offered

at South Carolina golf courses.

"If I had passed legislation to allow alcoholic beverages in all unincorporated areas of the county, I would probably agree with them (the pastors)," Redwine said, "but what I did was take one little aspect of the economy of the county where people were doing it anyway... If alcoholic beverages aren't available to them (certain golfers), they're going to bring it themselves."

At last Thursday's special meeting, Privette told the pastors that in order for the sports club legislation to be repealed in the General Assembly, a bill to that effect would have to be introduced by a Brunswick County legislator.

However, Redwine told The Beacon that since the bill is statewide, any member of the General Assembly—including Privette—could sponsor legislation to repeal the bill.

Redwine said last Thursday that he has "no intention" of seeking the bill's repeal—a position which he expressed to the pastors' conference itself last month.

Although Privette did not directly encourage the pastors to oppose Redwine's re-election bid, the Kannapolis minister did point out that "the democratic system is, you speak through the ballot box, and you've got an election coming up May 3."

"I think if you deal with the issues, personalities will fall in line," Privette said, advising the pastors not to personally attack Redwine from their pulpits.

In response, Redwine told The Beacon that the pastors "better be careful about throwing the baby out with the bathwater."

"They need to make sure that if they encourage a change in representation that they're going to get their desired results," Redwine said. "When they look at the big picture,

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Local Developers Ask Committee For Support With Septic Tank Laws

BY RAHN ADAMS

Six Brunswick County men involved in local development were among a group of coastal residents to appear before a legislative study committee last week in Bolivia to ask for "immediate relief" from septic tank laws that they said are stifling economic growth.

Some 12 individuals from Currituck to Brunswick counties spoke last Thursday night to the Legislative Study Committee on Control of Development Around Small Public Water Supply Reservoirs and State Permitting of Septic Tank Systems. About 60 people attended the 2½-hour public hearing that was held in the Brunswick County Public Assembly Building.

The committee, which will report its findings to the 1989 N.C. General Assembly, is co-chaired by State Rep. David Redwine of Ocean Isle Beach and State Sen. William Barker of New Bern. According to Redwine, the committee's task is to make recommendations that balance developmental concerns with public health needs. Eight of the committee's 11 members were present at last week's public hearing.

Laws Criticized

The general consensus among local speakers was that a recent new interpretation in Brunswick County of 1982 septic tank laws is threatening the county's continued development.

In particular, local developers questioned why lots which contain fill soil are not approved as being suitable for septic tanks—and therefore buildings—and why the state does not encourage the use of certain residential waste treatment systems other than conventional septic tank systems.

Lots must contain at least 12 inches of original soil above the water table to be approved for septic tanks.

Since the Brunswick County Health Department changed its interpretation of the septic tank laws last fall, more than 200 lots at Holden Beach alone were found to be unsuitable for septic tanks. The lots, most of which are located on finger canals, were created from dredge material.



STAFF PHOTO BY RAHN ADAMS

LOCAL BUILDER MARK SAUNDERS tells members of a legislative study committee that a recent new interpretation of state septic tank laws has had a "staggering" impact on Brunswick County's economy.

In the same period, about 1,600 lots at Long Beach were turned down for septic tank permits.

"The rules haven't changed, but the bureaucracy has changed its interpretation," said Holden Beach realtor Alan Holden, who also is a member of the Holden Beach and Brunswick County planning boards.

"I didn't know God was still making new soil," Holden said in reference to the state's position on fill material. He later added, "What's wrong with the filling of sand? The bottom line is, what is wrong with God's old sand?"

Shallotte developer Mason Anderson echoed Holden's comments, as did several other developers, but Anderson also encouraged the committee to recommend approval of alternative waste treatment systems that will meet immediate needs.

Calling the present situation "the most serious problem facing the landowners of Brunswick County,"

Anderson said, "We're at the point where something must be done."

He urged the committee to take definite action instead of simply studying the matter for several years.

"We need immediate relief," he reiterated.

Impact Underscored

Mark Saunders, president of the South Brunswick Islands Homebuilders' Association, told committee members that the new interpretation has cost Holden Beach an estimated \$7 million to \$10 million dollars in development.

Emphasizing the impact of that loss on all phases of the building industry, Saunders said, "We are talking about eroding and deteriorating the livelihoods in this area... (Across the county) I think the economic impact would be staggering."

Earlier in the hearing, Nick Newton, president of the Brunswick Islands Board of Realtors, responded to the attitude of some that developers want to sell land at any cost.

"We brokers of real estate don't have any intentions to rape the environment," Newton said, adding that realtors wouldn't "kill the goose that laid the golden egg."

Other Comments

Also last Thursday, Long Beach resident Bob Miller read a prepared statement from "concerned citizens of Long Beach" which also questioned the new interpretation of septic tank laws.

Jack Stout, a developer from Currituck County, asked for state consideration of alternative systems.

The only entirely positive comments came from New Bern septic tank contractor Michael Foreman, who said he thinks enforcement of septic tank laws by local health departments is "very fair."

Officials Respond

State and local health officials also were present at the public hearing. Steve Steinbeck, supervisor of the N.C. Department of Human Resources' On-Site Sewage Pro-

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Probe Continues Into Death Of Columbus Man

Investigation into the death of a Columbus County man found last week in Brunswick County continued Tuesday with three law enforcement agencies involved.

According to Detective Lindsay Walton of the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department, local authorities were waiting for a report on evidence being examined at the State Bureau of Investigation lab in Raleigh.

Walton said Tuesday he did not know when the report would be completed.

Police found the body of James Thomas Smith, 38, of Nakina, face down on the shoulder of N.C. 904 approximately 2.5 miles from the Columbus County line at 4:39 a.m. Friday.

Walton said Smith had been shot, apparently with a shotgun, in the chest area. He said the number of times he had been shot could not be determined.

A truck apparently owned by Smith was parked partially off the road a few feet from the body, he said.

"We've got leads we're following," continued Walton, "but nothing solid at this time."

He added there are several suspects.

According to Walton, a family member reported last seeing Smith in Nakina about 2 a.m. Friday.

Because the incident occurred so close to the county line, Walton said the Columbus County Sheriff's Department as well as the State Bureau of Investigation were called in to assist in the investigation.

DELEGATES NAMED

Brunswick Democrats Oppose Review Of Septic Tank Laws

BY DOUG RUTTER

Brunswick County Democratic Party delegates Saturday rejected a resolution that called for review of existing septic tank laws that are limiting development in some areas of the county.

Appointment of district delegates and a speech from State Rep. E. David Redwine also highlighted the Brunswick County Democratic Convention held Saturday in Bolivia. Delegates also went on record supporting an overpass, rather than an at-grade crossing, where the Shallotte bypass will intersect with N.C. 130 near West Brunswick High School.

The septic tank rules resolution, submitted by delegates from the Oak

Island II precinct, supported re-examination and possible reinterpretation of state laws which require at least one foot of original soil above the water table for issuance of a septic tank permit.

A reinterpretation of the law by the Brunswick County Health Department last year has reduced the number of lots approved for septic tank permits. In particular, numerous canal and marsh lots at Holden Beach and Long Beach have been denied approval for septic tank permits.

In the resolution, local delegates argued that area residents suffered no apparent health problems and that there were no confirmed cases of pollution caused by faulty septic

tanks recorded during the time when the previous interpretation was in use.

There was no discussion of the proposal, which was defeated in a roll call vote by a count of 43 to 29.

County Democratic Party Chairman W.A. Stanley said after the meeting that he agrees with those that voted against the resolution, feeling that the old septic tanks have caused pollution.

"I just think the people are more environmentally-minded than they used to be," he added.

Democrats also went on the record Saturday as supporting the establishment of a state lottery.

Stanley said the issue had not been previously discussed by the local par-

ty as far as he knew and that he expected more controversy in passing the resolution.

"Maybe this lottery thing is beginning to come about," he said. "Maybe the people are starting to think differently on it."

Under the resolution adopted, funds generated by the lottery would benefit education, water and sewer projects, secondary road improvements and community development.

In other business, local precinct delegates rejected a resolution supporting a three percent increase in the sales tax for purchases of liquor, wine and beer.

Despite support of the resolution by Redwine and Glen Peterson, who will

oppose Redwine in next month's Democratic primary, other county delegates opposed the support of any tax increase during an election. Consideration of the resolution failed on a voice vote.

According to the drafted resolution, the alcoholic beverage sales tax would have provided funds for personnel increases in the state Highway Patrol and the state Alcohol Enforcement Agency.

Democrats also rejected a resolution advocating adoption of the "comparative negligence" standard in wrongful death and personal injury court cases.

According to Rex Gore, a local lawyer and member of the county party's resolution committee, the

standard provides a fairer way to compensate individuals and their families in such cases than the current state standard of "contributory negligence."

Brunswick County Board of Education Chairman James Forstner added, however, that insurance rates have increased about 10 percent in states where the standard has been adopted.

Following rejection by voice vote, Gore called for a roll call vote and the resolution failed by 54 to 14.

During his speech Saturday, Redwine urged his fellow Democrats to pull together and carry out their "obligation" to vote for party members this fall regardless of (See DEMOCRAT, Page 2-A)