

Kings Mountain Herald

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KINGS MOUNTAIN, NC

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KINGS MTN., NC 28036

Tuesday Is 'D Day' For Crowders Creek Project

By LIB STEWART
News Editor

Tuesday is Decision Day for the four municipalities involved in the proposed Crowders Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant and City Utilities Chairman Al Moretz says the project is still go.

Moretz said that discussions have been going on at staff level between Kings Mountain and Gastonia for two weeks and next Tuesday the financial package will be presented to the four elected boards - Kings Mountain, Gastonia, Gaston County and Bessemer City.

Kings Mountain City Council has scheduled a

meeting on the matter for Tuesday night at 7:30 p.m. Gastonia City Council has also scheduled a meeting for Tuesday and Gaston County Board of Commissioners set a work session for that night. Crowders Creek tops their agenda also.

Moretz gave no specifics on the negotiations but he said that officials from Kings Mountain, Gastonia, Gaston County and Bessemer City are optimistic they can come up with the \$26 million to build the facility west of Highway 321.

The project hit a snag recently when Kings Mountain, faced with \$11 million plus for utility improvements said it could contribute only \$1.25 of its original share of \$4 million for the project which requires Kings Mountain's participation if

it wins a \$14 million grant from the Environmental Protection Agency.

Under the original agreements, Gaston was to pay \$3.8 million, Gastonia \$4 million and Bessemer City \$800,000.

Kings Mountain is also pushing for annexation agreement between the four governments involved and a master meter location at the intersection of McGill and Crowder's Creek rather than at the McGill Treatment Plant.

Kings Mountain is under judicial order to clear up problems at its Pilot Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant by June, 1990. The city has been advised by its consulting engineers that it can expand Pilot Creek plant to provide more treat-

ment at a smaller cost and faster than through the proposed Crowders project the four governments began discussing about a year ago.

City Manager George Wood acknowledged that negotiations are still underway and that all four governments have set Tuesday as the deadline for decision on where to go on the project.

Moretz said he anticipates that positive action will be taken by the governments involved.

Plans for the project were originally to be in Raleigh Aug. 1 but state officials extended the deadline.

The proposed plant would serve about 54 square miles of Gaston County and treat six million gallons of wastewater daily.

Hydro Plant Axed

By LIB STEWART
News Editor

Kings Mountain's proposed hydro-electric plant on Moss Lake is a dead issue.

City Manager George Wood made the statement at Tuesday night's city council meeting in which he announced that a federal agency has dismissed the city's license application due to the city's failure to provide requested information.

Related Story
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Fred E. Springer, director of the Office of Hydropower Licensing of the FERC, wrote "The necessary revisions to your application were not submitted. Your application is therefore dismissed under section 4.32 of the commission's regulations."

Kings Mountain had until July 15 to submit information needed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to complete its evaluation of the city's license application.

City Utilities Chairman Al Moretz said the utilities committee had discussed the project at length and that a decision was made by consultants not to respond to the agency's request because the hydropower project had a low priority. "We have \$11 million-plus worth of utility improvements to make now and we feel that's our greatest need," he said.

Wood agreed. "With everything we have to do now we would not be in a position to finance it. There are serious environmental concerns and the city would need to do considerable work on the application," said Wood after Tuesday's board meeting. "It's not a high priority to pursue at this time and is not cost effective for the city when you look at the entire concept," he said.

In January 1987, former Mayor John Henry Moss filed an application with the FERC. The commission, which accepted the application in September after the city submitted supplemental information, was expected to rule on the application some time this year.

The hydro project, estimated to cost \$1 to \$2 million, was

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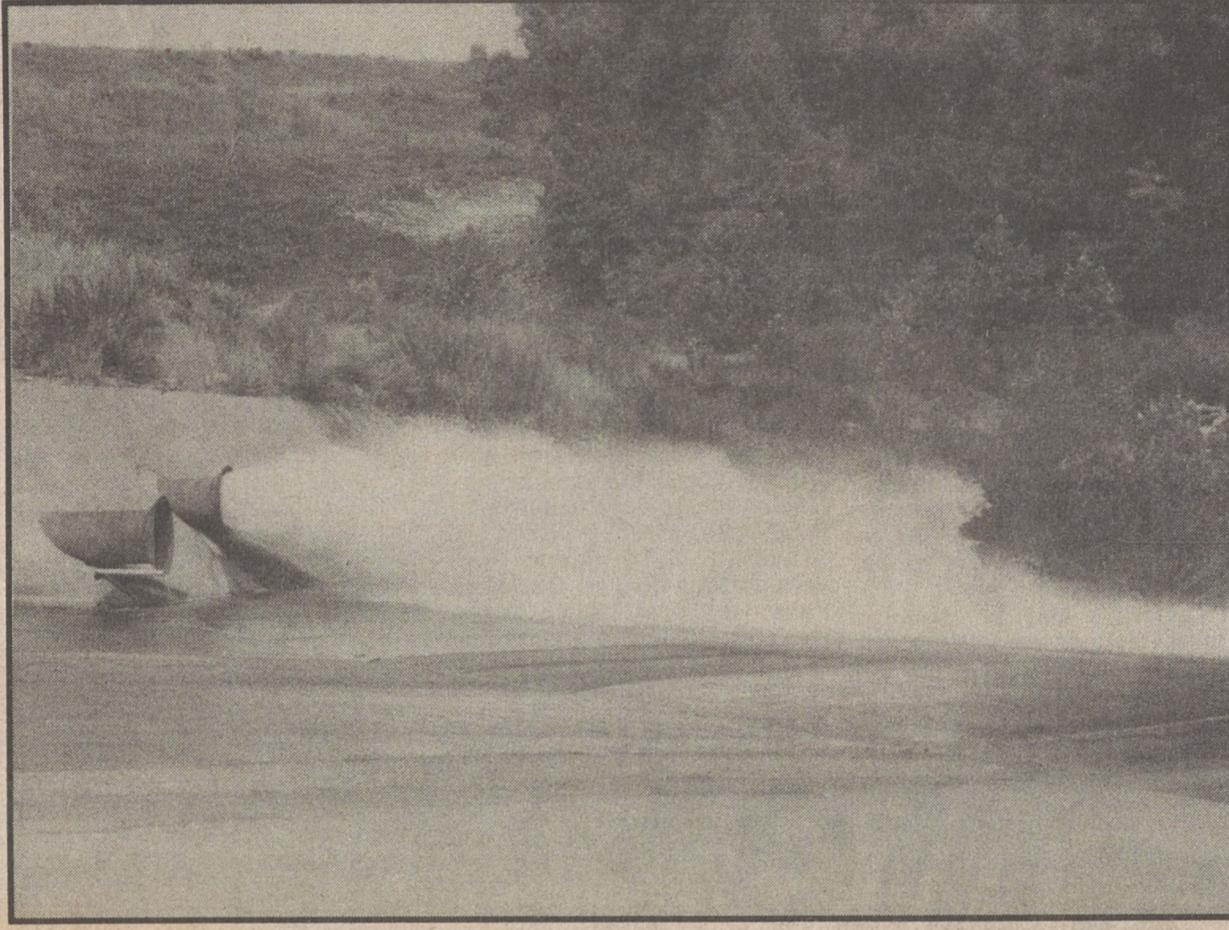


Photo by Todd Gossett

Gully Washer?

Area farmers and backyard gardeners who've seen their crops wither in the summer drought wish it was, but it's not. It's water gushing through a huge pipe in the spillway at Moss Lake dam. The city is lowering the level of the lake by three feet so temporary repairs, costing from \$75,000 to \$125,000, can be made to a concrete slab which is seeping water. The permanent repairs which will come later could cost \$1 million.

KM Schools Ahead In Asbestos Removal

Budget Approved, Goals Discussed

By GARY STEWART
Managing Editor

The Kings Mountain Board of Education approved its current expense and capital outlay budgets for 1988-89 and discussed goals for the new school year at Monday night's regular monthly meeting at the Superintendent's Office.

The budget, which includes \$3,225,872 for current expenses and \$255,375 for capital outlay projects, reflected only minor changes from the preliminary budget approved by the board in April. Official approval could not be made until after the system's state and federal allocations were known.

Supt. Bob McRae outlined four major goals established by the school system's leadership team during a recent retreat in Boone, and also discussed five personal goals he hopes to accomplish during the upcoming school year.

Continuing to implement the state's Basic Education Plan will have top priority for the leadership team, which includes the principals and assistant principals from each school, and the central office staff. McRae said Jane King, former North School Principal who was recently named director of instruction, will be busy implementing foreign language and art courses in kindergarten and first grade and re-arranging schedules to include those programs.

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LEADERSHIP GOALS

1 - Continue to establish goals and timelines for Basic Education Program and communicate them to the community.

2 - Continue to encourage students to complete education through implementation of the Kings Mountain District Schools Dropout Prevention Plan.

3 - Begin to plan for the re-organization of the school system.

4 - Work for Southern Association accreditation.

MCRAE'S GOALS

1 - Increase awareness of the need for a warm, caring environment for children in schools.

2 - Provide principals with more direct assistance in relation to performance improvement. (Personal improvement and improvement of staff).

3 - Enhance community relations.

4 - Stress improved appearances of campuses.

5 - Emphasize the value of a positive work attitude among employees.

By GARY STEWART
Managing Editor

The foresight of the previous administration put Kings Mountain schools ahead of the game in its efforts to comply with state and federal requirements concerning asbestos. Supt. Bob McRae told the board at its regular monthly meeting Monday night at the Superintendent's Office.

The removal of asbestos from the ceilings of four classrooms at East School last week completed the recommendations of a study conducted three years ago.

"We thought that would complete our asbestos work, but with new federal requirements coming out (in about a month) I'm sure we'll find some other problems," McRae said.

However, McRae added, the cost of removing asbestos or making areas containing asbestos safe for students and staff, would have been much greater had the school administration not acted before the regulations went into effect.

McRae pointed out that about three years ago the prior administration, headed by retired Supt. William Davis, had inspections done under state guidelines that were in effect at that time and found several places where asbestos needed to be removed. The schools have spent \$75,000 the past two summers removing asbestos, especially in boiler room areas.

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Kickoff '88 Grid Preview To Run Aug. 31

The Kings Mountain Herald will publish its first annual pigskin preview tabloid on Wed., Aug. 31.

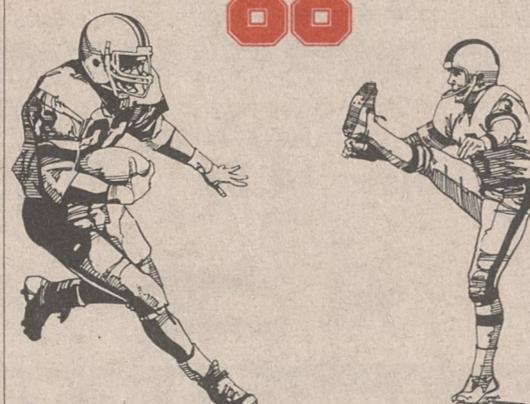
The publication will include previews of area football teams, including high schools, junior high, and midgets, and feature stories on Kings Mountain players and coaches from the amateur to the professional ranks.

The tabloid will include schedules of area high schools and colleges, rosters, and other interesting tidbits of information for readers as they prepare to follow their favorite teams during the 1988 season.

The Herald advertising staff will begin calling on advertisers this week. If you'd like to advertise in this special edition, call the Herald advertising department 739-7496.

Kings Mountain Herald

KICKOFF '88



INSIDE AT A GLANCE



Hobby Best Therapy For Leroy Blake

SEE PAGE 7-B

KM WEATHER

(Compiled by Kenneth Kitzmiller)

	Aug. 3 - Aug. 9, 1988	Year Ago
Total Precipitation	.55	4.58
Maximum One Day	.55 (4th)	3.45 (6th)
Year To Date	19.57	28.10
Minimum Temperature	69 (7th)	70 (10th)
Maximum Temperature	93 (8th, 9th)	98 (4th)
Average Temperature	80.5	80.37

36 PAGES TODAY

Obituaries	2-A
Editorials	4-A
Sports	11-12A
Classifieds	16-18A
Lifestyles	1-B
Weddings	2-B
Church News	4-6B
Food	8-11B
Entertainment	12-B
Community News	14-15B

FORECAST
Hot, humid. High 96-98. Slight chance of late afternoon or evening thunderstorms.