



MINUTES

Chatham County Democratic Party County Convention

April 18, 2015

Horton Middle School, Pittsboro, NC

Following a social hour that began at 9:00 am, Chair Jan Nichols called the convention to order shortly after 10:00 am and welcomed the delegates. Representatives of the Chatham County Sherriff's Department presented the colors, and delegates recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Karl Kachergis led the singing of the National Anthem. First Vice-Chair Rev. Anthony Davis delivered the invocation.

Secretary Michael Strong confirmed that a quorum was present. A motion to adopt the proposed convention rules was seconded and carried by voice vote.

The Chair then introduced the current officers and other elected officials and guests. An honorary resolution in memory of Patrick Herndon Barnes, III, was read by Peter Harkins, Pittsboro precinct vice-chair, and adopted. The Chair called for a moment of silence.

Randy Voller, immediate past chair of the North Carolina Democratic Party, brought greetings from the state party and Secretary of State Elaine Marshall.

Three Rivers Precinct Chair Mike Dasher introduced the keynote speaker, Gene Nichol, Boyd Tinsley Distinguished Professor of Law at UNC-Chapel Hill and Director of the Center on Poverty, Work, and Opportunity. Nichol cited numerous examples of regressive legislation passed under the current GOP leadership in the North Carolina General Assembly. He focused especially on what he called the "war on the poor" and urged delegates to work to return North Carolina to the values and ideas represented by the Democratic Party. Nichol's address received a standing ovation.

Turning to the election of county party officers, Rev. Anthony Davis read the responsibilities of each office. Jan Nichols and Rev. Anthony Davis were re-elected to the office of CCDP chair and first vice-chair respectively. Daphne Rainey-Wittich was elected second vice-chair; Tyson Miller was elected third vice-chair; Linda Batley was elected treasurer; and Erika Lindemann was elected secretary. The delegates also elected Randy Voller, Lou Forrasi, Jerry Markatos, Sheila Thompson, and Casey Mann to the State Executive Committee.

Chair Nichols requested confirmation of the slate of delegates to the district conventions. Twenty-two delegates were approved to attend the Second Congressional District Convention, meeting in Sanford,

NC, and thirty-four individuals were named delegates to the Fourth Congressional District Convention, meeting in Wake County. Delegates' names are listed at the end of these minutes. Both conventions were scheduled to meet on Saturday, May 16, 2015.

Randy Voller, past chair of the North Carolina Democratic Party and the Chatham County Democratic Party, recognized and thanked departing officers: Mike Dasher (third vice chair), Sharon Goldenberg (treasurer), and Michael Strong (secretary).

Jerry Markatos, chair of the Resolutions Committee, led the discussion of this year's resolutions, which had been posted to the Web prior to the meeting. Resolutions 1 through 4 were voted on as a bloc and were approved. Resolutions 5 and 6 had been withdrawn prior to the convention. Resolution 7 was tabled. Resolution 8 was approved as amended. Resolutions 9 through 14 also were approved. A fifteenth resolution, "Helping Chatham Park Be a Better Neighbor," was moved and seconded from the floor; after considerable discussion, a substitute resolution was moved, seconded, and adopted. The resolutions in their final form appear at the end of these minutes.

Chair Nichols announced that the Chatham County Democratic Party was sponsoring a fundraiser and raffle for a chance to win a week's stay at a luxury time-share condo at one of over 4,000 locations in the United States and internationally, available through Resort Condominiums International; tickets are \$20 each, or six tickets for \$100. She also encouraged delegates to attend the Fleet Reddish Dinner on April 26 at Galloway Ridge at Fearington, Pittsboro; the featured speaker is North Carolina Senator Jeff Jackson. Attendees were also encouraged to support community events for local non-profits: the NAACP Mother and Daughter Tea, CORA Empty Bowls event, and Habitat for Humanity Derby Day Event.

The convention was adjourned at 2:10 pm.

Erika Lindemann, CCDP Secretary

Delegates to the Second Congressional District Convention

Mike Bennett	Kathryn Davis	Mike Kalt	Gerald Strobe
Sandra Clemons	Louis Forrisi	Karen Mallam	Sheila Thompson
Maria Correa Gutierrez	Martha Girolami	Jerry Markatos	Delcencia Turner
Carolyn Cox	Joseph Goldston III	Jimmie Pugh	Kathleen Warner
Elizabeth Cox	John Graybeal	Albert Reddick	
Timir Cox	Diana Hales	Sandra Reddick	
Bruce Davis	Adella Johnson	Jesse Scotton II	

Delegates to the Fourth Congressional District Convention

Barbara Alotis	James Crawford	Marion Hamrick	Philip Olinger
Robert Atwater	Michael Dasher	Michael Hancock	Virginia Penley
Mark Barroso	Rhoda Davis	Karen Howard	Herbert Reed
Linda Batley	Jennie Deloach	Karl Kachergis	Victoria Shea
Linda Baugh	Ann Drake	Claire Kane	Randolph Voller
Sheila Beaudry	Ted Dunn	Casey Mann	Daisy Womble
Beverly Bland	Gerald Featherstone	Amy Meek	
Bert Bowe	Marjorie Fowler	Tyson Miller	
Kathryn Bowe	Sharon Goldenberg	Jan Nichols	

Resolutions Passed
Chatham County Democratic Party Convention
April 18, 2015

CHATHAM/REGIONAL

1. OPPOSING DISPOSITION OF COAL ASH IN CHATHAM COUNTY

WHEREAS, On November 13, 2014, Duke Energy announced plans to close coal ash basins in North Carolina and store the coal ash at sites around the state; and

WHEREAS, This plan included a proposal to send up to 12 million tons of coal ash to the Brickhaven Mine in Moncure and 8 million tons to the Colon Mine in Sanford from coal ash currently at coal-fired power plants near Charlotte (Riverbend) and Wilmington (Sutton); and

WHEREAS, On December 15, 2014, the Chatham County Board of Commissioners adopted a Resolution Opposing Coal Ash Disposal in Chatham County; and

WHEREAS, The Chatham County Democratic Party wishes to support the Board of Commissioners in opposing the disposal of coal ash in Chatham County; and

WHEREAS, Duke Energy ("Duke") has accumulated 140 million tons of coal ash at 33 coal ash basins in North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, The Duke Energy Moncure Coal Power Plant (now closed) in Chatham County currently has coal ash stored in five coal ash ponds that are known to be leaking into the Cape Fear River, and Duke Energy has not made public any plans to stop this pollution; and

WHEREAS, The State of North Carolina has failed to adequately regulate Duke's storage of coal ash, which actions involved a settlement with Duke of its coal ash activities for a sum of less than \$100,000; and

WHEREAS, This inadequate regulation has led to a federal grand jury investigation; and

WHEREAS, Duke's proposal to store coal ash from other counties in abandoned clay mines in Chatham and Lee Counties is being regulated as "mine reclamation" despite the fact that there will be significant new excavations to receive the coal ash in additional toxic landfills that will rise high above the existing land surface; and that protection of the liners used to encapsulate the ash will eliminate any future use of the site; and

WHEREAS, Coal ash contains many toxic and deadly chemicals, including chromium, selenium, boron, antimony, cadmium, molybdenum, and thallium and high levels of heavy metals such as arsenic, lead, and mercury; and

WHEREAS, The transportation and storage of coal ash with all of these toxic chemicals poses a huge threat to the health and safety of the citizens of North Carolina and, more particularly, to the citizens of Chatham and Lee Counties; and

WHEREAS, Duke proposes to enter into a contract with Charah, Inc. and its subsidiary, Green Meadow, LLC, to transport the coal ash to Chatham and Lee Counties and to assume ownership of it for a period of 30 years; and

WHEREAS, Neither Charah nor Green Meadow have substantial assets or any methods otherwise of compensating the citizens of Chatham and Lee Counties for environmental or health damages resulting from the coal ash repositories; and

WHEREAS, The citizens of Chatham and Lee Counties, at least after 30 years, will have no way of achieving compensation for damages to their environment or their health resulting from the storage of coal ash at the mines in Moncure and Sanford;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Chatham County Democratic Party

- Fully supports the Chatham County Board of Commissioners in its efforts to prevent Duke from proceeding with its plan to move coal ash to Chatham County,
- Petitions the North Carolina General Assembly to adopt such laws and regulations as are necessary to prevent the transportation of coal ash to Chatham County and the storage of new coal ash in Chatham County,
- Petitions Duke Energy itself to abandon any plan to store new coal ash in Chatham County, and

- Petitions the relevant federal authorities, including the Congress and the Environmental Protection Agency, to take vigorous and decisive action to address the coal ash problem on site, including action that would have the effect of preventing the transportation of coal ash from other counties or states to be stored in Chatham County.

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## 2. SUPPORTING A LAND USE PLAN FOR CHATHAM COUNTY

WHEREAS, The current land use plan in Chatham County (the official title is the Chatham County Land Conservation and Development Plan) was adopted by the Chatham County Board of Commissioners (“BOC”) on November 5, 2001; and

WHEREAS, One of the “major recommendations” of the 2001 land use plan refers to the guiding of developments “towards areas planned for urban and suburban development and away from areas with valued environmental or rural qualities”; and

WHEREAS, When the 2001 land use plan was adopted, the proposed map indicating rural and developed areas was not adopted, nor was any regulatory framework established to guide development in accordance with the recommendations of the plan; and

WHEREAS, In November 2008, following a series of public meetings, the BOC adopted a Strategic Economic Development Plan, which stated that “quality of place [as well as infrastructure and other elements] is necessary for economic development”; and

WHEREAS, On July 15, 2013, the BOC unanimously adopted a “conceptual land use plan” that had been prepared by the Economic Development Corporation (“EDC”) with the help of County and municipal planners and following public meetings; and

WHEREAS, The conceptual land use plan approved by the BOC in July 2013 re-affirmed the major goals of the 2001 land use plan by adopting the combined growth scenarios of “Conservation/Farmland Preservation” and “Targeted Employment,” which action was explained as “directing growth away from working farms and conservation areas and simultaneously encouraging employment in economic development areas”; and

WHEREAS, Then-BOC Chairman Walter Petty reiterated those goals by stating that the EDC “know[s] that a land use plan is critically needed to help us attract more jobs to the county and preserve the jobs we already have, including preserving our working farms”; and

WHEREAS, The major goals of the 2001, 2008, and 2013 plans and policies reflect a consensus that the rural and environmentally sensitive areas of the County should be preserved, and that developments of various kinds should be promoted in the municipalities and other commercial areas; and

WHEREAS, The achievement of these goals hasn’t been fully realized because they haven’t been effectively incorporated into the County’s regulatory structure; and

WHEREAS, Further development of the County’s regulatory structure is necessary both to provide certainty for businesses considering locating in Chatham County and to provide assurances to farmers and other property owners who otherwise would be concerned about, and threatened by, uses of contiguous and nearby properties that would undermine the enjoyment of their full property rights; and

WHEREAS, Developments such as Chatham Park just east of Pittsboro and the potential development of the Chatham-Siler City Advanced Manufacturing Site near Siler City, with all of their merits, also threaten even more developments in areas of the County where farmers and other home and land owners located outside the currently zoned areas of the County are now unprotected;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Chatham County Democratic Party fully supports the Chatham County Board of Commissioners in its plan to develop a fully effective land use plan for the County.

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3. REQUIRE WATER QUALITY IMPACT ANALYSIS OF CHATHAM PARK

WHEREAS, Chatham Park as situated will have major impacts on the Haw River and Jordan Lake; and

WHEREAS, Jordan Lake is the major water supply for Chatham County; and

WHEREAS, No analysis of the environmental impacts Chatham Park will have on Jordan Lake and the Haw River has been undertaken;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Chatham County Democratic Party requests the Chatham County Board of Commissioners to write a letter to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers requesting the Corps to not issue any 404 permits for Chatham Park Investors or the Town of Pittsboro to undertake construction actions in Chatham Park until a complete and thorough environmental analysis has been done and approved for the entire Chatham Park property, not piecemeal through the “Small Development Plans,” in order to evaluate the impacts—primary, secondary, and cumulative—on the environment and especially on Jordan Lake and the Haw River.

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4. ROCKY RIVER

WHEREAS, The Rocky River from the Charles Turner Reservoir downstream for 6.7 miles to Varnell Creek has been designated as being impaired by the State of North Carolina because dissolved oxygen levels do not meet State water quality standards; and

WHEREAS, The State of North Carolina has failed to undertake research to determine why the Rocky River below the Charles Turner Reservoir is impaired;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Chatham County Democratic Party requests the Chatham County Board of Commissioners undertake needed research to determine both the reasons the Rocky River

below the Charles Turner Reservoir is impaired and the type of corrective actions that are needed to remove this stretch of the river from the 303d list of impaired waters in North Carolina.

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5. [Withdrawn by Pittsboro Precinct]

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6. [Withdrawn by Pittsboro Precinct]

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7. FREEZE REAL ESTATE TAXES ON SENIORS IN CHATHAM COUNTY

[Tabled by vote of the convention]

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8. ESTABLISH VOTING CENTERS

WHEREAS, Chatham County has had a high rate of voter participation; and

WHEREAS, Chatham County is a large and diverse county with urbanized and rural areas; and

WHEREAS, Chatham County has a large number of precincts to administer on election day;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Chatham County Democratic Party respectfully requests that the County Board of Commissioners seek to establish permanent areas to vote during early voting in Chatham County and work with its Director of Elections, Dawn Stumpf, and its local NCGA representation to establish at least eight "voting centers," equitably distributed throughout the county that would all be open with the same hours throughout early voting and election day, at which any voter from any Chatham precinct may vote at any time.

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9. ESTABLISH A REGIONAL SOLUTION FOR WASTEWATER

WHEREAS, Investments in infrastructure are key to the long term prosperity of Chatham County; and

WHEREAS, Chatham County and the Town of Pittsboro have studied the prospect of cooperating with each other with waste water processing and discharge; and

WHEREAS, Chatham County and the Town of Pittsboro conducted these studies with Sanford as a partner for a regional waste water;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Chatham County Democratic Party respectfully requests that the County Board of Commissioners seek to conclude studies and implement a reasonable method of

regional cooperation between the City of Sanford, the Town of Pittsboro, and Chatham County regarding a long term and affordable solution for Pittsboro and Chatham County waste water needs in the Cape Fear River basin.

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NORTH CAROLINA

10. SUPPORTING HOUSE BILL 76 TO DISAPPROVE MINING AND ENERGY COMMISSION RULES FOR NATURAL GAS EXTRACTION

WHEREAS, The North Carolina General Assembly directed the Mining and Energy Commission to draft rules concerning the extraction of natural gas in this state; and,

WHEREAS, The North Carolina General Assembly has the power to disapprove these draft rules as presented by the Mining and Energy Commission; and,

WHEREAS, The Mining and Energy Commission is ignoring the majority of the 217,000 comments from the public on the inadequacies of these rules; and,

WHEREAS, The Chatham County Board of Commissioners feels that the draft rules do not adequately protect our environment, our County, or our state; and,

WHEREAS, In addition to the effects on the environment, neither legislation nor the draft rules provide any compensation to Chatham County, or any other county affected by hydraulic fracturing, for the impact of natural gas extraction on both the local economy and infrastructure;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Chatham County Democratic Party joins the Chatham County Board of Commissioners in opposing the extraction of natural gas in Chatham County and in North Carolina for the following reasons:

- 1) The draft rules do not adequately protect the environment of our state and do not promote the welfare of the citizens of Chatham County or of the State of North Carolina.
- 2) The legislation and draft rules remove all local authority with respect to the extraction of natural gas and fail to provide local governments with compensation, either direct or indirect, for the impact of the extraction on local economies and infrastructure.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Chatham County Democratic Party joins the Chatham County Board of Commissioners in asking its local delegation to oppose the rules drafted by the Mining and Energy Commission in order to preserve the safety and welfare of the citizens of Chatham County and the State of North Carolina.

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11. PROPOSING A FREE CLASS AT COMMUNITY COLLEGES FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

WHEREAS, Seniors need opportunities for life-long learning through taking continuing education or curriculum courses; and

WHEREAS, Students of all ages benefit from the diversity in the classroom, and seniors can contribute worthwhile experiences to the class, and their attendance might make the difference in a course being able to “make” with low enrollment; and

WHEREAS, Seniors on limited budgets need opportunities to learn and grow, to participate in enrichment opportunities like a pottery or writing class; and

WHEREAS, Taking a class provides brain stimulation and social interaction which may be needed for the elderly to thrive in their communities; and

WHEREAS, For some retirees, a senior citizen community college tuition waiver for a free class may be the only way to get out and be less isolated; and

WHEREAS, For the community college system, offering a free course for seniors fulfills one of its missions to improve the lives and well-being of individuals by providing services to communities and individuals that improve the quality of life; and

WHEREAS, Seniors were once shown respect by allowing them a tuition waiver, first authorized in NC in 1975, and they still deserve this basic recognition of the financial limitations some older citizens face; and

WHEREAS, Seniors who paid decades of taxes as workers should not be denied the same opportunity offered to previous generations;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Chatham County Democratic Party calls on our entire North Carolina legislature to restore the senior citizen community college tuition waiver, which was eliminated in 2013, and allow senior citizens to take one tuition free course per semester at the community colleges, thus providing them the opportunity to socialize and participate in life-long learning.

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## 12. REPEAL INCREASED NC TAX ON SENIORS’ PENSIONS

WHEREAS, House Bill 998, effective January 1, 2014, increased the taxes retirees must pay on their pensions; and

WHEREAS, Placing more burden for the state’s revenue on elderly women and men through eliminating the tax exemption for part of their retirement funds is unfair when other sources of revenue are available; and

WHEREAS, Some North Carolina retirees with fixed and limited incomes are now unfairly burdened by changes in the tax structure; and

WHEREAS, Some of our former state workers and other retired employees in their late 60's, 70's and 80's (and beyond) have FIXED small incomes with which to pay rent or mortgages, to heat homes, or cover basic bills and medical expenses such as insurance co-pays; and

WHEREAS, Retirees who worked at low North Carolina wage scales have contributed services, valuable experience, and skills for the betterment of society through workplace settings, have paid state income taxes for decades and may already have low incomes from pensions, need and deserve these funds to face the rising cost of living;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the [second and fourth Congressional District Democratic Party] call on the state legislature to repeal the increased tax on seniors' retirement pensions.

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13. ESTABLISH NONPARTISAN PROCEDURE FOR REAPPORTIONING LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS

RESOLVED, That the Democratic Party make every effort possible to pass legislation establishing a nonpartisan procedure for reapportioning legislative districts.

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NATIONAL

14. JUST SAY NO TO FAST TRACK FOR "TRANS PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP"

WHEREAS, The rising gap between rich and poor is deepened by an increasingly rigged global economy where new rights for corporations and wealthy individuals are created by NAFTA-style agreements like the proposed Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP); and

WHEREAS, The secretly negotiated TPP forces government to defend standards for health, safety, and the environment against claims of "lost future profits" in rigged tribunals populated by the same lawyers who specialize in filing such claims; and

WHEREAS, The cost of defending such claims from all the Trans Pacific partners is predictably huge and would discourage passage of responsible legislation; and

WHEREAS, Under 20 years of NAFTA, North Carolina's working people have lost earning power exceeding by \$3300 per worker per year the savings created by cheap imports [cited by Global Trade Watch in "Nafta at 20," based on data from Center for Economic and Policy Research, US Census Bureau, and Social Security Administration]; and

WHEREAS, "Fast Track" status allows only an up or down vote, denying Congress its right to correct or amend harmful provisions in a bill hundreds of pages long that's not currently accessible to Congress or the public; and

WHEREAS, Increasing economic rights for the few while diminishing economic prospects for working people is a self-defeating attack on the base and the natural allies of the Democratic Party;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Chatham County Democratic Party calls on all our North Carolina representatives in Congress to oppose Fast Track status for the TPP, and if Fast Track is achieved by the Republican majority, to VOTE NO to the TPP when it comes for a vote.

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15. HELP CHATHAM PARK BE A BETTER NEIGHBOR

WHEREAS, The Chatham County Democratic Party has been very concerned with the impact of growth on the citizens of this county; and

WHEREAS, Chatham Park is a development to be built on a scale that few counties in this country have ever seen;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That an Environmental Impact Analysis be undertaken and approved for the Chatham Park property in its entirety; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That citizens and the environment be protected through cooperative action among Chatham and Pittsboro officials.