

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

**HENDERSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

MEETING DATE: February 7, 2011

SUBJECT: Mountain Valleys Resource Conservation and
Development Board Presentation

ATTACHMENTS: Yes

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:


Hendersonville Mayor Barbara Volk will be present to update the Board of Commissioners on the Mountain Valleys Resource Conservation and Development Board.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

No Board Action requested. This presentation is for informational purposes only.

Suggested Motion:

No motion suggested.

A scenic view of the North Carolina mountains, featuring a large lake in the distance and rolling hills in the foreground. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds. The foreground is filled with green evergreen trees and some yellowing deciduous trees. The text is overlaid on the image.

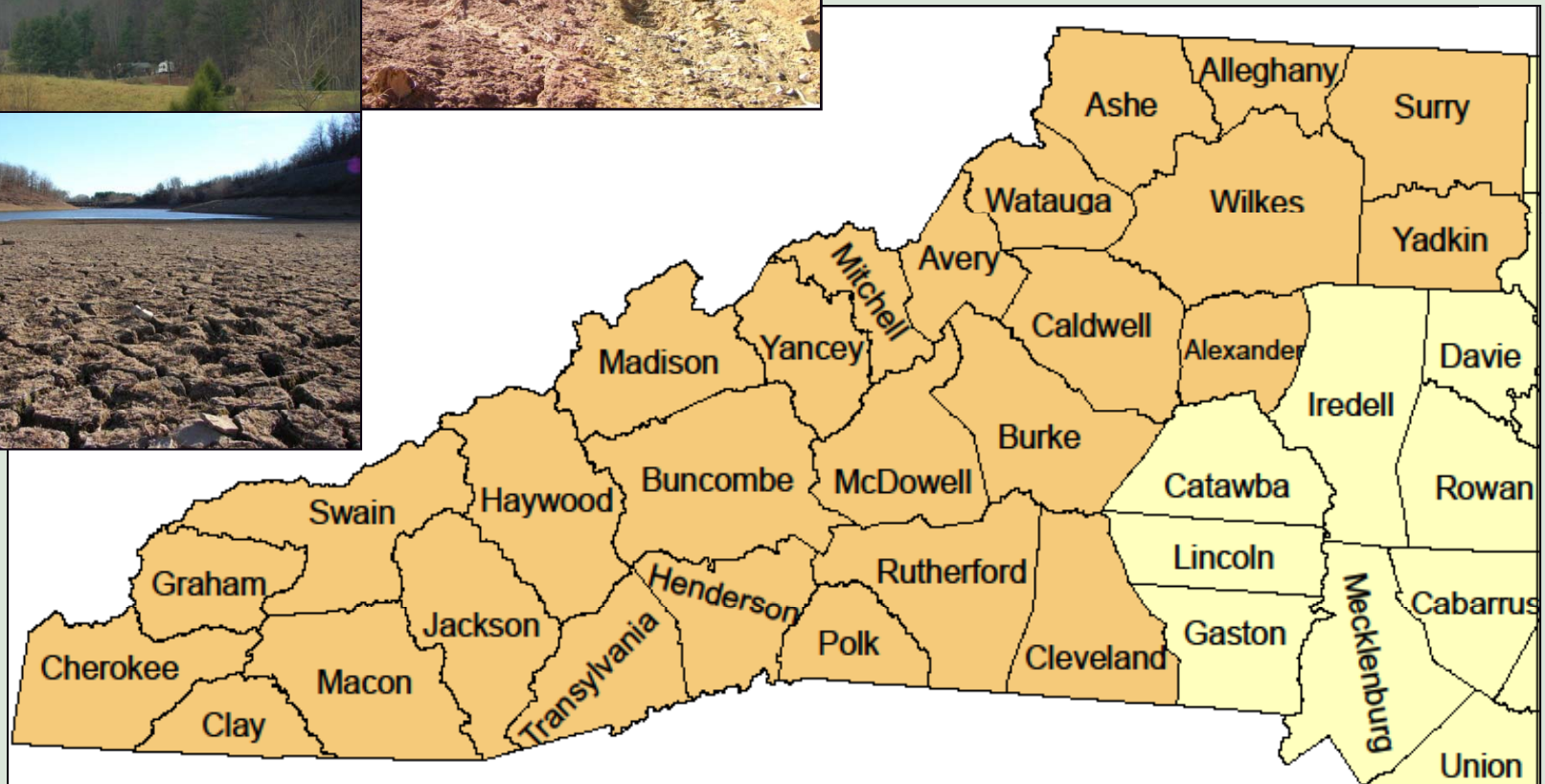
North Carolina Mountain Resources Commission

Henderson County Commissioners

February 7, 2011

Mayor Barbara Volk

WNC is facing some new challenges



The Commission was formed to address these challenges

*The **mission** of the NC Mountain Resources Commission is to take care of our natural resources in order to enhance and sustain our quality of life and ensure the long-term health of our region and our people.*

- ◆ Established by the General Assembly in 2009 (Session Law 2009-485) – The Mountain Resources Planning Act
- ◆ Created 2 Advisory Entities – the MRC (17 members) and the MRTAC (13 members)
- ◆ MRC members appointed by the Senate, House, Governor, & by-right seats from COGs and 2 others
- ◆ MRTAC members appointed by the MRC

The Purpose of the Legislation

- ◆ Current practices and policies are insufficient to meet these challenges and their impact on our mountain values
- ◆ ***“... to encourage quality growth and development while preserving the natural resources, open spaces, and farmland of the mountain region in western North Carolina.”***

Important resources defined as:

- ◆ public lands
- ◆ habitat
- ◆ farms
- ◆ forests
- ◆ rural landscapes
- ◆ vistas
- ◆ water bodies
- ◆ historic / archeological resources

Balance of Values

**Goal – To build community
and consensus across the
mountains**

**Metrics to be used for
recommending action:**

- ◆ Fair to me
- ◆ Fair to my neighbor
- ◆ Fair to the mountains



Example Focus Issues

- ◆ Landslide hazards
- ◆ Ridgeline protection
- ◆ Wildfire prevention & education
- ◆ Regional green infrastructure
- ◆ Farmland protection
- ◆ Climate change adaptation responses
- ◆ Scenic character & regional identity
- ◆ Legislative barriers
- ◆ And many more...

How does the MRC work?

- ◆ Operates in an advisory capacity
 - ◆ The MRC is an advisory body that has no legislative authority – it can't override local, state, or federal policy or decisions.
- ◆ Serves as a forum for discussion and information distribution
- ◆ Facilitates coordination of existing efforts
- ◆ Assesses current tools and suggests others
- ◆ Provides recommendations to local, regional, state, and federal entities in regard to findings
- ◆ Receives staff support through NCDENR
- ◆ Is funded through grants and the Mountain Area Resources Fund

Strategic Goals

- ◆ Establish permanent funding source for small planning / implementation grants to local communities.
- ◆ Develop & gather information appropriate to protect the mountains' natural resources.
- ◆ Encourage state funding that improves the quality of WNC's natural and cultural resources.
- ◆ Gather and disseminate information about approaches to protecting natural resources and their associated economic benefits to the region.

MRC Member Responsibilities

- ◆ Provide a communication channel with local groups and interested citizens
- ◆ Review research materials
- ◆ Work with technical advisors from public and private sectors
- ◆ Maintain open and honest communications with fellow MRC members and the public.

We want to hear from you...

- ◆ David Gantt, Chairman
- ◆ Harris Prevost, Vice-Chairman
- ◆ Tom Massie
- ◆ Jim Coman
- ◆ George Santucci
- ◆ Tommy Jenkins
- ◆ Bob Shepherd
- ◆ Ruth Ann Suttle
- ◆ Bill Gibson
- ◆ Max Hopper
- ◆ Charles Vines
- ◆ Wayne Abele
- ◆ Rodney Locks
- ◆ Jay Leutze
- ◆ Maxine Dalton
- ◆ Barbara Volk
- ◆ Angie Chandler

For More Information

◆ Staff to the NC Mountain Resources Commission:

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◆ Commission website

[http://onencnaturally.org/pages/CO Mountain Resources Commission.html](http://onencnaturally.org/pages/CO_Mountain_Resources_Commission.html)