

Sustainable Sandhills and Fort Bragg

Sustainable Roundtable Luncheon Notes

July 14, 2009: Fort Bragg DPW Training Center, NC

Colonel Sicinski welcomed all attendees to the meeting. He noted that he is all for living in a clean environment, which includes water, air, and all other aspects. He stated that “a clean environment knows no boundary.” Colonel Sicinski said that he is happy to be part of the SS Board and will be our advocate on Fort Bragg.

Jon Parsons thanked Colonel Sicinski for hosting us at Fort Bragg and noted that our most important asset is the people on our Board of Directors and our staff. He then asked each BOD member to introduce themselves, and their key interests.

- Ethel Clark, Vice Chair of the BOD and Mayor of Spring Lake. She noted that she is one of the founding SS BOD members.
- Rodney Tart, Treasurer of the BOD and Director of Harnett County Public Utilities. He said that he also is a founding SS Board member, and is also associated with other organizations active in quality of life programs.
- Ray Ogden, Executive Director for Moore County Partners in Progress. He has been a BOD member of Sustainable Sandhills for several years. He believes that economic development and the environment should go together and that is what he is working for.
- John Portman, has been on the SS BOD for one year, and is a retailer in Moore County. His business is the first Certified Green Business in Moore County.
- Maureen Sutton is a retired school teacher and an active/avid urban farmer. She asked attendees to save their used water bottle for her. She uses them for her worm tea, which she sells at farmers’ markets. She also promoted the FOOD, Inc. movie which Sustainable Sandhills will host in August in both Cumberland and Moore Counties. She also represents local food endeavors.
- Joey Raczkowski, Moore County Planning and Community Development Director, has been on BOD for one year. His interest is clearly in sustainable and progressive development, with an emphasis on the orderly and coordinated extension of infrastructure with land use planning.
- Harry Huberth, a new BOD member this year from Moore County. He owns a farm services business and has been involved in planning and environmental issues for many years. He served as chairman of the Moore County planning board, so he has a good base in planning issues as well as a broad environmental base.
- Sara Harrington, a new BOD member this year, is an attorney in Sanford/Lee County. She has been involved in environmental endeavors since 10th grade and is excited about serving Sustainable Sandhills in her home region.
- Frank Stump, a new BOD member this year, is from Harnett County. He was involved with the Harnett County recycling task force, which Sustainable Sandhills facilitated, and is very interested in environmental issues. He just built a new house in the country which has passive and active solar elements to it— a solar hot water system and a grid-tied solar electric system.
- Assad Tavakoli, a new BOD member this year, is Dean of the School of Business at FSU. He is interested in having green issues included within the FSU curriculum.

- Theresa Thompson, Planning and Zoning Director for the Town of Lillington in Harnett County. She is currently working on certifying some Town departments under the Sustainable Sandhills Green Business Program, and working to establish recycling drop off sites, with information to be sent out newsletter and on their website.

Jon Parsons said that the absent board members included:

- James Rose, BOD Chair, Chief Administrative Office of PWC in Fayetteville. Unfortunately James was sick and could not attend.
- Bob Doberstein, Harnett County, is on a family vacation in Wisconsin. An upcoming eBlast will feature an article about him and solar energy in the 1970's!
- Monty Crump, City of Rockingham City Manager, Richmond County.
- Harold Haywood, Director of Solid Waste for Laurinburg in Scotland County, was unable to attend luncheon portion, but will be present for the BOD business meeting and orientation.

Jon Parsons then introduced the other guests and SS staff:

- Pete Campbell, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. He has been here for 12 years and his office is in Southern Pines. He has been involved with Sustainable Sandhills since its inception, was a member of the SS Leadership Council, and participates as a member of the SS Land Use Team. Landscape planning is what he is doing a lot of now, and worked on woodpecker conservation along with other conservation issues. He also is very involved with the Regional Land Use Advisory Commission (RLUAC).
- T.L. Griffin is a Regional Planner and Environmental Consultant for Fort Bragg through Plexus Logistics, Inc. (PLI), and acts in a support capacity for Sustainable Sandhills. She was the Interim Executive Director of SS prior to the hiring of Jon Parsons.
- Dave Heins, is the Fort Bragg Environmental Division Chief.
- Paul Wirt is the Environmental Management Branch Chief. He was recently awarded the Secretary of the Army's Individual Award for Sustainability.
- Greg Bean is the Director of Public Works at Fort Bragg. He has also been with Sustainable Sandhills since its inception.
- Amanda Blue is a Moore County native and resident, and is the SS Community Action Team Coordinator. She is also the SS staff lead on our Green Living & Design Program.
- Heather Brown is also a Moore County native and resident, and is the SS Development Director. She is responsible for implementing the SS Fundraising Plan, coordinates our signature annual events, and is our SS staff lead on our Local Food & Culture Program. She is an employee of Concurrent Technologies Corporation, currently assigned to support SS.
- Jackie Bradley is the SS Office Manager who acts as secretary for BOD meetings and acts as liaison with the members for board meetings and other functions.

Parsons ended the introductions by stating that our strongest partner in the region is Fort Bragg. He then turned the program over to Paul Wirt, who gave the BOD and guests a presentation of the history and development of Sustainable Fort Bragg and Sustainable Sandhills and their partnership. This Powerpoint is posted on the SS website at the bottom of this webpage.

<http://www.sustainablesandhills.org/index-1.html>

Following Paul Wirt's presentation, ED Parsons stated that everyone at SS struggled with a simple way to present our broad program scope. Our key functions are as convening the communities of the region to be educated about more sustainable practices. Our mission statement focuses on consensus, collaboration, balance, economic development and quality of life – all guiding values and principles for SS. ED Parsons then summarized the Programs directed by Sustainable Sandhills.

- He noted that he is now the chair of the Cumberland County Air Quality (AQ) Stakeholders Committee, and that ground level ozone will continue to be an issue for Cumberland County and Fort Bragg in the coming years.
- In the Regional Planning program area there are multiple organizations working, as well as every jurisdiction in the region. Our key project in this program area is our Suitability Map project.
- Recycling and Solid Waste Reduction is a program area where SS is a recognized leader and has some high profile successes to build upon. It is also one of the programs in greatest demand across the region.
- Our Local Food & Culture program is one of our newest and most popular programs. Our Urban Farm Tour each spring is an annual "signature event" for SS.
- Our Green Living and Design program is also popular, and with Fort Bragg's emphasis on Green Building, a great program for SFB to show leadership in. Our fall Green Living and Design Tour is an annual "signature event" for SS. There will be a Fort Bragg guided tour on this years GLaD Tour!
- Our Green Business Program has a dedicated full-time equivalent staff member. We have certified up to 20 businesses in Cumberland County, not counting the County government certifications.– We have certified one business in Moore County, and others are set to certify in Lee and Harnett Counties soon.
- Awareness and Education Program – everything we do in all other program areas has educational value.
- Our Community Action Teams (CAT) are the key method for engaging with residents in each of our communities.
- Parsons noted that SS has assumed a leadership role in the Greater Fayetteville Futures II (GFFII) community initiative. Parsons serves with Colonel Sicinski on the leadership team of GFFII. Parsons pointed out to COL Sicinski that other GFFII "sponsors" have hundreds of staff members, but we are able to have a large impact with a very small staff.

Greg Bean spent some time discussing his admiration for the SS Green Business Program and asked for a more detailed Program update in the future. He pointed out to COL Sicinski that the program was adapted by SFB and renamed the Green Directorate Program. DPW will be the first Bragg Directorate to become certified.

The roundtable meeting ended at 1:15 p.m.

Jackie Bradley
Office Manager