

Final Two Founding Board Members Bid Farewell

Sustainable Sandhills was incorporated as a NC non-profit in November of 2004 with a founding Board of Directors that included nine visionary residents of the region. On June 8, 2010, the final two founding SS Board members – **Ethel Clark** and **Walter White** - bid farewell to Sustainable Sandhills in a ceremony held just prior to the June 2010 SS Board meeting.

Walter and Ethel were more than founding SS Board members, Walter served as the Chair through June 30, 2008, and Ethel served as Vice Chair for her entire 6 years of service! Thanks to their leadership, the organization has grown from being an all-volunteer effort in 2005 to a staff of six full and part-time employees.



Ethel T. Clark is the Mayor of the Town of Spring Lake and is also the Office Manager and Financial Services Director for Hall Real Estate. As Mayor, her motto “Let’s make it happen” truly describes her winning attitude to make positive things happen for Spring Lake. She brought that same attitude to every meeting and deliberation during her time with Sustainable Sandhills. In addition to these duties, she serves on a number of other

Boards and has given her time to countless important community projects.

E. Walter White is the Manager of Marketing at Lumbee River Electric Membership Cooperative in Red Springs. He has worked in the Electric Utility industry for nearly 30 years, and brought a wealth of knowledge and insight to the Sustainable Sandhills Board about the challenges and opportunities of renewable energy, energy conservation, and “Smart Grid.” Just as importantly for Sustainable Sandhills, Walter’s children, Cameron and Cara, are both involved in the organization’s Green Schools and Recycling Programs.



Ethel and Walter were both presented the **U.S. Army Commander's Award for Public Service** by Retired Colonel Gregory G. Bean, Director of Public Works at Fort Bragg. Greg has been involved with Sustainable Sandhills since its conception in 2002, and his remarks about Ethel and Walter's contributions were heartfelt and humorous. The Award Citations noted their "passion and commitment have enabled the community to significantly contribute to the Army's Triple Bottom Line of Mission, Environment and Community. The Army recognizes the successes of Sustainable Sandhills and is replicating the concept of sustainable communities at all Army installations."



Not to be outdone by the U.S. Army, and on behalf of the current Board of Directors, Executive Director Jon Parsons presented a letter of thanks and a bottle of fine local wine (from Wagram's Cypress Bend Vineyard) to Ethel and Walter for their years of service. Both Ethel and Walter wished the organization well, and promised to stay

engaged with Sustainable Sandhills and fully supportive of the mission.

The founding Board of Directors for Sustainable Sandhills in 2004 included:

- Walter White, Chair (Cumberland)
- Ethel Clark, Vice Chair (Cumberland)
- Rodney Tart, Treasurer (Harnett)
- Nancy Roy, Secretary (Moore)
- Thomas Blue (Moore)
- Anne Fogleman (Hoke/Cumberland)
- Richard Perritt (Cumberland)
- Dana Stoogenke (Cumberland)
- Jimmy Teal (Cumberland)
- Secretary Bill Ross (NC Department of Environment & Natural Resources)
- Colonel Al Aycock (Fort Bragg Garrison Commander)