

PUBLIC WORKS

General Information

Department Head: Paxton Arthurs, County Engineer
Location: Randolph County Office Building, 725 McDowell Rd., Asheboro, NC 27205
Phone Number: 336-318-6605

Mission

To protect the environment through safe and efficient solid waste disposal, solid waste reduction and other disposal methods for all types of solid waste and to develop safe, comfortable and efficient facilities for all County departments through quality construction management services.

Summary

We work to accomplish our mission by providing for and overseeing the following services: 1) solid waste disposal 2) recyclable collection and marketing 3) convenience site operations and 4) environmental education for citizens and employees of Randolph County. We also strive to provide inventive solutions for the inherent problems that arise from construction and management of County facilities, as well as provide engineering services for utility systems and grant administration for various projects for the Economical Development Corporation, the County, and its local municipalities. The Public Works Department continues to strive to work with the industries, schools, and the citizens of Randolph County to find the most effective way to provide water and/or sewer through the use of Federal and State grants while encouraging economic growth for the entire county.

Overview

The County sited its first landfill in 1970 with the purchase of 253 acres off Henley Country Road. Deep River ran along the northern boundary of this site, with 22 acres on the north side of Deep River. Another 80 acres were unsuitable for landfill use because of streams, rock and shallow soils, buffer zones, and the placement of the animal shelter on-site. In 1990, the County purchased 320 acres adjoining the landfill for \$540,000. In 1991 the County bought three more parcels adjacent to the landfill, totaling 206.8 acres, at a purchase price of \$367,192.

The County opened its 250-acre landfill off Henley Country Road in 1971 and contracted with Wright Grading Company to operate it. Landfill operations were originally under the auspices of the Health Department. The County also placed five unmanned dumpster sites around the county (Sophia, Sandy Creek, Farmer, Coleridge, South Asheboro) in addition to the one placed at the landfill. No fees were charged at the landfill or dumpsters. From the beginning there were problems with the outlying dumpster sites: people climbing into the dumpsters and rummaging through garbage; out-of-county use; fires, damage to signs and lights, and other vandalism; hazardous waste, building materials, dead animals, and large household items being placed in the dumpsters; commercial garbage collectors (some from adjacent counties where tipping fees were charged) using dumpsters rather than going to the landfill; and lots of trash dumped along the roads near the dumpster sites. The Sophia site was the worst, and it was finally closed in 1986. In 1989 the Commissioners closed all outlying dumpsters except Farmer and Coleridge, where there was no commercial garbage pickup. These two sites were fenced in and manned by contract employees of Weiser Security Services, Inc., with specific hours of operation posted. The dumpster at the landfill

was manned by Weiser, as well. Users had to show their vehicle registration or driver's license to prove they were Randolph County residents.

In 1983 the State rejected Union Carbide's (later, Eveready Battery Company) proposal to continue storing waste batteries (over 1,000 tons a year at that time) in the landfill. Although these batteries were not classified as hazardous when they were taken to the landfill, they were after they had been compacted and some steel casings ruptured by heavy equipment. And at that time the County was opening a new section of landfill. The County allowed Union Carbide to purchase five acres (at \$325 per acre) within the landfill proper (further away from the river) to create their own enclosed disposal area, which Union Carbide designed to very strict State specifications.

The County's first illegal roadside dumping program began in the mid-80s, when a Sanitarian in the Health Department became a full-time Solid Waste Specialist. He spent his days investigating illegal dumps, determining whose garbage it was, and enforcing cleanup.

A Federal law passed in 1989 stated that all new landfills would have to have expensive plastic lining to protect ground water. These new landfills were identified as Subtitle D Landfills. A State law (known as Senate Bill 111) required that communities set up recycling programs by July 1, 1991 to reduce trash placed in landfills by 25% by January 1, 1993, in order to save dwindling landfill space. (This 25% reduction mandate was repealed several years later, as landfills across the state were unable to comply with it.) The law also banned many items from landfills by March 1, 1990 and required that the tires be shredded. These new mandates led County Commissioners to begin studying the possibility of recycling and of installing scales at the landfill and charging tipping fees.

In December 1989 the Health Director told the Board that he and his department could no longer oversee the landfill operation; it had become too technical. In January 1990, the Board voted to hire an engineer to head up a newly created Public Works Department to manage solid waste and water problems. The department was allocated four other positions: Solid Waste Specialist, Secretary, and two Landfill Scale Operators. George McArthur came to work for Randolph County March 1990 as its first Public Works Director. He resigned in July 1993, and David Townsend III replaced him in November 1993.

The County Commissioners appointed a 24-member task force in June 1990 to develop a countywide solid waste management plan to reduce landfill waste stream by 25%. In December of that year Commissioners adopted the Solid Waste Ordinance and associated user fee schedules. For 1990, the waste stream consisted of the following: 41% paper/paper products, 18% yard waste, 9% metal, 8% glass, 8% food waste, 7% plastics, and 9% other. Daily traffic consisted of 170 vehicles, of which 130 were commercial. Scrap tires were diverted from the landfill and stockpiled until they could be shredded.

The County closed the landfill January 1, 1998, opened its transfer station, and contracted with BFI to operate the transfer station and haul garbage to a Subtitle D landfill near the Charlotte Motor Speedway.

On July 5, 2010 a 5-year contract was signed with Republic Services, (formerly BFI & AWI) for the continued operation of the Transfer Station and hauling of solid waste to a lined landfill.

Later in 2010, the County initiated a feasibility study to determine the viability of opening a new County owned Subtitle-D landfill and evaluating alternate sites where it could be located. Ultimately, it was determined that a new landfill was feasible and that the most suitable location was on County owned property on Old Cedar Falls Road which was adjacent to the previous landfill that had been closed.

In September of 2012, Paxton Arthurs was hired as the new Director of Public Works.

In April 2013, the County received a Special Use Permit (SUP) from the Randolph County Planning Board. The SUP is a zoning tool which allows a specific land use based on a detailed application and subsequent conditions. The following month, the Randolph County Board of Commissioners approved a resolution authorizing the County to submit a permit application for the proposed landfill to NC Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ). After an extensive Request for Proposals (RFP) process, in December 2013, the County selected Waste Management of the Carolinas, Inc. as a partner for the permitting, construction and operation of the proposed Landfill and associated Franchise Agreement.

In February of 2015, Waste Management submitted an application to NCDEQ to construct the Great Oak Landfill. In December of 2015, the State held a public hearing for the permit and on January 19, 2016 they issued Waste Management and the County the Permit to Construct. Construction began in May of 2016, and in January of 2017, Waste Management opened the new Great Oak Landfill and took over operation of the four Convenience Sites and two Recycling Sites.

Service Area: Environmental Protection

Mission

To protect our environment by providing convenient disposal and recycling facilities throughout the County.

Summary

This service area oversees the operation of four Convenience Sites and two Recycling Sites which are provided by the County but managed by Waste Management. This arrangement was negotiated as part of the agreement with Waste Management to construct and operate the Great Oak Landfill. Additionally, this service area is responsible for oversight of the new Great Oak Landfill as well as providing for the care and maintenance of the Counties Closed Landfills.

Operations

In January of 2017, Waste Management took over the day to day operation of the four Convenience Sites. The Public Works Department oversees those operations to make sure service is being provided in accordance with the Operating Agreement. The Locations of the Convenience Sites are:

Coleridge

- Located at 4717 Holly Springs Road, at the intersection of Hwy 42 and the Erect/Holly Springs Road
- Hours of operation: Monday, Thursday, and Friday, 8-4:30; Saturday, 8-3
- Phone #: 879-2933

Farmer

- Located at 5488 Hwy 49 South, at Tom's Creek bridge crossing
- Hours of operation: Monday, Thursday, and Friday, 8-4:30; Saturday, 8-3
- Phone #: 857-3002

Liberty

- Located at 428 Brower Ave., street behind the City Police Department
- Hours of operation: Monday, Thursday, and Friday, 8-4:30; Saturday, 8-3
- Phone #: 622-1067

Solid Waste Facility

- Located at 1254 County Land Road, next to the scale house at the Solid Waste Facility
- Hours of operation: Monday – Friday, 8-4:30; Saturday, 7-12
- Phone #: 683-8230

The locations of the Recycling Sites are:

Randleman

- Located at 113 Depot Street

NC Zoo

- Located at African Entrance

Operation Costs

Operational Costs for the Convenience Sites are the responsibility of Waste Management. This was part of the negotiations with them to construct and operate the new Landfill. As part of this agreement, all County residents are entitled to free disposal of household wastes at all Convenience and Recycling Sites. The County is responsible for providing the land and buildings at these sites. Land Rents at these sites are:

- Coleridge - \$240 every quarter
- Farmer - \$750 every quarter
- Liberty - \$1.00 per year lease
- Solid Waste Facility – County owned

Materials Accepted

Each Convenience Sites has a compactor for bagged household garbage as well as an open top dumpster for large bulky items (such as furniture or mattresses). In addition, each site also has an enclosed container for Single Stream Recyclable materials (such as cans, bottles, cardboard, paper, etc...) Each site also has a canopy for Special Wastes such as:

- Motor oil,
- Antifreeze,
- Oil filters
- Lead batteries,
- Cooking oil
- Tires (maximum of 5 - off the rim).

Some additional miscellaneous recyclables offered at the main Solid Waste Facility on County Land Road only are:

- Scrap Metal
- White Goods (such as refrigerators)
- Electronic Devices
- Scrap Tires (must have a completed Scrap Tire Certificate required by the State)

Service Area: Engineering

Mission

To coordinate and manage engineering and community development services in a manner in which the citizens of Randolph can work, live and recreate in a clean and safe environment.

Summary

The Engineering service area assists governmental agencies and other County Departments with planning and oversight of associated engineering projects. This planning serves to assist the development and expansion of County managed assets and with improving Economic Development opportunities.

Operations

Grants

In years past, this service area extended the scope of its activities, especially in the area of grants. In 2003, the County applied for and was awarded a \$400,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for Scattered Site Housing (SSH). The Public Works Department retains 10% of the funds for administering the grant, which was closed out in 2005. This grant was on a three-year cycle. These funds are used to renovate substandard houses for qualifying low-income individuals. Renovations must meet HUD standards as well as the NC Building Code; therefore, Public Works hired a consultant before beginning any projects to ensure that contractors performing these renovations would be in compliance with HUD requirements.

In 2006, Randolph County received funding from NC Department of Commerce (\$400,000) for the 2006 Scattered Site Housing Grants. This is also a three-year grant cycle in which we plan to rehabilitate seven low-income homes in Randolph County. We were also funded by North Carolina Housing Finance (\$400,000) the 2006 Single Family Rehabilitation Grant. This grant is a two-year cycle in which we plan to rehabilitate ten low-income homes in Randolph County. With soaring prices of all building materials, we plan to access HELP funds, Duke Energy funds, and lead paint grants in order to accomplish these tasks. In 2007, we received funding for the Urgent Repair Program (\$40,000) grant. With this annual grant we anticipate repairing up to 15 homes. The goals of the Urgent Repair are to alleviate housing conditions which pose an imminent threat to the life or safety of very low-income homeowners or accessibility modifications necessary to prevent displacement. The program limits funds availability per home up to \$5,000.

In 2009 the County applied for and was awarded 2 Community Development Block Grants (CDBG). One was the CDBG Standard Grant in the amount of \$400,000 and the other was the CDBG Stimulus Grant in the amount of \$464,362.79. These grant funds were also on a three-year cycle. These funds are used to renovate substandard houses for qualifying low-income individuals. Renovations must meet HUD standards as well as the NC Building Code; therefore, Public Works hired a consultant before beginning any projects to ensure that contractors performing these renovations would be in compliance with HUD requirements. With the two Grants the County was able to renovate 14 homes throughout Randolph County. Both grants were closed out in 2012.

Public Works has also been involved with Economic Development (ED) grants, another type of CDBG. In 2004, the Town of Ramseur received a \$140,000 ED Grant to run water and sewer to Tower Components, which was a Randolph County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) project. County Public Works applied for and administered the grant for Ramseur, who did not have the staff to do it. This project has been completed. The project provided 29 new jobs, and the industry invested approximately \$2,000,000.

Public Works has assisted the Town of Seagrove with two ED grants resulting from EDC projects. One was to provide sewer to Wade Precision, who went out of business during the process. However, Sapona Manufacturing bought the company, and the project went forward and was completed in 2006. The other project was for Seagrove Foods. The Town of Seagrove purchased a sewer plant with a \$750,000 Rural Center grant. Then Seagrove Foods went bankrupt and became ineligible for the \$750,000 ED grant it was to have received because the grant was contingent on job creation. Public Works is still working with the Town of Seagrove to find resolution to this matter. The lagoon replacement is 90% as of May 2008.

Projects

Public Works, at any given time, typically has multiple projects in various stages of completion. Some projects, such as construction of the new Courthouse, have taken several years to complete. Other projects may be short-term. Most projects will take several months to close out. Work performed may involve County departments, municipalities, the Economic Development Corporation, State/Federal government, other governmental agencies, or private businesses. Examples of projects that Public Works has been involved in the past include the following:

- Glenola Water System – Some wells in the Glenola area were contaminated by a local industry. A State grant allowed the County to work with Davidson Water Inc. to extend water lines to these homes.
- Upsizing of water lines on Highway 62 – Davidson Water Inc. offered to increase the size of water lines they were laying on Highway 62 to accommodate future industry if the County and the Cities of Trinity and Archdale would pay the difference.
- Possible Southwest Water District – Handy Sanitary District wants to expand their water lines into western Randolph County.
- Randleman Lake Marina – The Randolph County Tourism Development Authority hired a consultant, and Public Works worked with the consultant to apply for a State grant to help cover the cost of this (estimated) \$4,000,000 project.
- LCID (Land Clearing Inert Debris) Options – The County Commissioners directed the Public Works Director to look into the feasibility of opening an LCID landfill at the County Solid Waste Facility. (A private individual later opened such a facility in the County since this request from the Commissioners and no further action has been taken.)
- Seagrove Library – The Public Works Director assisted with the architect's contract.
- Veterans Monument at the Courthouse – Public Works was involved with this ongoing project for several years and will likely continue to be involved as long as there is any activity concerning the Veterans Monument.
- State Courier Box – The Public Works Director worked with the Courthouse staff and the Maintenance Department to move this box from the Shaw Building to the Courthouse.

- Timber Sales, at the landfill property – The first cut was complete in May 2008, with re-seeding.
- Relocation of County offices, including Cooperative Extension and the Soil and Water Department in 2008.
- Hwy 64 – Water line from the City of Asheboro to Loflin Pond Rd.
- Courthouse renovations – District Judges area, District Attorney’s Law Library and Probation and Parole Division have required renovations.
- Realignment of Mack Lineberry Rd. – The Public Works Department worked with the DOT and the Board of Education to improve this intersection.
- United Furniture - The Public Works Department assisted the NC Rural Center with a Brownfield’s Grant to clean-up the property on which United Furniture operates.
- Parking Lot @ Library – The Public Works Department worked in conjunction with the City of Asheboro to expand this parking lot.
- Asheboro Airport – The Public Works Department worked in conjunction with the City of Asheboro and the Town of Seagrove to provide water to the airport.
- Piedmont Triad Regional Water Authority – The Public Works Department worked with the PTRWA on the construction of a water treatment plant.
- Hwy 311 – The Public Works Department worked together with Davidson Water Inc., PTRWA, and the City of Archdale to provide water distribution lines along Highway 311.
- Town of Ramseur – The Public Works Department worked with the Town of Ramseur to correct the intake to the reservoir, which was discovered during the drought of 2007.
- Visitor Center – The Public Works Department worked with the State and the Town of Seagrove to coordinate utilities.
- EECBG Grant – 2009-2012 – Grant from the US Department of Energy -Total budget from the Federal Government was \$578,200. The goal was to reduce energy usage (BTU/SF) in all facilities through an effective energy management program. In addition, impact on the environment (carbon foot print) as a result of energy management activities will be shown. The Public Works Department replaced the HVAC and installed climate controls at the Randolph County Department of Social Services Building which was completed in 2011. Also, replaced was the boiler at the County Jail and upgraded the climate control system which was completed in 2012.

The Board of Commissioners chose to develop an aggressive 10-year Strategic Countywide Water Plan for the County by providing interconnections between local municipalities. The Providence Grove High School engaged this process quickly. The Public Works Department worked with the Town of Franklinville to provide water and with the Town of Liberty to provide sewer. Travel studies have proven the need for realignment of Mack Lineberry Road to prevent fatalities in which we will assist the Department of Transportation. The Wheatmore High School also required coordination between Davidson Water, Inc., City of Trinity, Duke Power, and the Department of Transportation.

The County procured Hobbs, Upchurch and Associates to assist in the development of the Countywide Water Systems. In February 2008, the Board of Commissioners formed the following four water and sewer districts: (1) the Northwest, (2) the Uwharrie, (3) the Eastern Randolph and (4) the Randleman Lake.

Beginning in around 2010, Randolph County Government began pursuing the construction of a new regional Subtitle D Landfill as a new revenue source for the County. The permitting process, which is administered by NC Dept. of Environment Quality (NCDEQ), is quite strict, lengthy and extensive. The site for the landfill was located on approximately 700 acres at the County's Solid Waste Facility on Henley Country Rd. The site was named Great Oak Landfill. After a long selection process, the County chose Waste Management of the Carolinas, Inc. as our operating partner. The County ultimately entered into an Operating Agreement with Waste Management and issued to them a Franchise for Solid Waste. In January of 2017, the Great Oak Landfill was opened and operation of the County provided Convenience Sites were assumed by Waste Management.