



HOBBS, UPCHURCH & ASSOCIATES, P.A.

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North Carolina Rural Economic Development Center Selects Hobbs, Upchurch & Associates

Water resource study will provide information for NC leaders

The N. C. Rural Economic Development Center recently announced a \$2 million study that will update and analyze water resources information throughout the state. Hobbs, Upchurch & Associates was selected as one of two firms in the state to gather and map specific information for the project. Data gathered will include information on drinking water resources, wastewater collection and treatment, storm water, and hazard mitigation. HUA will gather data for approximately 50 of the 100 counties in North Carolina.

The objective of the study is to provide information to state leaders so that policy can be implemented to create job growth, protect the environment, and preserve the quality of life in North Carolina. According to the N.C. Rural Economic Development Center, approximately 25% of public water systems in North Carolina expect to be near the limit of their water supply by 2010. Information gathered in the study will be analyzed on the basis of the following economic sectors: agriculture, residential, commercial, industrial, power generation, and emergency preparedness.

HUA will be gathering data in response to the following questions which were developed by the NC Rural Center as the basis for the study:

1. What are the current capital improvement needs for water and sanitary sewer in North Carolina?
 - a. Where were the 1998 Clean Water Bond Act funds invested?
 - b. Where were the improvements made?
 - c. What were the results?

2. What are the current capital improvement needs for storm water infrastructure in North Carolina?
 - a. Which local governments must comply with Phase I and Phase II requirements?
 - b. Where have investments been made thus far?
 - c. What portions of the infrastructure are regulated and by whom?
 - d. What portion has been permitted and by whom?
 - e. What is the condition of the existing infrastructure?

3. Where are our water resources in North Carolina? How much supply is available from these resources? How much water do we use now and at various intervals looking forward?
4. How have new federal and state regulations affected the capital needs for water, wastewater, and storm sewer services?
5. What are the current operation and maintenance costs associated with water and wastewater service? Are providers accounting appropriately for the costs?
6. What are the non-consumptive uses of water in North Carolina now and looking forward?
7. Where are there water quality constraints on consumption and how are these accounted for in doing business in North Carolina?
8. Where are there water quantity constraints on consumption and how are these accounted for in doing business in North Carolina?

Hobbs, Upchurch & Associates is pleased to be an important part of this statewide initiative. The study is expected to be completed in 2005 and will also involve extensive public outreach meetings as well as a statewide water leadership conference.