



Five County Forum

BY MOIRA UNDERWOOD

The Lake Gaston Association's Government Relations Committee is in the wait period in the preparations for this year's Five County Forum on Thursday, March 19 at 9 a.m. (sign in 8:45 a.m.) at the Lake Gaston Lions Den. That means that the invitations to the five county governments have been sent to the Chairs and County Administrators/Managers in NC Halifax, Northampton, Warren; VA: Brunswick and Mecklenburg counties with a copy of the proposed agenda.

We have asked that the Chairs invite and bring with them one other Commissioner/Supervisor (it's usually the official whose constituents own property on Lake Gaston) and their County Administrator/Manager.

They are looking over the agenda topics and have the opportunity to suggest additional topics and/or agree on the proposed topics. The agenda they are considering includes the following topics:

Noxious Weed Control (Speaker Dr. Rob Richardson, NCSU); Hazardous Materials Collection (Jack Saunders, LGA); Abandoned Trailers (Ken Krulik, Warren County Planning & Zoning); 2015 Lake Clean-Up (Clarence Drumgoole, LGA); Lake Gaston Regional Chamber of Commerce (Christina Wells, LGRCofC); and Property Taxes (Al Potter, LGA). After each topic there will be a discussion.

What I find interesting during the discussions is the differences there can be between the North Carolina and Virginia county governments on how they can or cannot implement or spend funds.

Besides listening to the speakers and the ensuing discussions between each topic, it's very refreshing to see the county officials sharing ideas. A great example of teamwork across county/state lines.

Once we have heard from the invitees, the agenda will be finalized; handouts, badges, tents, sign-in sheets produced; and decorative LGA displays will be put together. We endeavor to make it a festive/colorful event.

Our first Five County Forum started on January 21, 2010 and this year's Forum will be our sixth. There will be a press release with all the details in the area newspapers and the public will be invited to attend, along with our LGA members.

So mark your calendars for this year's Five County Forum on Thursday, March 19 at 9 a.m. (sign in at 8:45 a.m.) at the Lake Gaston Lions Den,

(Editor's note: Moira Underwood is Lake Gaston Association's Executive Director and will be coming to you every month. She can be reached at ExecDir@lakegastonassoc.com or (252) 586-6577, or toll free 1-888-586-6577, or LGA, P.O. Box 656, Littleton, NC 27850.)